

The Iroquois Waterfront Advisory & Implementation Committee Meeting

Thursday, 14 October, 2021, 7:00 p.m.,
(meeting in person in new campground building)

Minutes

Present were John Ross, Mayor Steven Byvelds, Pierrette Racine, Walter Bailey, Stephen McDonald, Diane Ross, Jim Millard, Keith Poore, Austin Marcellus, and Phil Blancher of the Leader. Guests were Ron and Janine Beaupre and Deputy Mayor Kirsten Gardner.

The agenda was amended to add discussion of a ribbon cutting ceremony for the waterfront plaques and was **approved on a motion by Pierrette and seconded by Keith. Carried.**

The Minutes from our most recent meeting on Sept. 30 were approved on a **motion by Pierrette and seconded by Stephen. Carried.**

Business Arising from previous Minutes

a) Park bench Project

1) Clearing of brush along the riverfront was discussed. It will not happen now until the spring. There was also discussion of the need to mow weeds east of the walkway in the vicinity of the bench and historical plaque near Carman House. Mayor Byvelds noted that there is already a large amount of grass being cut in Iroquois and he suggested leaving more areas to grow wild. Austin was asked to walk the area in question in the spring to see if it is drained well enough to permit at least a couple of mowings per season.

2) There was considerable discussion about ordering more benches and about the municipal bench policy document. John had it reviewed by a lawyer who feels it is flawed, particularly in the fact that several references are made to “selling” and “purchasing” the bench. Steven agreed that there were several areas where the present policy could be improved but he noted that council had reviewed it twice before passing it and that it was not going to be completely redone.

Discussion about the concrete pad for each bench was discussed and it was concluded that any new pads would be installed with money budgeted for our committee. The pad will not be part of the donation amount as it can be used indefinitely.

John’s proposal to include a small amount for yearly maintenance and to roll it into the price was rejected by the mayor. He felt that the municipality can absorb the cost of maintenance. John proposed that a bench be retired after its life span and given to the family who sponsored it. The mayor felt this was unnecessary and felt that it was more important to remove the plaque and give it to the family.

There was discussion on the merits of our committee using budgeted funds to put in all the remaining benches so there would be uniformity along the pathway. It was felt that sponsors for each bench

would be coming forward shortly as there were already about 6 benches spoken for.

It was moved by Pierrette and seconded by Walter that our committee recommend that the bench sponsorship contract be for a fixed period of 20 years and that the final price be worked out by the municipal treasury. **Carried.**

3) Plaque choice for the benches – John provided several sample plaques and after discussion it was **moved by Keith and seconded by Walter that all plaques** we use would be made of cast bronze, 2 3/8 by 11 3/4 x 1/4 inch thick, would have an outer border and shall accommodate three lines of raised lettering of up to 50 characters per line. The plaque would be set into a routed-out spot on the second slat on the back of the bench and held in place with security screws. **Carried.**

There was considerable discussion on wording for the plaques with John noting that his research had shown that current trends are not to use the plaque as a kind of tombstone but rather to have an uplifting message. Steven noted that the existing policy is similar but insisted that no bench be donated in tribute to a living person. Council has made that policy clear.

John distributed a draft document that would be a combination sales tool and contract form but was rejected by the mayor who argued that it was over-complicating the process. He insisted that the current document was clear and was a single page and would be the only contract we use.

Deputy Mayor Gardner cautioned that our committee was inadvertently setting policy for the whole municipality, noting that all committees were working hard for the good of South Dundas. Walter commended John for his hours of research on this project.

In discussing the purchase of benches to fill all concrete pads, John noted that the price has gone up by 5% but that he had negotiated with the supplier to provide the benches at the current price plus about a 50 dollar per bench discount. In order to get that deal, we must order shortly. Ballpark figures indicate that we still have close to \$18,000 in this year's budget. **It was moved by Walter and seconded by Pierrette that we order up to 8 benches as soon as possible. John and Austin will work together to co-ordinate the purchase. Carried.**

The balance of the agenda was shelved for our next meeting, but Steve McDonald spoke briefly about the upcoming ribbon-cutting event for the historic plaques along the pathway. The event is being coordinated by the Historical Society of South Dundas and will take place on Sunday, Oct. 24. The mayor noted that council is on board with the plan. Invitations and press releases will go out immediately.

It was agreed that we will meet next on November 4 to complete the agenda and deal also with plans for a budget submission for 2022.

Adjourned on a **motion by Pierrette.**