

The Iroquois Waterfront Advisory & Implementation Committee Meeting

Thursday, 28 September 2021, 7:00 p.m.,
(Attendance via Microsoft Teams)

Minutes

The meeting was late starting due to the secretary being unable to join via Teams. Present were John Ross, Stephen Byelds, Pierrette Racine, Walter Bailey, Margaret Lee, Diane Ross, Jim Millard and Rebecca Comfort of the Leader.

The agenda was amended to add an in-camera session to consider a new member application and was approved on a motion by Pierrette and seconded by Walter. Carried.

The Minutes from our most recent meeting on June 24 were approved on a motion by Pierrette and seconded by Jim Millard. Carried.

Business Arising from previous Minutes

a) Park bench Project

1) Walter and Pierrette reported that eight concrete pads were installed over the summer in preparation for commemorative benches. In the meantime, the Iroquois seasonal campers refurbished eight older benches and Walter and a local pilot were involved in their attachment to the new bases on a temporary basis. People using the pathway and benches have said were very pleased to have them.

2) Clearing of brush along the riverfront was discussed. Austin is on leave and no one appears to be returning calls to his number. Stephen confirmed that the work would be done at municipal expense and would not come from our budget. He cautioned that cutting trees along the shoreline could lead to erosion if the roots were not left in place. South Nation Conservation need to be involved in defining the scope of the work. Austin will be tasked with contacting the SNRCA to determine if trees can be trimmed or removed.

3) Plaque choice for the benches – John has done extensive research into plaques that would be suitable for installation on the top slat of our benches. Various samples included plastic, brass and aluminum. The best choice for us seems to be a 2.5 x 11.75 inch cast brass plaque that is attached with screws that can be removed only with a special tool.

There was considerable discussion on revisions to the municipal policy on plaques on commemorative items. The current policy only allows deceased people to be honoured, while our intent is that the plaque should contain uplifting sentiments while commemorating special life events, living people who have contributed to the community and of course, deceased loved ones, without dates of birth or death. We strongly advise that the municipal Policy on plaques and benches be revised to accommodate all of the foregoing.

The discussion on the plaques led to an examination of a new “brochure format” document

created by the Committee which contains all the information needed to assist donors in making decisions concerning a plaque on a donated bench.

Following a community survey of the needs of potential local donors, as well as review of bench donation documents from many other Canadian municipalities, the committee has created an attractive combination of brochure and donation contract. It provides the information required in an illustrated and easy-to-understand format. However, Steven feels the current policy and municipal documents are sufficient, the proposed committee document is unnecessary, and that we are over-complicating the situation. He did say, however, that our group is welcome to suggest modifications to the existing Policy.

John compared our proposed document for donors to the legally-complex municipal three page by-law document, the terms of which the donor must understand and accept, along with the two page donor application form. John showed that ours is in a much more appealing and understandable format and contains useful guidance to the donor that is completely missing from the municipal documents. However, John noted, as did the mayor, that council has final say over all aspects of the bench program including the wording on the plaque.

John noted that the plaque referred to in the current municipal application form is the wrong size and shape to fit our benches. It was also noted that fortunately, the bench our group chose is the same model as the bench now specified in the municipal donor application form, so all benches in S D. will be similar, thus will benefit from our suggested size of plaque. (Subsequently changed to 2 1/4 inches by 11 3/4 inches).

The municipal donation application form needs to be modified to show the new dimensions.

4) A report on the actual cost of obtaining and installing a bench on a concrete pad concluded it comes in at around \$2,800. Current pricing as stated on the municipal donation form is \$2,076, including 13% HST, and this does not include the \$1,120 cost of the bench's concrete pad. (Later in the meeting it was found the Policy specifies that the donor must cover all costs related to the purchase and delivery of the bench and cost of installing it, which now includes the concrete pad for a total of \$2,800. Steven and the members accepted this requirement.)

To meet the "user pays all" requirement of the Policy, the donation form must be amended to replace the present \$2,076 (HST included) by \$2,800 as the donation amount for a new bench, installed.

5) Identification of things to be resolved before active solicitation of bench donations--- Steven said that it must be made clear that the bench remains the property of the municipality. This is necessary but not mentioned in the Policy.

Our survey of potential bench donors found that all donors favour a donation period of at least 25 years, which is only half of a potential 50-year bench life. Present policy only allows for a 10-year term and this has not been acceptable to any of the prospective donors. Steven noted that we could ask council for a change in the policy to increase the term to 25 years in consideration of the expected bench life of 50 years, but at this point again insisted that the price on the current municipal application form must remain unchanged at \$2,076. including HST. (We had not yet encountered the Policy requirement stated above that the donor must cover all installed bench costs) This pricing decision would have resulted in a loss per bench as well as no donor funding at all for the cleaning and maintenance the bench may need.

How to obtain a 25-year term at a donor cost of \$2,800 must be resolved, as well as how to cover the

cost of maintenance.

There was discussion about what happens when the bench term concludes. It was suggested to Steven that an additional term of five- or ten-year extensions could be offered if the bench was still in good condition, and that pricing needs to be sorted out for that option. Steven said this would require an addendum to the current Policy and would need to be approved by council. He again stressed that the policy by-law itself is to remain unchanged.

There was no suggestion as to how term extensions could be sensibly accomplished within the existing Policy.

At this point in the meeting, as we had reached the two-hour mark, the remainder of the agenda was shelved for a future meeting and the group went in camera to discuss the application by a local resident to join the committee. Joyce Latulippe's resignation has been tendered and all thanked her for her service.

It was agreed that we will meet next on October 14 to complete the agenda and deal also with the many bench issues which have been discussed but which remain unresolved.

Adjourned on a motion by Walter.