

**Minutes of the Downtown Waterfront  
Advisory Committee Meeting Held  
Friday, April 21, 2017**

**Present:**

Mayor McDonald, Committee Chair  
Councillor Maroosis, Committee Member  
Councillor King, Committee Member  
Gary Gardiner, Committee Member  
Tracey Restoule, Committee Member  
Keith Robicheau, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Euler, Managing Director Engineering, Environmental and Works  
Beverley Hillier, Manager of Planning Services  
John Severino, Managing Director Community Services (via telephone)

**Regrets:**

Jay Aspin (Committee Member)  
Jamie Lowery (Committee Member)

Special Advisory Committee Chair, Al McDonald, called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

1. Introductions:
  - Mayor McDonald thanked the members for taking part in the Committee.
2. Mandate/Objectives:
  - Mayor McDonald reviewed the mandate and objectives with the Committee Members.
  - The Committee will send all recommendations to Council and if needed an extension to the June 27<sup>th</sup> date can be requested.
  - The Committee can also send recommendations to Council in advance of June 27<sup>th</sup>.
3. Terms of Reference:
  - Keith Robicheau reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Committee.
  - The Downtown Waterfront Master Plan is a very comprehensive plan and the City will be using the phased in approach.
  - There are seven guiding principles for the Plan.
  - The approach is to start small and proceed with the practical initiatives that can be started right away.
4. Path Forward:
  - The Chair has met with senior staff as to how to handle the projects.
  - The projects have been divided into four categories:
    - Immediate Projects
    - Short Term Projects
    - Medium Term Projects
    - Long Term Projects
  - The Committee will provide recommendations to Council for projects.
  - Council must approve all phases of the projects.
5. Background:
  - Bev Hillier presented the background regarding the Downtown Waterfront Master Plan.
  - A copy of the presentation was provided.
  - A concept plan was provided which showed the long term goal to work towards.
  - The Plan only sets out an idea and every component is a concept.
  - King's Landing was not looked at during the Waterfront Master Plan but is included on the drawings in order to show how it would all be connected, if approved.

### Master Plan Implementation Items:

- Have there been any discussions with the railways?
  - Not through the Downtown Water Master Plan study.
- The railway storage was switched to Mattawa and that currently is not being used. When will the City be speaking to the railway especially concerning storage?
  - That will be a recommendation that is brought forward to Council to ask staff to have discussions with the railway.
- We should have an inventory of municipality owned property including parking lots in the area. We should also be taking a look at commercialization. What will be the policy going forward? Have we identified Brownfield areas?
  - We can provide an inventory of the municipality owned property. The Downtown Waterfront Master Plan addresses the issue of commercialization.
- What does "Brownfield" mean?
  - Brownfield means contaminated lands due to the previous use on the lands.
- Does the City currently have a policy regarding purchasing property? If properties become available in the waterfront area the Municipality should be purchasing these properties.
  - The Downtown Waterfront Master Plan looks at the Community Improvement Plan and the DIA boundaries and how these can be amended.
- Is the Community Improvement Plan on line?
  - Yes. It is on the City's website.
- The Plan should also be looking at Amelia and Lee Park. The original plan was to extend the boardwalk to the Parks but unfortunately over time the lands have been sold. Why aren't we embracing Amelia and Lee Park? Should this Committee be expanding the boundary?
  - We can put this item as a short time project.
- The Plan did not address the tunnel at the end of Oak Street and the bridge that is out of commission. The connectivity needs to be addressed.
  - The Conservation Authority is currently looking at widening the Creek. Therefore, the bridge has been put on hold until the Conservation Authority makes a decision regarding the widening of the Creek. The City does have the capital dollars for this project. This will also be a short time project.
- The Mayor has said publicly that this is the year of reconciliation. This project should be looked at immediately. The City of North Bay needs to reconnect with the Aboriginal Community. This is one where art can be displayed throughout the community. Park benches, rocks could be completed right now.
  - Please provide further information to the City Clerk and she will distribute to the members of the Committee for discussion at the next meeting.
- Have we thought about recognition of the Aboriginal community at the waterfront?
  - We should ask for a proposal from the First Nations to see what they would like to do.
- King's Landing: from a staff point of view the next step for King's Landing would be to do a Geotechnical Study.
- The geotechnical study would set out the options that came out of the Environmental Assessment. It would have recommendations on a go forward basis regarding the costs.
- When the Environmental Assessment was done was the Native Community engaged?
  - Yes, the prescribed statutory notices were sent to all interested parties.

- When the Environmental Assessment was completed did it investigate the lake bottom?
  - That would be part of the Geotechnical Study.
- Has the consultant looked at the long shore drift and how the sand has changed? Roy Summers had prepared a paper on this issue.
  - Mr. Summers has provided this to DM Wills.
- Has the consultant looked at archeological digs along the shorelines?
  - This is standard in all projects.
- The Rotary Club has generously offered to help with the splash pad/ice rink. A recommendation will be going forward to Council to ask for direction to meet with the Rotary Club re: splash pad to find out details of operating/capital costs and staff will report back to this Committee.
- The proposed location in the original plan for the splash pad is not a favourable option. The Committee needs to take another look at the location.
- This Committee may want to look at Marathon Beach vs. the current location being proposed. We may also need to look at cheaper versions as well.
- The City should be careful in giving away prime locations we need to be very cautious and not let history repeat itself.
- It is offensive that the splash pad overtakes the heritage component.
- Should the City be developing a Public Art Policy?
  - Preparing a Public Art Policy can be very complex. It depends on the scope – there are different components i.e., murals, sculptures, commissioning art, buildings, physical. Sudbury has recently prepared a Public Art Policy that we may be able to take a look at.

#### 6. Recommendations:

- (i) That Council directs staff to undertake the geotechnical assessment of the waterfront area to provide better information and cost estimates for evaluation of options and decision-making about King's Landing.
- (ii) That Council directs staff to meet with stakeholders and prepare a report identifying capital and operating cost estimates, proposed location options and other related considerations regarding the proposed splash pad development, including alternatives for the form and components of such development.
- (iii) That Council directs staff to meet with representatives of the railway companies to determine their short, medium and long-term uses and plans in the waterfront area.

#### 7. Meeting Schedule:

- The Meeting schedule will be as follows:
  - Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.
  - Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 a.m.
  - Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.
  - Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.
  - Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.
- Meetings may be cancelled at the call of the Chair.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

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Mayor Al McDonald  
Chair Special Advisory Committee

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Karen McIsaac  
City Clerk