

2029 Historic Welland Canals Task Force

Minutes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Electronic Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Colleen Beard, Councillor Carlos Garcia, Lorraine Giroux, Denise Horne, Councillor Jackie Lindal, Brian Narhi, Rene Ressler (Chair), Councillor Bruce Williamson

Absent:

Councillor Greg Miller, Mark Roe, Daniel Samson, Francisco Ruiz Esparza Zorrilla

Guests:

Staff Liaison:

Kathleen Powell (joined at 6:25 pm), Carla Mackie, Adrian Petry

1. Call meeting to order (Chair)

R. Ressler called the meeting to order at 6:02

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

R. Ressler acknowledged that the land on which the 2029 Historic Welland Canals Task Force meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

3. Additions / Deletions to the Agenda

N/A

4. Motion to approve the agenda

Motion by B. Narhi to approve the agenda. Carried.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

Motion by L. Giroux to adopt the minutes of the August 9 meeting with the following changes. Carried

1. Spelling of Councillors (double L) to be corrected
2. Task Force Members in Attendance in August included: D. Horne, R. Ressler, Councillor Littleton, Councillor Porter, Councillor Miller, F. Zarilla, L. Giroux and B. Narhi

6. Correspondence

N/A

7. Declarations of Interest

None

8. Business

a. 6.1 – Introduction of New Members

R. Ressler congratulated Councillors Lindal and Williamson on their election to City Council and welcomed them to Task Force.

b. 6.2 – Review of Terms of Reference:

Councillor Williamson commented that the Task Force should consider environmental sustainability, improved pedestrian accessibility and partnerships with any future proposed projects/events.

Suggestions were also made to contact other stakeholders such as the Region, the Seaway, other Municipalities along the Canal, Tall Ships and the Erie Canal to see if others were planning any commemorative events which could be tied into the projects of the Task Force.

A visioning session is planned early in the new year to address commemorative ideas from 2024 – 2029.

Discussion also followed regarding including parts of the Third Welland Canal in the visioning since there are many assets close to the First and Second Canals.

Action: Museum staff to contact other stakeholders after Visioning Session

c. 6.3 – Interpretative Plan:

R. Ressler suggested that he would like to see the Merritt Trail connected in some way to the fully developed trail system around Jaycee Park. Councillor Garcia also commented that all trail systems near the first two canals should be considered in the commemorative projects.

d. 6.4 – December Hike Schedule:

The Task Force's first hike is scheduled for Saturday, January 14 at 10 am, meeting at the Lakeside Park Carousel. The hike will include walking to Anchor Point and walking/driving to Jaycee Park.

If there is a snowstorm on January 14, C. Mackie will send out a cancellation email to all Task Force members Saturday morning by 9 am, and the hike would be rescheduled to Saturday, January 21 at 10 am.

Action: Councillor Williamson mentioned that he and Councillor Lindal will invite other members of Council to the hike (Tour of Assets).

e. 6.5 – Visioning Session:

C. Mackie suggested having Task Force members attend two hikes before the Visioning Session.

It was suggested that the second hike (date to be determined) take place in early February. C. Beard suggested that the second hike focus on the Merritt Locks and Mountain Locks Park.

f. 6.6 – Other Discussion:

- a. Discussion of meeting times. Members agreed to move the time to 5:00 p.m.
- b. Councillor Williamson inquired about the physical improvement of Trails as part of the Task Force's Terms of Reference. K. Powell confirmed that the Task Force's Terms of Reference does not include trail improvement.

Action: K. Powell to follow-up on which City Committee/Task Force physical trail improvement was deferred to.

- c. B. Narhi mentioned that he and L. Giroux are on the Heritage Advisory Committee and that they had a meeting with C. Beard last month and they are researching significant sites along the First and Second Welland Canals for potential signage and/or virtual information sites.

B. Narhi also suggested the possibility of commemorating the opening in 1827 of the Canal to navigation from Lake Ontario to St. Catharines in 2027 (the 1827 date needs confirming).

L. Giroux also mentioned that she is on a plaquing subcommittee of the Heritage Advisory Committee, and they are planning to coordinate with the Task Force's commemorative signage projects. The members also stressed the importance of keeping the branding consistent for the project.

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

10. Motion to Adjourn

C. Beard moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Carried.