



SIOUX LOOKOUT

Hub of the North

Municipal Truth and Reconciliation Committee Meeting

Monday, October 19, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

via Zoom

MINUTES

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#### 1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Committee Members: Mayor Doug Lawrance, Joyce Timpson, Mario Rasetti, Aileen Urquhart, Lynn-Marie Manitowabi, Candace Widmeyer, Darlene Angeconeb

Regrets: Kelly Anderson, Angela Carter

Staff: Michelle Larose- Resource, Tiffany Thompson

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 pm.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

##### a. Confirmation of the Agenda

**Moved By:** Aileen Urquhart

**Seconded By:** Joyce Timpson

THAT the Agenda for the October 19, 2020 Municipal Truth and Reconciliation Committee meeting be approved

**CARRIED**

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST - None

#### 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**Moved By:** Mayor Lawrance

**Seconded By:** Mario Rasetti

THAT the Minutes of the February 18, 2020 Municipal Truth and Reconciliation Committee meeting be approved, as circulated.

**CARRIED**

#### 5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None



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### 6. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS - None

### 7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Chair Darlene Angecone said that she would like to recognize the former member of the former member of the Municipal Truth and Reconciliation Committee Monika Orzechowska who had passed away since the last meeting in February;
- She would like to send condolences from the committee to her family as an acknowledgement to Monika's contributions to the committee.

#### a) Code of Conduct Training – Michelle

- Michelle advised that 2 members have not completed their declaration and training;
- Aileen was one the members still outstanding and Aileen advised that she picked up her package, but was unclear of where to go for the online training portion;
- Michelle advised that she would follow up and get back to Aileen regarding where she needs to go to access the online training.

#### b) Interest in new membership – Mayor Lawrance

- Mayor Lawrance advised that himself and Michelle met with the Jennifer Thomas and Tana Troniak from the Friendship Centre 3 weeks ago regarding the MOU that was signed with the Friendship Centre, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres.
- The meeting with the Friendship centre was to get ideas on how the Municipality and the Friendship Centre could work together;
- Through that meeting it was discussed that perhaps the Municipality should write into the Terms of Reference for the TRC, that there be a seat on the committee for representation from the Friendship Centre;
- Joyce wanted to know how many vacancies on the committee there were and if possible have the Friendship Accord appoint a member who lives in town to sit on the committee;
- Darlene advised that she was not sure if the Friendship Accord have some agreement and if they would be able to sit on a Municipal Committee;
- Darlene would like to know now that it is a Municipality Committee what the guidelines are for membership on a committee;



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- Michelle said she would follow up on the Terms of Reference with regards to the membership as well as if you have to be a resident of Sioux Lookout to be on a committee and report back next meeting;
- Darlene advised that the committee needs more First Nations representation and also more youth on the committee.

### **c) Presentation of Committee Logo – Kelly Anderson**

- Kelly was unable to attend the meeting. Michelle will follow up with her and get the logo and distribute it to the committee before next meeting.

### **d) Naming of streets in the Borel Subdivision – Joyce Timpson**

- Joyce said that there is a lot of expansion in that subdivision and she believes that it would be a good time to approach the builders about naming some of the streets after some important Indigenous people;
- Mayor Lawrance said that there was a process involved to get the street named “Bernier Way” and he believes that the rest of the streets in the Borel subdivision have already been named;
- The process went through Council and many of the streets have been named after people in the community and he agrees that they need to look for opportunities to name streets after Indigenous people to recognize them as well, but cannot disrespect something that has already happened and been approved by Council;
- He advised that the committee needs to see if there are any streets left in the Borel subdivision to name;
- Joyce said she does not recall the street names coming to Council for approval and feels that there are going to be more streets in that subdivision to name and would like to talk to Finnway about naming the new streets;
- Lynn said that she believes that this is a good idea and that when the names go through Council that they remember who territory this truly is;
- She said that Mayor and Council should always keep in mind that there is a rich history of Ojibway territory in Sioux Lookout and that it would be a nice gesture to have some streets named after Indigenous figures;
- Mario said he agrees with Lynn and asked if the committee can review the policy on naming streets and make suggestions to Mayor and Council regarding the policy;



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- Darlene advised that in a previous meeting they had a presentation from Tom Terry about “Speaking Truth to the land” and he was proposing that Sioux Lookout in partnership with Slate Falls and Lac Seul take on a project to respond to one of the calls to action from the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission;
- The specific call to action was number 47 “We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullius*, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.”
- In Tom’s report he was proposing that some of the names be changed and the example Darlene gave was the island out on Pelican Lake that was called “Squaw Island” which is a derogatory term for an Indigenous woman;
- She advised that the island name has been changed to “Equay-Miniss Island” which means Women’s Island;
- She would also like to know if naming of the streets falls under Provincial or Municipal law;
- Mayor Lawrance said Joyce brought a good idea to the table and Lynn brought some good points as well and Mario has provided an avenue to proceed and the street naming policy will be brought to the committee for review and determine how it can be changed to try and acknowledge Indigenous names in our street names;
- Michelle will circulate the policy for street naming before the next meeting for the committee to review;
- Aileen wanted to know if there was a copy of Tom Terry’s presentation as she would like to read it;
- Michelle advised that we will circulate Tom’s presentation to the members of the committee;
- Aileen wanted to know if the Municipality was going to be putting up the name of the Airport in the syllabic writing that was there before;
- Joyce said that if the sign was lost perhaps they could put it in the Municipal budget to replace it.

### e) Renaming of local site – Mario Rasetti

- Mario advised that he believes that the Municipality does not have any power to name different sites, as that is up to the Provincial government;  
Perhaps the Municipality possibly lobby the Provincial government so that we have more



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jurisdiction in naming sites within the Municipality;

- Mario wanted to commend Tom Terry for coming forward and feels that he should be recognized and we should get back to him as he is a good ally for the committee and Municipality;

He stated that he would like to say something about Umfreville Park and that he does not think that it should be named after a writer who did not even live in Sioux Lookout and he had Indigenous guides who lived there for thousands of years and the park got named after him;

He would like to go back to the Provincial government and lobby to have Umfreville Park renamed to give those that used that area for thousands of years' recognition;

**Moved By: Joyce Timpson**

**Seconded By: Aileen Urquhart**

THAT the Truth and Reconciliation Committee request that the Municipality of Sioux Lookout lobby the Provincial government regarding the renaming of Umfreville Park and that the Municipality requests that we have jurisdiction over naming of sites within the Municipality of Sioux Lookout

### **Carried**

- Darlene asked that we also make reference to the TRC recommendation if there is any wording on renaming or reclaiming Indigenous names for places;
- Michelle advised that would go with the report to Council;
- Michelle advised that at the meeting with Tom Terry 2 sub committees were established, with one being the Northway Cemetery Section 1 Common Memorialization Committee and the other one was for place naming and Tom was a committee member on that one and Kelly was going to be the Chair person for that committee. Michelle will follow up to get this sub committee initiated.

### **f) Northway Cemetery Section 1 Common Memorialization Update – Mario Rasetti**

- Mario said that right now he is going through the documentation that the library has provided;
- He said that he has come up with 30 names of children that went to Pelican Falls residential school that had passed away;



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- He has also found other individuals that had passed away from a tuberculosis epidemic in Sioux Lookout in section 1;
- He said the epidemic was terrible and there was no place to put anybody and all they were given was cod-liver oil and aspirin. There was no hospital in Sioux Lookout at the time and there was no room in any other hospital in the area;
- Dr. Bell was the only doctor at the time and did all sorts of things for Sioux Lookout and Mario said he feels that Dr. Bell should be recognized in some way;
- Mario is trying to get in touch with INAC and see if they have additional names that are buried in the cemetery. INAC had a representative in Sioux Lookout at the time and every time an Indigenous person died, they had to go to INAC for permission to bury them;
- He is trying to find additional names from 1929 to 1956;
- Darlene asked if this goes back to Potter's Field and Mario agreed;
- She said the committee had talked about a possible monument and a ceremony to honor the people buried there;
- She said that she saw a map of where all the people were from and it represents a lot of the Northern communities;
- She suggested trying to get a record of all the names and the communities;
- Mario asked Darlene if she has a copy of the list of names and communities she has with him;
- Darlene said that Brian MacKinnon shared the presentation with TRC committee via a Power Point presentation;
- Michelle advised that she has the presentation and she can send it to Mario;
- Darlene said they would need to look for funding to have a memorial service or commemoration;
- Jim Morris from SLFNHA suggested to have a quiet sitting area or an arbour at the memorial site;
- Michelle advised that the staff was thinking about having a monument with everyone's names that we know are buried in the cemetery and then another monument to commemorate the unknown people buried there and then have a community celebration surrounding that;
- Aileen said that the committee had talked about inviting some feedback from various groups about what the celebration should look like and what the memorial should look like;
- Mayor Lawrance said that what Mario proposed to keep going and what Michelle proposed can happen at the same time and that space would be left on the monument for those we know the names of, so that new names as they are discovered can be added;



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- He believes that as we go more public with this project that more names will come in from the public out of interest and more research being done;
- Michelle asked that this be followed up through the sub-committee that was assigned to work on this project and then report back to the TRC committee;
- She will speak with Mario, Aileen and Brian MacKinnon as they are all on they sub-committee and ask them to look into reaching out to the Northern communities;
- Mayor Lawrance suggested that we move forward with a memorialization sooner rather than later as this could go on for years trying to figure out all the names.

### 8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Municipal Truth and Reconciliation Committee will be held on Monday, November 19 at 5:00pm via Zoom.

### 9. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved By: Mario Rasetti**

**Seconded By: Mayor Lawrance**

THAT the October 19, 2020, meeting of the Municipal Truth and Reconciliation Committee be adjourned at 6:29 pm.

**CARRIED**

Adopted as presented this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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Darlene Angeconeb, Chairperson

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Michelle Larose, Staff Resource