

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KINCARDINE

Pier Safety Ad-Hoc Committee Minutes

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Members Present	Councillor Rory Cavanagh, Chair Ash Adams Kristin Beaton Jim Cooper Matt Cottrill David Hackney Rolf Jedemann Kent Padfield
Members Absent	Chris Houser, Keegan Wilcox Steve Schaus
Staff Present	Jayne Jagelewski, Staff Resource Tracey Guy, Secretary

1. **Call to Order**

The Pier Safety Ad-Hoc Committee meeting of The Corporation of the Municipality of Kincardine was called to Order at 5:05 p.m. on November 16, 2023.

1.1 **Land Acknowledgment Statement**

The Chair opened the Meeting with the Land Acknowledgment Statement.

2. **Committee Introductions**

The Committee members introduced themselves.

Chair Cavanagh noted that a Vice Chair may be required, if he is unable to attend a meeting. If this situation arises, a Vice Chair will be appointed at the meeting.

3. **Additions/Deletions/Amendments to the Agenda**

5. **Adoption of Minutes**

8. **Business**

8.1 Terms of Reference

Chair Cavanagh reviewed the Terms of Reference with the Committee.

8.2 Council Resolution

Chair Cavanagh explained the Resolution passed by Council.

8.3 Previous Reports

Chair Cavanagh reviewed the previous reports with the Committee.

The Committee had the following comments:

- Jumping off the pier is a popular activity in Kincardine, and it would be difficult to keep people off;
- The piers are a popular tourist attraction, being an anchor of Kincardine;
- Additional and longer ladders, brightly painted along the pier was suggested;
- If additional ladders were installed, research would be required to determine the best spacing distance (ie. 5m apart);
- Suggested welded railing on the side of the pier along the water's edge between ladders, to assist with getting to the ladders;
- The piers take a beating during heavy winds and fluctuating water levels year round, and ice and wind in the winter months; therefore good possibility anything installed along the pier would be ripped off;
- Smaller children have trouble getting onto the ladders; and if they do, then have trouble getting off the ladders onto the pier;
- If ladders are removed in the winter months, the pier should be closed to the public during these times;
- Closing one or both piers was discussed;
- It was thought that more distress calls involve the south pier; versus the north pier;
- Installing a railing on top of the pier the entire length was suggested, however it was noted that it would only stop the accidental falls;
- One report suggested having a paddle board in the vicinity; which was noted that it would be difficult to find a secure location in close proximity; life rings often go missing;

- Lifeguards at the beach was discussed; however the deaths that happen in the inclement weather with large wave action, a lifeguard would not be able to go in unassisted, as the waves slam people into the pier;
- Suggested reaching out to another community that has a lifeguard program;
- Beach Ambassador Program was discussed; having staff working in the vicinity to call 911 if needed;
- Coloured beach flags or light warning systems during inclement weather, with appropriate educational signage, was discussed; however additional staff will be required, to coordinate and monitor the system;
- Additional signage educating visitors on the dangers of Lake Huron was discussed;
- New boardwalk can encourage beach goers further south, away from the piers;

The Chair thanked everyone for the excellent discussions. It was determined that status quo is not an option, the Committee will make recommendations in their report to Council by February 2024. The next meeting staff will line up delegations to speak to the common topics.

8.4 Waterfront Master Plan

The Waterfront Master Plan was provided for information.

8.5 Goals and Timelines

The goals and timelines of the Committee was provided for information.

12. Adjournment

Moved by: Kristin Beaton

Seconded by: Jim Cooper

That the Pier Safety Ad-Hoc Committee adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

Carried.

Chair

Secretary