

Ward 8 CAN
General Membership Meeting Notes
May 21, 2014
Twin Forks Playground



1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Introductions

Rachelle Niemela, Chair of the CAN, introduced the other Executive members in attendance:

Nancy Deni, Communications Officer
Cindi Briscoe, Community Development Coordinator with the City of Greater Sudbury
Ron Spina, Vice-Chair and previous Chair
Gates Legault, Treasurer

Regrets:

Jessica Guenard-Valiquette, Secretary
Zac Lefrançois, Member
Jim Niesing, Liaison – Westmount Playground Association
Jordan Binotto, Liaison – Twin Forks Playground Association

3. Welcome to Stephane Brouillette, Constable with the Greater Sudbury Police Service (standing in for Adam Groleau)

Stephane introduced himself—he is a constable with 15 years experience as a police officer. The Citizens on Patrol program is part of his portfolio.

Rachelle mentioned that she has seen signs of a bear in the vicinity of Twin Forks Playground. She then asked all present if they had any concerns.

Gates Legault noted that we have to lock our cars due to theft in the area. Stephane explained that theft is an issue all over the city, not just in New Sudbury. He reminded us that we all have to remember to lock our cars every night.

Stephane mentioned the Notification of Community Crime (NOCC) program which was originally developed in the UK. He said that there is an 80% chance of a crime being repeated in the same area.

4. Sudbury Cyclists Union

Due to meeting delays and timing issues, no one else could be present so Rachelle presented on behalf of the Sudbury Cyclists Union (SCU). She is Chair of the SCU. The SCU is a local group of cycling enthusiasts whose main focus is to provide a unified voice for cyclists and to facilitate a better urban cycling culture in the City of Greater Sudbury. The SCU works with other groups to improve cycling infrastructure in Sudbury. They have worked with Rainbow Routes Association, the City of Greater Sudbury, Share the Road, the Sudbury Mobility Advisory Panel, and the Coalition for a Livable Sudbury.

Some of the programs that the SCU runs include being part of the Sudbury Cycles collaborative, which is a partnership between the SCU, the Sudbury & District Health Unit, the City of Greater Sudbury, and Rainbow Routes Association.

The SCU does advocacy for safer cycling infrastructure, assists in delivering cycling education, and participates in many community events to help promote safer cycling in Sudbury.

Cycling education includes nationally accredited cycling courses (CAN-Bike), and include children's courses (school workshops and Kids Learn to Ride) as well as advanced adult defensive cycling skills courses (including CAN-Bike 2 which is an 18 hour course for urban cyclists).

This year's bike exchange, which is a Sudbury Cycles project, is being held at Tom Davies Square on May 31st and will allow kids to trade their outgrown bicycles for a larger one. The event will provide helmets to go along with the "new" bikes and volunteers will show kids how to fit their helmet properly.

BikeFest is being held on June 1st. Organized by the Outside Store, Conservation Sudbury, and Sudbury Cycles, the event offers demo bikes from high-end bike manufacturers (Kona and Specialized), bike repair workshops, information from various cycling groups as well as a BBQ.

The annual "Share the Road" event is being held on June 5th. Devon Kershaw, Olympic cross country skier and avid cyclist will be in town for the event which memorializes Devon's girlfriend, Sofie Manarin, who was killed as she was cycling on the southeast bypass on a training ride in 2001. This event is organized by the Share the Road Coalition, an Ontario based not-for-profit that seeks to make the roads safer for cyclists and promotes cycling for transportation, recreation and fitness.

Rachelle also went through some cycling safety tips:

- Statistically most cycling accidents occur at intersections (street and street or street and driveway or street and alleyway, etc.) so cyclists should be especially careful when approaching any intersection
- Riding on sidewalks is riskier than riding on the road. If you're going to ride on the sidewalk, go in the direction of traffic, slow down at areas of potential conflict

(intersections), and always wear your helmet. It is also illegal and you can be charged for doing so. Also always give priority to pedestrians.

- it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to not wear a helmet.
- Obey the rules of the road – signal your stops, ride on the right hand side of the road
- Be seen, be aware and be predictable – wear bright clothing, use a light at night, and don't wear earphones.

Rachelle then showed us the proper way to fit a helmet. Remember the 2-4-1 (or 2-V-1) rule – 2 fingers between the helmet and your brow, 2 fingers making the “V” right below your ears where the “v” of the strap should be, and 1 finger between the strap and your chin.

Rachelle also went through what every bike should have—a bell, white reflector tape at the front, red reflector tape at the back, front/rear reflectors and a front light at night. A red light at night is recommended. Several brochures were made available to all present.

Rachelle informed everyone that you can request vouchers from the Brain Injury Association Sudbury and District for \$15 off a helmet. More information can be found on their website (www.biasd.ca).

Rachelle also discussed safety for motorists:

- Accepted practice is for a cyclist to travel 1 metre from the curb and motorists are advised to give cyclists at least 1 metre of space when passing.
- While cyclists typically attempt to ride as far right on the road as possible, they also have to avoid potholes and other road hazards so please do not honk or yell at them if they are swerving.
- If you cannot pass safely and give cyclists 1 metre of space, then stay behind and wait until you can pass safely.
- Be careful when turning right at intersections and watch for cyclists who may be coming up on the right behind you
- When getting out of your vehicle check for cyclists before opening the door.

The City of Greater Sudbury's upcoming Transportation Master Plan will include trail development, and planned cycling infrastructure including bike lanes and paths. Potential future infrastructure includes the ability to cycling on boulevards (the paved section between the sidewalk and the curb), and this will be implemented on Second Avenue. The Transportation Study is currently underway, and a public input session for the final Master Plan report is planned for summer 2014. Rachelle invited all interested to participate and provide input on the City's recommendations.

The discussion then turned to city trails. The Rainbow Routes Association (RRA) website has detailed maps of all the trails in the city (www.rainbowroutes.com). Ron Spina asked if at least some of those maps could be printed in the newspaper. This is too expensive so Rachelle explained that the website is very comprehensive and really the best way to find all the trails in

the region. The RRA also produces maps; the last version was published in 2010 and a new, updated version is being compiled this year.

Before closing up, Rachelle informed attendees that the City of Greater Sudbury is looking to fund additional safe cycling infrastructure to the tune of \$400,000 annually, partially through development fees. This has been welcomed by the cycling community.

5. Clean Up Day

Our 3rd annual Clean Up Day was held on May 3rd and was quite successful. Approximately 22 people attended. Coffee, donuts and hot chocolate were provided and lots of garbage was picked up.

6. Community Gardens

Cindi indicated that she spoke to the Parks Superintendent and discussed potentially having the gardens at Twin Forks. They will be doing a walk-about at the site shortly. If there is no external site for water, the City will add one.

Gates spoke to someone at Rainbow Concrete and they will provide the culverts to be used for gardens.

At the next general meeting on June 18th, we should have more information.

7. New Sudbury Days

New Sudbury Days are on hold until next year when we will have our new councillor.

8. City Update

Cindi informed us that nomination packages are available now for a Ward 8 Councillor who will hold the position until November. The selection process closes in mid June. We already have one nominee—Michael Cullen, executive director of the United Way.

Rachelle received a very nice email from Jocelyne Landry-Altman offering her help to our CAN if we need it until we have a new councillor. A citizen with concerns can also call 311.

Twin Forks is now available for bookings. The kitchen is on its way but it is delayed until we have a new councillor who can release the ward funds.

The splash pad is also on its way. A plaque will be put up in memory of Fabio Belli.

Rachelle let us know that we are still looking at beefing up security at Twin Forks. Some new lighting is already in place and we'll be looking at other security measures in the near future.

9. Citizen Concerns

One citizen mentioned that the footbridge at the southwest corner of Twin Forks playground got washed out earlier this spring. Rachelle said that it has been repaired but this bridge gets washed out every year. Since this is the responsibility of the City, Cindi will be looking into this.

10. Next Meeting

The next General Membership meeting is 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., on Wednesday, June 18 at Twin Forks Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.