



# Annual General Meeting, March 20, 2019

## Minutes

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### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Rachelle Niemela, current Chair of the CAN, welcomed local residents and introduced the Executive members in attendance, our special guest speaker, and key community partners. In attendance were Rachelle Niemela (current Chair), Gates Legault (current Treasurer), Mary Morrier (current member at large), Al Sizer (Ward 8 Councillor), Mike Morelli (President, Twin Forks Association), Dan Gelinis (Greater Sudbury Police Service Community Response Unit), Barb McDougall-Murdoch (Community Development Coordinator, City of Greater Sudbury), and Michelle Ferrigan (Director, Sudbury Transit).

Rachelle encouraged the residents in attendance to look at the displays that were set up in the room. These included a community tree display and Rachelle asked residents to each fill out a heart describing their priorities for the City, the Ward, and their neighbourhood. This is an engagement project that the CAN will be doing through the year up until a visioning session which is planned for September.

There was also a community garden display and Rachelle explained the community garden program that the CAN runs, including Cultivate Your Neighbourhood, where volunteers work with local primary schools to plant seeds, nurture them in their classrooms, and then do a planting day at the neighbourhood gardens in their area. Our Ward has 4 community gardens: Twin Forks, Westmount, Place Hurtubise, and an employee garden at NORCAT.

Rachelle mentioned that there was a sign-up sheet at the table for anyone who wanted to volunteer for the CAN's big projects, including the gardens, New Sudbury Days, and the fundraising activities for the Twin Forks splash pad.

Barb McDougall-Murdoch also brought a map of the Ward, and suggested that people identify with a dot where they live so we get an idea of what areas of the Ward are typically represented at our meetings.

### 2. Annual General Report

Rachelle Niemela presented the 2018 Annual Report, including the Financial Statement, some key activities for 2018, and plans for 2019. The report will be posted on the CAN's website.

### 3. Executive Elections

The current Executive was acclaimed. The positions of Vice-Chair and Communications are vacant.

2019 Executive:  
Chair: Rachelle Niemela  
Secretary: Elyse Lamontagne  
Treasurer: Gaetan Legault  
Member at Large: Mary Morrier

#### **4. Guest Speaker Presentation**

Michelle Ferrigan, Director of Transit, made a presentation “ Greater Sudbury Transit Action Plan: Better Routes, Better Schedules, Better Service”. The goals are to improve the route network to meet travel priorities; improve schedules to meet demands; and improve customer experience by addressing infrastructure needs and other supporting initiatives. New routes will be implemented in late August, the frequency of service will be improved, and enhancements will be implemented, including 3 mobility hubs, cheaper fares, 90-minute transfers, transferable monthly passes, better Sunday service, earlier service so people can get to work by 7 am, and up to 4 children under 12 years of age can travel free with an accompanying adult. Transit will implement a system of core routes with service being every 15 minutes, which will serve as a north/south spine on Paris/Notre Dame, and east/west spines on Lasalle/Kingsway/Falconbridge. Local routes will connect neighbourhoods to the spine, and neighbourhood routes will better connect distinct neighbourhoods. Outlying communities will be better connected by TransCab services. \$1.7M will be spent on improvements to transit in 2019. A new brand will be applied to Transit with new maps and schedules, a new modern look and feel to communication materials, extensive education and engagement on the coming changes.

In response to questions, Michelle noted that there will be no change in frequency of service for Ward 8. There will be 30 minute peak hours/60 minute off peak hours service, with a neighbourhood and local route servicing the ward. The neighbourhood route will travel in the area, connecting the neighbourhoods, and allowing people to better get to services in the ward. The local route will change to a core route, meaning that people who get on that bus will stay on that bus to get downtown. Transit stops will be evaluated, and some stops that are very close to each other and that add time to trips will be eliminated.

Rachelle noted that Transit did an outstanding job of community engagement during the transit project. She also encouraged people to register for the City’s new community engagement platform Over to You, which is now being used for surveys, ideas, and information on a number of projects the City is conducting. Cards with the website address <http://overtoyou.greatersudbury.ca> were located on one of the display tables and people were encouraged to pick one up.

#### **5. Greater Sudbury Police Service Update**

Community Response Unit Constable Dan Gelinas reported that things are pretty good in Ward 8, with the main issues being car break-ins, some property thefts at local businesses, and some traffic issues. He also noted that he is now coordinating COPS

(Citizens on Patrol) and that the program is being revamped. COPS were invited to attend and present at this meeting, but were unable to attend and would like to come to a next meeting.

## **6. Councillor Update**

Prior to the update, Rachelle noted that she wanted to remind people to sign the climate change emergency petition, which was located at the display table. She reported on local initiatives, including the climate strikes being done by local primary school students, and the talk by Dr. Diane Saxe, Ontario Environmental Commissioner, which was held recently in Sudbury. Northern Ontario will be hit, and probably hit hard, by climate change. Local residents are circulating a petition, asking Council to declare a climate change emergency and to start working on implementing mitigation and adaptation initiatives. Over 300 Canadian cities have declared a climate change emergency, including 2 in Ontario. Over 700 signatures have already been collected in the last 2 weeks.

Councillor Al Sizer noted a few important items coming out of the budget, including extra money for roads and Transit. There was an 3.6% increase in taxes, and he would have preferred a tax increase of 3%, but the requirements in the budget could not accommodate this. Council will be doing their Strategic Planning session this coming weekend. The City will be hiring 2 additional police officers, with these officers located in Traffic. Red light cameras will be installed in 2020. Al will be bringing a motion to Council for an exercise to evaluate the City's core services. The City currently delivers over 60 different services and Council wants to evaluate whether there should be some changes. Al noted that this winter was very difficult and that there were challenges with keeping up with the weather. There is only one crew that does snowplowing, grating, and pothole repair. Residents noted the challenges with high snowbanks, especially at intersections, causing dangerous circumstances for drivers trying to enter the roadways.