

THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE JUNCTION CREEK SAFETY COMMITTEE

Council Chamber
Tom Davies Square

April 17, 2008
Commencement: 6:30 p.m.

COUNCILLOR LANDRY-ALTMANN IN THE CHAIR

Present

Councillor Cimino

Allison Muckle, Junction Creek Stewardship Committee; Liette Vasseur, Nickel District Conservation Authority; Paul Sajatovic, Nickel District Conservation Authority; Ron Norton; Drainage Engineer; Shelley Westhaver, Sudbury and District Health Unit; Fern Bourque

Staff

Angie Haché, City Clerk; Franca Bortolussi, Council Secretary

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Councillor Landry-Altman welcomed the public to the meeting and introduced the Committee Members. She explained the creation of the Committee is a result of the accident on August 25, 2007 which claim the life of 13-year old Adam Dickie as well as the other 21 persons who lost their lives in Junction Creek since 1921.

PRESENTATION

Junction Creek Safety Committee

Committee members made an electronic presentation regarding the Junction Creek Safety Committee.

Councillor Landry-Altman outlined the purpose of the Committee being to establish educational and public safety programs, review infrastructure criteria and capacities under extreme events and review safety-rescue procedures. She advised the Committee is comprised of representatives from various agencies and City Departments as well as members of City Council. She outlined the progress to date and advised that three Sub-committees were created: Infrastructure, Communications/Education and Safety/Rescue.

Infrastructure Sub-committee

Liette Vasseur outlined the terms of reference of the Infrastructure Sub-committee along with their findings and recommendations. She advised the recommendations include the potential for a major access structure at 199 Larch Street to Junction Creek and initiative undertaken regarding climate change and that aerial photographs of Junction Creek for 1956, 2000 and 2003 are being prepared for analysis. She stated that early warning systems were evaluated and the possibility of using the Drainage Act explored.

Communication/
Education
Sub-committee

Councillor Cimino outlined the terms of reference of the Communication/Education Sub-committee along with their findings and recommendations. The Sub-committee plans include developing public education campaigns and a communications strategy to target schools and homes near water bodies, enhancing the Risk Watch Program and producing a safety brochure.

Safety/Rescue
Sub-committee

Fern Bourque outlined the terms of reference of the Safety/Rescue Sub-committee along with their findings and recommendations. The Sub-committee plans include developing programs to interact with other agencies, i.e. Police Services, Emergency Services and Fire Services. They also plan to improve communications between Police Services, Fire Services and the Media and institute an emergency code.

PUBLIC INPUT

Raymond Croteau

Raymond Croteau advised that Adam Dickie was his grandson. He stated that children are daring having no fear and water is a magnet to them. He hopes there is a way to prevent this from happening again. He stated that education is foremost and Adam should be used as an example. He indicated that he and his son, Adam's father, are willing to allow Adam's picture and name to be used in any campaign. He stated that nothing has been done on Louis Street since the accident and he feels, at least, the playground should be fenced. He indicated the solution is not fencing the creek; it is education. He commended the Committee for their education plans. He indicated that Greater Sudbury does not have a diving team and they had to wait two hours on the day of the accident. He would like to see a diving team and an education plan.

Janelle Bast

Janelle Bast indicated the students of Lansdowne Public School are eager to begin work on the education aspect of the Committee's plans. She introduced two students wishing to address the Committee.

Marley Groves-Burke

Marley Groves-Burke stated that most of the students have had experience with Junction Creek; some having fallen in and some being hurt. She indicated this is a place where people walk, walk their dogs, fish, etc. It should be a safer place for children.

Oshani Amaratunga

Oshani Amaratunga presented some ideas to prevent future accidents:

- ▶ erect a fence with barbed wire around the creek
- ▶ keep creek clean
- ▶ place ads on radio, TV and newspapers
- ▶ install cameras around the perimeter
- ▶ widen the path along the creek
- ▶ landscaping
- ▶ create slight inclines
- ▶ guard rails for protection

George Jolicoeur

George Jolicoeur advised that children are still 'playing chicken' on the pipe over the creek around Agnes and Murray Streets. He asked if the big rock placed at the creek last fall can be removed.

Carrie Regenstreif

Carrie Regenstreif, Junction Creek Stewardship Committee, stated that there are many good ideas around education. She indicated that the Stewardship Committee is monitoring the boulder referred to by Mr. Jolicoeur and nothing has been getting caught in it.

Wil Brunette

Will Brunette advised that he was involved in the clean up of Nolin Creek to Adanac and found tires, shopping carts, fridges and stoves in the creek. He stated that children have excellent suggestions. He indicated that the creek should be kept clean and children and parent need to be sensitized to what has happened. He stated some good point were brought forth at this meeting such as anchor bolts or pins. He feels more training is required for Fire Services, Police Services and Emergency Services. He stated that, with all the lakes in the Greater Sudbury area, there should be a diving team in the City.

Jeannine Larcher-Lalande

Jeannine Larcher-Lalande stated that there have been 22 drownings in Junction Creek however does not know the years or the place the drowning occurred. She questioned if there was more than one drowning in one location. She suggested a poster be created in honour of the 22 children that died.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Irene Larocque

An email dated April 8, 2008 was received from Irene Larocque, Co-Chair, CAN, Ward 4, suggesting that a safety check be carried out early each spring along the creek corridor for broken fences, retaining walls or other safety issues.

Closing Remarks

Councillor Landry-Altmann advised the citizens in attendance that their input is important as this is a community project and thank the Committee Members for their work. She concluded by listing the 22 people who drowned in Junction Creek since 1921.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

ANGIE HACHE, CITY CLERK

COUNCILLOR LANDRY-ALTMANN