



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

MINUTES

UNIVERSITY / POST-SECONDARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 5:15 p.m.

City Hall, Council Chamber

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: Councillor J. Morse,
Mayor M. Heyck,
T. Andrews,
R. Epp,
J. Pitt,
L. Giovanetto,
C. Lafferty,
Y. Adam,
S. Ellis,
J. Clermont,
N. Lawson, and
G. Marion.

The following members of Administration were in attendance:

S. Bassi-Kellett,
K. Penney,
G. White, and
A. Harrower.

Call to Order

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

2. Y. Adam moved,
N. Lawson seconded.

That the Agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Introductions

3. An introduction of additional personnel present was made and the structure of the meeting outlined with regards to the 'Discussion Questions' on the posters on the wall.

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting

4. T. Andrews moved,
S. Ellis seconded,

That the Minutes for August 15, 2018 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

5. There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Discussion

6. The Chair began by addressing the public nature of the Committee's work and outlined the protocol that Committee members must take with regards to media.
7. The City Administrator outlined where the Committee could take their work and how it could be used going forward.
8. G. White was volunteered to write down everyone's ideas (on the posters provided) and outlined the order of the brainstorming session. He began by addressing question 1. and carried on in order to question 7. The results from the brainstorming session are outlined below.
 - A. How can the City support development of a university, recognizing the City doesn't have a mandate for education?
 - i. Amplify the issues; co-locate facilities, aggregate post-secondary demand, addressing unmet education needs of Yellowknife & NWT, career development for working students and lifelong learners
 - ii. Lobby for legislation change for publicly funded post-secondary
 - iii. Lobby for the foundational review to be moved forward
 - iv. Act as a catalyst for development
 - v. Build public support
 - vi. Partnerships with arts and culture facilities, libraries and financial partners
 - vii. Support from the City; does the City commit to the project. E.g. land?
 - viii. Political aspects; selling, constituent support
 - ix. Identify what the benefits are of having a university in Yellowknife
 - x. Look at other examples in Canada
 - xi. Building critical mass
 - xii. Frame it "wellness for the community"
 - xiii. Facilitate key partnerships



- xiv. Analyze recruitment issues and look at the benefits of this recruitment on the community and economy (in terms of real estate for example)
- xv. Build support with other communities in Yellowknife
- xvi. Look at the demand for a northern University globally

B. What does the City have to offer?

- i. Largest Northern Community; a central hub
- ii. Diverse transport
- iii. Wilderness
- iv. Great Slave Lake
- v. Industry Development
- vi. Active and remediated sites
- vii. Diverse options; stimulant for university employees
- viii. Recreational services and quality of life options
- ix. Prince of Wales Heritage Centre
- x. Taiga LAB
- xi. Northern cosmopolitan, nature and vitality
- xii. Safety
- xiii. Offers growth opportunities for years / decades to come
- xiv. New Hospital (both territories); research, teaching, indigenous health
- xv. NWT has 11 official languages, rich heritage and culture and diversity of languages in Yellowknife

C. What are the potential obstacles / barriers and what can we do to address them?

- i. Managing change; develop a strategy
- ii. Identify a university as an economic driver
- iii. Aligning with government (not currently); need common goal
- iv. Funding commitments; identify potential partners
- v. Lack of daycare services for students and staff
- vi. Student housing; identify funding programs and zoning issues
- vii. Land constraints; collaborate with Akaitcho
- viii. Costs; capital and housing
- ix. Government funding; not allowed to be focused on one institution
- x. GNWT; educate MLA's, lobby for economic benefits, build coalition of partners
- xi. Recruitment; City can address the attractiveness of the community
- xii. A university in Yellowknife benefits all (quantify), focus on territory not Fort Smith

D. How can we build community support and understanding:

- Akaitcho land claims
- Chamber of Commerce
 - a. With Yellowknifers?
 - i. Information at the Farmer's Market and other public opportunities
 - ii. Focus on a larger constituency of support and enthusiasm



- iii. Positive vision / opportunity i.e. mining industry
- b. With other NWT communities, governments, organizations?
 - i. NWTAC Resolution, work with northern communities in developing a positive outcome in entire North
 - ii. Lobby for TLICHO Governments support
 - iii. Community government support and endorsement of foundational review
 - iv. University is focused on northern success
- E. How can the City assess economic leakage (the amount of investment that the City and Territory are perceived to be missing out on)?
 - i. Identify opportunities through Aurora Research Institute (ARI)
 - ii. Research grants going south; the information / rightful owners belong in the north
 - iii. Research money draining from north
 - iv. Students spending money in southern universities
 - v. Research administration dollars
 - vi. Student Financial Assistance (SFA) spin offs
 - vii. Yukon college as a resource
- F. GNWT is developing its response to the *Aurora College Foundational Review* – what contribution do we want to make to inform their response?
 - i. Paint a positive picture of the foundational review
 - ii. Feedback from committee to Julian / Kerry
 - iii. Expand scope beyond a polytechnic
 - iv. Articulate as a positive
 - v. Standing committee lobby (entire committee)
 - vi. Document from Committee chair; written submission, high points, work of this committee
 - vii. Meeting / presentation to cabinet
 - viii. Polytechnic label may not be reflective of the outcome
 - ix. Educational opportunities for the north; they are bigger than Yellowknife
 - x. Educate / lobby benefits for northern community
- G. How can this committee maximize its effectiveness?
 - i. Building support outside of Yellowknife
 - ii. Get others to the table (community and Indigenous governments)
 - iii. Public survey on educational opportunities
 - iv. Research i.e. Student Financial Assistance
 - v. Partners
 - vi. Lobby
 - vii. Educate
 - viii. Small interim gains and benefits
 - ix. Effective communications plan that mitigates negative issues



Next Scheduled Meeting

9. The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date and will focus on a presentation.

Action item: Administration to organize a meeting with the Standing Committee and to schedule the next Committee meeting that will focus on preparing a presentation for the Committee.

Adjournment

10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Prepared: August 31, 2018 KP/ah