



Minutes

Community Services Committee

January 21, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marion Koepke
Member Aly Bousfield-Bastedo
Councillor Jon Farmer
Member Morgan Kemick
Councillor Suneet Kukreja
Member Lloyd Lewis
Member Lance Thurston

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Vice Chair Travis Dodd

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Rebecca Ellerdiem, Senior Advisor, External Relations and
Investment Attraction
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support
Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Koepke called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Councillor Koepke Re: End of Term of Public Committee Members

2.b Councillor Farmer Re: End of Committee Term

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.a Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on December 17, 2025

CS-260121-001

Moved by Member Thurston

"THAT the Community Services Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on December 17, 2025."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 5.a Presentation from Mariam Fares of the Owen Sound Chamber of Commerce Re: Owen Sound Tourism Development Fund (MAT Committee)

No discussion occurred on the topic as the deputation was unable to take place due to weather.

- 5.b Deputation from Jaret Koop of Georgian Bay Folk Society Re: Multi-Year Support for the Summerfolk Music & Crafts Festival

Jaret Koop of the Georgian Bay Folk Society (GBFS) provided a presentation respecting City support for the Summerfolk Music & Crafts Festival.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Koop noted that the GBFS could apply for Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) funding annually and added that the additional financial and in-kind support from the City in 2025 was incredibly helpful to their sponsorship and fundraising efforts.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the staff support from the City wouldn't change, whether or not the rental fees are forgiven. Mr. Koop added that GBFS worked closely with City staff last year for sharing information and support through Tourism, Events, and Facility Booking.

CS-260121-002

Moved by Member Kemick

"THAT in consideration of a deputation from the Georgian Bay Folk Society on January 21, 2026 respecting multi-year support for the Summerfolk Music & Crafts Festival, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a report to the February committee meeting respecting possible partnership and financing options for multi-year support, including a \$10,000 donation and waiving of rental fees."

Carried.

- 5.c Presentation from the City Manager Re: Committee Structure Review

The City Manager provided a presentation on the Committee Structure Review and requested feedback from committee members.

The Committee provided feedback to staff on the Committee Structure Review, which will be compiled and included in a future report to Council.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Simmonds noted that Council directed staff to review the committee structure as it had been a number of years since the last review, as well as to align the structure with the Vision 2050 Strategic Plan.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions or comments from the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

8.a Parks and Open Space

8.a.1 Report CS-26-005 from the Director of Community Services Re: Weaver's Creek Boardwalk

The Director of Community Services provided a brief overview of the report and introduced Jeff Graham of GSS Engineering.

Mr. Graham provided an overview of the proposed options for the boardwalk.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Graham noted that option 2 is slightly cheaper, though it does not include the second section of boardwalk and therefore may be less accessible.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that early concepts were sent to the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority before developing the options as presented today. Mr. Graham added that while additional consultation may occur, they are agreeable with the plan generally as presented.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the proposed design would be taken to the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee before finalized.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the regulatory framework makes this project complicated, making it more difficult for community group involvement. She added that there are funds in the capital reserve to support this project as presented.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Graham noted that this project would have a longer lifespan than the current structure as it would use better quality materials and professional techniques. He added that metal and plastic wood were both considered as options when coming up with the proposed solutions, and that details such as the type of wood used will be researched further before procurement.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Graham clarified that the current boardwalk is believed to be constructed of local white cedar that is not pressure treated.

CS-260121-003

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-26-005 respecting the Assessment of Options for the Weaver's Creek Boardwalk and Trail, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Approve moving forward with option 1 (preferred option) generally as described in the Assessment Report from GSS Engineering to undertake the consultation and permitting; and**
- 2. Modify the approved capital budget by \$39,000 (updated total project \$179,000)."**

Carried.

8.b Community and Business Development

8.b.1 Report CM-26-002 from the Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction Re: Community Impact Lab Opportunity in Collaboration with Georgian College and Grey County

The Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction provided a presentation on the Community Impact Lab opportunity and introduced Nicole Norris, Director of Social Innovation at Georgian College.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Ellerdiem clarified that the recommended \$5,000 for initialization would be used for completing a detailed operating proposal and associated costs, such as travel and grant writing costs, as well as to set up an event for Innovation Week. She added that a more detailed operating proposal will be brought back to the Committee at a later meeting.

Ms. Norris noted that the Barrie Community Impact Lab was launched two years ago, but that these labs have been in Georgian campuses for around five years and added that items arising from these impact labs include work with the Elizabeth Fry Society and the YMCA of Simcoe and Muskoka Strategic Plan.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Norris noted that the tools and resources in the lab can be portable and be used in other locations as well, which gives the Lab the ability to support organizations in many different capacities.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Ellerdiem noted that a detailed budget will be developed and brought back to the Committee with

the detailed operating proposal, but that the recommended amount of up to \$5,000 is to help ensure that things can be mobilized before the grant deadline of February 25. Mr. Simmonds added that the proposed funds may also be required for the event during Innovation Week and other consultation.

CS-260121-004

Moved by Member Kemick

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-26-002 respecting the Community Impact Lab Opportunity in Collaboration with Georgian College and Grey County, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Allocate up to \$5,000 from the Strategic Plan Implementation reserve fund toward the initialization of the project;**
- 2. Direct staff to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the core partners that would be brought back to Committee for review; and**
- 3. Direct staff to support an application by Georgian College for a research grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) as a partner organization."**

Carried.

8.c Arena Operations

None.

8.d Building

None.

8.e Facility Bookings and Community Programs

None.

8.f Planning and Heritage

None.

8.g Tourism, Culture and Events

None.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

11.a Memorandum from the Chief Building Official Re: Annual Development Update

The Director of Community Services provided a brief overview of the annual 2025 development update, highlighting permits issued and construction value.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a End of Term of Public Committee Members

Councillor Koepke thanked Public Member Lloyd Lewis for his dedication and input on the Committee over the course of his term and noted that the new term of Committees begins in February.

12.b End of Committee Term

Councillor Farmer thanked the Committee for the dedication and efforts over the course of the term, adding that he will no longer be sitting on this Committee beginning in February.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Koepke adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.