



**Minutes
Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee
Of the City of Kenora
Thursday, April 17, 2025
City Hall/Council Chambers
4:00 p.m.**

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**With** Chad English, Chair, Mary Bawden, Co-Chair, Heather Bird, Peggy Whitta, Councillor Van Belleghem

**Staff** Kelly Galbraith, Customer Services Manager/Deputy Clerk, Greg Breen, Director of Engineering & Infrastructure

**1. Call to Order**

Chad called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and delivered the land acknowledgement.

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

There were none declared.

**3. Central Park Greenspace – Sarry Klein, Scatliff + Miller + Murry**

Sarry Klein presented the designs for the Central Park greenspace. The design will address some of the main concerns with the existing conditions at the site including poor connectivity of pathways and getting onto the site. It will also address flooding in the southeast corner of the park. Additional features will include an accessible path, creating seating and greenspaces. The greenspaces are not designed for specific activities. There is an area designated for a slack line. Additional parking on First Street South including accessible stalls and a drop off zone is being explored. Grading of the site will be needed to improve storm water runoff. Shade for comfort, lighting for safety, and the removal of the existing volleyball court and bleachers is planned. The lighting elements have a 360 spread to help illuminate the pathways and are ambient to project down and limit light pollution in the area. There is a picnic grove area and play area expansion which incorporates accessible pathways in and onto the site. The designs presented are 60% designs, and the consultants are still working through the process, managing priorities in a restricted budget. The priorities are currently pathways, lighting and storm water management. A shade structure which may be provisional, would provide opportunity for sheltered gathering space.

## **Councillor Van Belleghem arrived at 4:14p.m.**

### **Discussion:**

It was asked what type of trees will be planted. Deciduous trees for clear sight lines will be used. It was asked what type of seating will be incorporated. Picnic tables and benches are planned. The existing playground ground cover was discussed. It is a rubber tiled surface, and the new slack line area will include the same. The timeframe for completion was questioned. Work will begin this summer and be wrapped up around Thanksgiving. Washrooms were discussed. There are seasonal washrooms at ball diamonds. The indoor washrooms are operated by the Club operations. The group thanked Sarry for her presentation.

### **4. McLeod Park, Phase 2 – Constantia Douvris, HTFC**

Andrea Linney and Constantia Douvris of HTFC provided a history of McLeod Park prior to and through to phase one of the reconstruction. The project is now entering phase two, and the planned changes were presented to the group. A pergola will be installed over the existing picnic tables to provide shade. The main priority is the rebuild of the deck. The current posts are not in proper foundations, and the tugboat support needs to be redone. The current structure is rotting. A new ramp that has all Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) elements including a guardrail, handrails, landings and wood boards which will have detectable warning strips. The sidewalk will continue to the staircase and the retaining wall(s) will act as informal seating. Lighting improvements will also be made and at the bottom of the ramp is a place for wheelchairs.

### **Discussion:**

The rise on the steps was questioned. They are 150 (6 inches). It was asked if there is a sloped curb to access the site. The site currently has an accessible route though which includes accessible access through the parking lot. Linear picnic tables and accessible picnic tables were installed in phase one. It was asked how wide the ramp will be. It will be 1.2m. The group thanked HTFC for their presentation.

### **5. Adopt Minutes of Previous Meeting – January 23, 2025**

#### **Moved By Mary, Seconded by Councillor Van Belleghem, and Carried –**

That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held January 23, 2025, be confirmed as written and filed.

### **6. National AccessAbility Week Update (May 25-31, 2025)**

Kelly updated the group that she has been working with the Communications department on the digital content for National AccessAbility Week (NAAW). May 28<sup>th</sup> is Easter Seals Red Shirt Day. Additional content will include the NAAW Flag design contest for students and the Accessible Lake Life Video launch. Kelly has also reached out to other departments such as the Library, MUSE and Recreation to promote the accessible features in their facilities during NAAW. The flag design contest closes on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. We are hopeful for some submissions to review at the May 15<sup>th</sup> AAC meeting, if not the submissions will be shared with the group via email the following day. We will need to immediately select a winner to ensure we can meet the required timeline to produce the flag. Once a winner is selected Kelly (or a

designate) will work with the school to see if they are available to attend a flag raising at City Hall. Prizes for the competition were also discussed. The idea of having a pizza party in Council Chambers and viewing the Accessible Lake Life videos at the time of the flag raising was shared. We will have a better idea once the submissions are received.

## **7. Roundtable**

Mary shared that the City of Kenora, Rotary Club of Kenora, the Retired Teachers Association and Age Friendly Committee partnered to host a volunteer fair at the Moncrief Construction Sports Centre. Volunteering saw a reduction after COVID and has not picked up. The event was held to encourage people to give back to the community. The Age Friendly Committee will meet in May and look at the evaluations post-event. People were keen to make this an annual event. Feedback was received that it would be best to hold the event sometime other than February. September is being looked at as a possible date.

Greg provided an update on the Coney Island playground. The NOHFC funding agreement was signed three (3) days ago. There is federal government funding as well. The design will take place this year and construction will begin in 2026.

Greg also shared that he was able to find money for ramps at Norman Park and Central Park. There may be opportunity to leverage funding as well. Design and installation will take time but it is a work in progress.

## **8. Next Meeting – Thursday, May 15 at 4:00 p.m.**

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.