



**Minutes
Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee
Of the City of Kenora
Thursday, October 30, 2025
City Hall, Council Chambers
4:00 p.m.**

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

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

**Virtual** Peggy Whitta

**Regrets** Jackie Hummlebrunner

**1. Call to Order**

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

Chad shared with the committee that we are excited to welcome a new committee member, Jackie Hummelbrunner. Jackie is the Director of Service Excellence and Partnerships at Firefly. Jackie was unable to attend today's meeting, but we look forward to having her on the committee.

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

There were none declared.

**3. Adopt Minutes of Previous Meeting – June 19, 2025**

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

That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held June 19, 2025, be confirmed as written and filed.

**4. Capital Projects Update – Greg Breen, Director of Infrastructure & Operations**

Moncrief Construction Sports Centre – the rink slab project has finished but the new ice surface has a six-inch elevation difference. Operators are struggling to get under the walking track bridge with the Zamboni. The walking track bridge must be raised. There is an Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) component. Tino, Project Manager with the Infrastructure and Operations department will be invited to a future AAC meeting to show the design. The lobby renovation is going well but some structural

columns were found in walls that weren't in drawings. The area cannot be remodeled as planned. There is approximately an eleven-week delay to finish the project. The temporary access to the building will stay in place. A temporary lift was installed while the elevator is inaccessible, and it will remain there permanently.

Bowman Electric Keewatin Memorial Arena – The elevator project is moving ahead. The design is complete. It is anticipated construction will begin in May 2026 once the ice is out. This will be a huge improvement for the building.

Railway Street – The sidewalk project on Railway Street to the tracks over 6<sup>th</sup> Street North has hit a roadblock with Canadian Pacific (CP). A designer has been engaged and will work in partnership with the City and CP. Phase 4 will begin next summer, and we will get the sidewalk finished off. The design may be different than what was presented to the committee so it will be brought back to the committee.

Paving Works – Projects include the former mill site, a patch on bottom of Mellick Avenue across 9th Street North and one of the bigger ones is a section of Lakeview Drive from the hospital bridge to COOP gas station. There will be an active transportation design. The City has just awarded the design work. In December or January this will be brought to the committee.

Norman Park – The Norman Park docking plan was presented to the committee previously. Contractors will begin working on the docks soon. Currently it is just the dock however it is recognized that we need to connect into the surfacing of the playground. Once on the playground surface you are connected to all other paths.

Norman Park and Central Park Play Structures – The ramps to the play structures have been approved by Council. Applications for NOHFC funding have been submitted. The next phase of McLeod Park, and the Central Park landscaping has been re-tendered.

Coney Island Playground – The City has received some concepts from playground suppliers. Stefen Stiller, Project Coordinator will be invited to attend an AAC meeting.

Keewatin Library – The trusses for the roof replacement are on site. There is an accessibility component pertaining to the north entrance of the building.

Jarnel Contracting Pavillion - Design on a new building on the harbourfront to replace the Harbourfront Thistle Pavillion is underway. It is anticipated it will take until March 2026 to get concept designs. In the first quarter of the year Tino will attend a meeting to discuss the project. It is anticipated construction would be in 2028-2029.

**Discussion:** It was shared that the existing play structure at Coney Island has a nice ramp. The project includes surfacing, and it will connect with a ramp to the boardwalk. It was asked if an older adults' playground has ever been discussed before. Central Park was identified as a potentially ideal location given its proximity to senior's buildings. Greg shared the concept for the Central Park greenspace is an all-ages space.

## **5. Treat Accessibility (Accessible Tick or Treating)**

The Communications department shared a post on Facebook on behalf of the AAC regarding accessible tick or treating. The post received national and international attention from the Treat Accessibility organization. There was some unfortunate

negativity around the post locally however community members supported the committee's efforts, and it got people talking about the committee.

#### **6. National AccessAbility Week – Sticker Contest**

Kelly presented an idea the Communications department shared for a sticker design contest. It was thought this may be a nice way to reach many people and spread the word about National AccessAbility Week. The group was asked to consider if they would like to have the contest at the school level or open it up to the public, set an age limit, etc. Kelly will circulate the link for the other contest (Ontario Parks – Connect with Nature) so the committee can get some ideas. The contest should be opened in the early new year which would allow for a selection process and production of the stickers. The stickers would then be handed out during National AccessAbility Week.

**Discussion:** The group agreed that the stickers would have a nice outreach to many people. It was thought it would be best to open the contest up to the public as school participation has been challenging. This item will be brought forward to the next meeting to allow for planning, so the contest can be released in the new year.

#### **7. Roundtable**

It was asked if the City is responsible for the Central Park Community Club. There is a lip at the entrance of the building requiring some attention. Greg will have crews go by to address this.

#### **8. Next Meeting – Wednesday November 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:30p.m.**

The November meeting date was discussed, and the meeting was moved to Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:30p.m. The location is to be determined. Kelly will notify the group.

#### **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51pm.