



MINUTES

Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2026
City Hall, Council Chambers

Present: Jackie Hummelbrunner, Chair Mary Bawden, Co-Chair
Heather Bird Peggy Whitta
Councillor Van Belleghem (Virtual)

City Staff: Kelly Galbraith, Manager of Customer Services/Deputy Clerk

Regrets: Chad English, Greg Breen, Director of Infrastructure & Operations

- 1. Call Meeting to Order and Land Acknowledgement**
Jackie called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. and a land acknowledgment was delivered.
- 2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**
There were none declared.
- 3. Adopt Minutes of Previous Meeting – February 9, 2026**
Moved By Mary Bawden, Seconded by Heather Bird, and Carried –
That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held February 9, 2026, be confirmed as written and filed.
- 4. Ice Policy – Wheelchairs**
At a previous meeting it was questioned what the requirement is for ice users in a wheelchair. Kelly shared that the Moncrief Construction Sports Centre and Bowman Electric Keewatin Memorial Arena have a facility rule, that all individuals are required to wear a helmet if they are walking on the ice. The individual in the wheelchair is not required to wear a helmet but the person pushing the wheelchair would be required to wear a helmet. This rule is outlined in the ice rental agreement.

Discussion: The group expressed interest in learning what ice activities wheelchairs can participate in. Kelly will arrange for Recreation staff to attend a future committee meeting.

5. The MUSE - Integrated Audio-Visual System at the Douglas Family Art Centre

An integrated audio-visual system was installed at the Douglas Family Art Centre. There are inputs and speakers in the galleries. From an accessibility standpoint the new installation allows for integrated audio boosted to a speaking volume+ in the galleries which is mainly used for presentations. There is also a set of hearing assist devices that are available.

6. National AccessAbility Week – Sticker Design Winner Selection

In total five submissions were received for the National AccessAbility Week, Sticker Design Contest. The committee reviewed the submissions and a winner for each of the three age categories was selected. Prizes were discussed and it was identified the Moncrief Construction Sports Centre and The MUSE have been making accessible upgrades to their facilities. In the spirit of accessibility it was thought family day passes to both facilities would be a nice prize. It was also suggested that family passes to the Coney Island shuttle be provided so the winners and their families can see the accessible playground at Coney Island once it is completed. The winners will be invited to attend the May 19th Council meeting at 5:00pm where their stickers will be showcased and the prizes will be presented.

7. Roundtable

The Coney Island accessible playground was discussed. Heather expressed some frustrations in the design process and wanted to be in the talks when staff initially met with Blue Imp, not at the end of design process. The accessibility of the design was discussed. It is hard to get a project that is 100% accessible for everyone. Peggy shared that ramps are more of a challenge for her, she is unable to walk down ramps. Committee members shared that they were impressed with Stefan Stiller, Project Manager knowledge in the playground features that have been modified and why. It was questioned whether there are any known features for accessible playgrounds such as wheelchair obstacles courses.

Kelly shared that at the March 24th Council meeting, Mary received a designation award for her leadership as Chair of the Kenora Age-Friendly Community. In January 2026, the Province formally recognized Kenora as an age-friendly community at the ROMA Conference.

8. Next Meeting – May 14, 2026

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16pm