



# Minutes

**Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee  
of the City of Kenora  
Wednesday, April 13, 2016 – City Hall Council Chambers  
5:00 p.m.**

-----  
**With** Chair Denise Miault, Mary Bawden, Deborah Hatfield, Marian McKay,  
Councillor Sharon Smith, Ruth Bowiec

**Staff** Adam Smith, Special Projects and Research Officer, Kathy Mayes,  
Administrative Assistant, Kerri Holder, Administrative Assistant

**Regrets** Councillor Rory McMillan, Chad English, Diane Pelletier, Sandra  
Tankard

## **1. Call to Order**

Diane called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

## **2. Welcome & Introductions**

There were no introductions needed.

## **3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

There were none declared.

## **4. Confirmation of Minutes**

**Moved by M. Bawden, seconded by M. McKay and Carried -**

That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held  
March 9, 2016 be confirmed as written and circulated.

## **5. Business Arising**

2016 work plan development –

Denise spoke of the National Access Awareness Week (NAAW) and her  
meeting with Crystal Alcock, from the Kenora Public Library. The Library will  
host the event inviting key leaders from the community and Council members  
to talk about accessibility. Denise's research revealed that since 1988  
through to 1998 National Access Awareness Week was designated the first

week of June by the Province and now most communities have continued to keep that tradition. Denise suggested that the week of May 29 to June 6 be declared as NAAW in Kenora and recognized by Council. Kerri or Kathy were instructed to ask Heather Kasprick about creating the Declaration and to check if there is a City budget to help with the event refreshments.

## **6. 2016 Work Plan Development –**

- **City's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Progress Report**

An update of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Progress Report was provided by Adam Smith. He had circulated a copy to the group for review before the meeting. He spoke of his processes and how he asked City departments about their progress related to the multi-year plan and not so much AODA requirements. Adam gave the example of ongoing plans to make the Website accessible. The Progress Report will be posted on the City's Portal in the reports section.

Members asked if the phrase "Beyond Minimum" could be referred to in the plan especially in the 'Design of Public Spaces' section. Adam said it can be included as an example; however he cautioned that the Progress Report matches the action items in the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and revisions such as those suggested, would be included in 2018 when a new plan is developed then. Its purpose is to report on what is more in tune to what has been established and stressed the need to be careful not to alter the actual action plan identified. Adam explained that though the Progress Report conforms to the AODA and its requirements; it is an informal progress report, not like a "compliance report" and does not have to be filed with the Province.

There were other minor changes requested and Adam will make amendments before posting.

The Members were impressed with Adam's report stating it is easy to read, they liked the layout, especially the large check marks about what has been completed.

Denise asked about the progress of the communication piece regarding the "Beyond Minimum". Kerri reported she is working to complete the task this year.

## **7. Age Friendly Steering Committee Update**

Mary reported that The Kenora Age-Friendly Strategic Plan was finalized, and presented to City Council at the April 5 Committee of the Whole meeting. The question was raised if the Plan is available on the City's Website. Kerri will send out the link when it has been posted. With the completion of the Strategic Plan, and a service directory, the Age-Friendly Steering Committee has done all they set out to do. They will meet this week to ask their members if they want to continue with the Action Plan stage, working on the recommendations coming out of the Strategic Plan and working with whomever they will be partnered with, i.e. businesses and/or transportation.

Mary mentioned the cross over initiatives with AAC such as creating drop off zones and accessible trails with age-friendly and accessible benefits.

Mary mentioned the successful turn out at the Senior's Housing Forum held on March 30<sup>th</sup>. This sparked discussion among AAC members about topics of interest to AAC as well, such as Universal Housing Design to incorporate accessible space by developers. Diane shared her knowledge of accessible kitchens. Mary announced there will be Memory Clinics held soon in Kenora that will be sponsored by one of the local health teams.

### **New Business**

Councilor Smith spoke of the lost funding from a grant to develop an accessible trail from Norman Park to the Discovery Centre. She will request that both AAC and Trail committees be advised of this ongoing project when it is discussed at Council.

There were concerns expressed about losing the funding and that part of the work had actually been completed on a retaining wall. There was interest in knowing more about why the deadline was not addressed and Councillor Smith offered to follow up. Marion wondered if it was possible to reapply or ask for an extension of the grant. She shared her knowledge of the right of ways owned by the City along the shores of the lake that can be used for an accessible trail.

*Marion McKay left at 5:48 p.m.*

## **8. Communications and/or Announcements**

Ontario's Accessibility Certification Program – Adam announced he received an email from the province regarding the above program and that the province is requesting input about AAC standards. He will forward this email to the members and encouraged them to register and make comments.

Denise reported that she has been contacted again by the person who was not allowed to take his "road scooter" on the bus as reported at the November 12, 2015 meeting. She will follow up with Heather Kasprick.

## **9. Next Meeting –**

May 11, 2016

## **10. Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.