



# Minutes

## Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee of the City of Kenora

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.  
City Hall Council Chambers

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**With** Chair Denise Miault, Mary Bawden, Chad English, Deborah Hatfield, Diane Pelletier, Sandra Tankard, Councillor Sharon Smith, Kerri Holder, Administrative Assistant

**Regrets** Marian McKay, Councillor Rory McMillan, Heather Kasprick, Manager of Legislative Services

### 1. Call to Order

Denise called meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

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

There were none declared.

#### 2. a) Additions

Several items were requested to add to the agenda. All agreed to the list.

- 1) Beyond Minimum Work Plan
- 2) Age Friendly Steering Committee Update
- 3) Snow Build Up on Main Street
- 4) School Bus Stop Issue
- 5) Paterson Medical Centre Entrance
- 6) Kenora Urban Trails Committee AODA Inquiry

### 3. Confirmation of Minutes

**Moved by M. Bawden, seconded by S. Smith and Carried -**

That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held November 12, 2015 be confirmed as written and filed.

#### **4. Business Arising**

##### **Business Letters Responses Action Plan**

Denise updated that she has been in contact with two of the businesses that responded and left messages or made arrangements to follow up in the new year with the others. All agreed this was a great way to get information out there as some businesses were not aware of the coming legislation changes and appreciated the connection to the AccessOn website.

##### **Bus Access**

Heather Kasprick may be able to provide an update at the next meeting.

##### **Council Resolution Regarding Committees**

Councillor Smith provided an update on the Council resolution on committee appointment. She thanked everyone for their support and shared that Council agreed to continue on as status quo. All were happy to hear there would be no changes.

#### **6. Work Plan**

##### **a) Business Congratulations**

###### **Window Cling Slogan**

A second sample of the window cling with the selected slogan was handed out. All were pleased with the overall design, the wheel chair symbol, and the size of the cling as shown. The next step is to find out costs and timeline for distribution. Kerri to investigate. It was suggested to ask some business owners for their opinion on it. It was also mentioned that businesses are being asked to be part of many recognition causes (such as Age Friendly) and this is something to think about on this project. There was discussion on the colour specifications for visual disabilities. Denise will follow up on this as she has a contact person to consult.

##### **b) Beyond Minimum**

Councillor Smith added this to the agenda as it has been on the work plan for some time and she would like to see it move forward. Heather had contacted the Chief Building Inspector to find out more on the involvement of the Committee with new construction projects as discussed at the last meeting. It was recognized that the City Building Inspectors now ensure people are meeting the minimum standards and there is an opportunity to communicate the idea of going beyond minimum through the building department. It was asked if a list of construction projects filed with the building department could be shared with the Committee. This would allow the Committee to reach out to the work site operators. It was noted that due to privacy concerns this may not be possible. It was suggested to consider a more proactive approach. It may be more effective to promote planning ahead with accessibility standards in mind by reaching people

before they are at the building permit stage. Many ideas for the annual work plan were mentioned, such as articles on building ramps beyond the code or sending information to the local construction association.

## **7. Ontario with Disabilities Act – Repealed Sections**

Councillor Smith brought this to the Committee's attention. In the Act it indicates that the Committee should produce an annual work plan. This had not been done for this year yet. It was decided that each member would bring one measurable and attainable idea for the work plan to the next meeting. Ideas could be sent to Kerri to build the work plan grid ahead of the next meeting also.

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

### **Age Friendly Steering Committee Update**

Mary reported that a draft of the Age Friendly strategic plan is ready for review and will send it out for feedback from the group on the accessibility aspects of the plan.

### **Snow Build Up on Main Street**

Denise reported that on December 28<sup>th</sup> she had received many calls about snow piled up in the two handicap parking spots on Main Street in front of HoJoe's Coffee and King Furniture. She had been in contact with Councillor Smith and the roads supervisor to have the snow removed. The snow was cleared by the next day.

Councillor Smith also mentioned a concern about snow piling in the two newly designated spots in Keewatin. This should be monitored and when clearing needs to be done, this be passed on to the roads supervisor.

### **School Bus Stop Issue**

Denise reported she had been contacted by a parent who is experiencing difficulties with the school bus stop for her son, who suffers from various conditions/disabilities. The parent reported that the bus company reassigned the bus stop quite a ways from their home, where she has to pick up or drop off her son. The bus company stated their policy is to reassign the bus stop when it is a safety concern. The parent has been in contact with the bus company, as well as the school board and Bob Nault. There was discussion whether the City issues bus licences or has anything to do with school busing. It was suggested that this issue be escalated by the parent to a higher level of management at the bus company. Denise will provide a report if any update at next meeting.

### **Paterson Medical Centre Entrance**

Denise has been in touch with Warren Spencer about a lip edge on the entrance sidewalk. Denise was informed by the contractor that this was built to code however she noted the difficulty for walkers and other mobility devices to get up/over the edge. Denise forwarded her concerns to Warren and now the contractor will be doing a curb cut to bring it down. Councillor Smith spoke about reinforcing how the beyond minimum plan will address these situations. She also commented on the good relationship built with Warren Spencer over the past few years on the accessibility needs at the Medical Centre. It was also noted that the entrance and parking lot improvements have not changed parking habits. People are still parking everywhere and within the drop off circle.

### **Kenora Urban Trails Committee AODA Inquiry**

Councillor Smith indicated that at the recent Kenora Urban Trails Committee meeting there was a question about whether all new trails have to be built to be fully accessible now. The interpretation of the new legislation to take effect in 2025 was discussed. It was thought that the changes are for new builds, including new trails. Existing trails would be okay as is. The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) would have to be consulted and Councillor Smith will follow up on this.

Diane, chair of the Kenora Urban Trails Committee, shared information about the 2017 Canada Summer Games. The rowing portion of the event will be held in Kenora on Rabbit Lake. There will be many renovations done to the area and it is hoped that the accessible trail (Rotary Way Trail) will be extended and paved. The extent of the work will depend on how much money is raised through grants and other sources.

## **9. Next Meeting – February 10, 2015**

### **10. Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.