



Minutes

**Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee
of the City of Kenora
Wednesday, March 9, 2016 – City Hall Council Chambers
5:00 p.m.**

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**With** Chair Denise Miault, Mary Bawden, Chad English, Deborah Hatfield, Diane Pelletier, Marian McKay, Councillor Sharon Smith

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

**Guest** Krishanth Koralalage, Roads Supervisor

**Regrets** Sandra Tankard, Councillor McMillan

## **1. Call to Order**

Denise called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. There was one addition to the agenda. Krishanth Koralalage was in attendance to discuss the roads department and accessibility.

## **2. Welcome & Introductions**

Round table introductions were done to welcome the new staff members at the table.

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

There were none declared.

## **4. Roads Department Discussion**

Councillor Smith opened the discussion and spoke about the reason to have Krishanth in attendance today, to establish a relationship. Denise receives many calls about certain problem areas and usually forwards the concerns

on to Krishanth. Denise thanked Krishanth for addressing the messages she has left to date and noted while there have been less calls this winter, a better job is being done by his department.

Krishanth shared he was in attendance to gather information on accessibility and how to incorporate accessibility into roads, parking spots and sidewalk maintenance. He asked the group to share a list of the problem areas they are aware of so that the roads crew can be made aware of same. It is helpful to know of the locations making employees aware as they know of some but not all.

Committee members described locations and the problems with those locations. There were two spots in Kenora identified with issues on a regular basis: the triangle crossing between A&W and Home Hardware and the two accessible parking spots on Main Street in front of King Furniture. It was noted that the triangle crossing is difficult for those in wheel chairs to get up and over if there is snow built up. The accessible parking lots become an issue at the end of the month pay day when many are trying to get to the bank. Two spots in Keewatin were also identified. In that area, people in wheel chairs or scooters have to use the street as often there is snow between the accessible parking spot and the sidewalk. Another problem area was identified on Second Street South across from the movie theatre. This area, where the level grade changes, has snow built up and some are not able to go from the street to the sidewalk. The area around Henesy Terrace was also mentioned as having snow bank issues for those with mobile devices. There was a question about snow removal at the Kenora Recreation Centre, specifically the accessible parking spaces. Krishanth indicated that the Rec Centre looks after that by hiring a contractor. It was pointed out that other locations are brought to Denise's attention only by phone calls from concerned residents.

Krishanth explained the process the road crew follows when there is a snow storm and touched on why the accessible parking spots may be filled with snow. If a vehicle is parked in one or both of those spots, the snow is not reachable for the loader.

*Diane arrived at 5:12 p.m.*

Krishanth also spoke about the road crew's ability to remove snow, which depends on weather conditions. If a snow storm is coming, the roads crew concentrate on snow plowing.

Mary recognized the work being done by the road crew to address the pot holes and grading challenges that have developed. She went on to say it is

great to see many workers tending to this and the crew is doing a great job repairing those areas.

There was a question about sidewalk maintenance and did the City use salt. There have been many reports of people falling on ice this winter. Krishanth explained the sand mix that is used and that the salt level is limited to 5% of the mix due to environmental concerns.

To move this forward, Councillor Smith suggested that the Committee forward a list of priority and issue areas to Krishanth now and then revisit the list before next snowfall season, in September. Mary suggested creating a map highlighting the areas for the road crew to reference. Denise offered to do a ride-a-long with Krishanth to point out the areas also. There was discussion about the location of all the accessible parking spots in downtown, which could also be notated on a map. It was mentioned the traffic by-law may list them. Krishanth will look into a map for next season.

Denise indicated she will continue to pass on concerns she receives and thanked Krishanth for attending.

*Krishanth left the meeting at 5:25 p.m.*

## **5. Confirmation of Minutes**

### **Moved by R. Bowiec, seconded by M. Bawden and Carried -**

That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held February 10, 2016 be confirmed as written and filed.

## **6. Business Arising**

Councillor Smith commented on the good meeting with Kevin Robertson and that now the Beyond Minimum idea can move forward. Kerri to forward to the group the resources Kevin had presented last meeting.

Councillor Smith reported that she is working on finding out more about the Railway Museum building ownership.

Chad shared that he has been approached by a business owner about rebuilding access to docking with a ramp. This will make the docking accessible for those using mobility devices. The group was pleased to hear that the business person had reached out. It was suggested a photo op and a "good news" story be shared when the project is completed. There was discussion about the standard for ramps. It is 1-12 (1 inch of rise, 12 inches of ramp) however this can be too steep for some. It was noted that the City of London recommendation is beyond that minimum which is 1-20. Chad will report back on the project.

## **7. 2016 Work Plan Development**

A draft work plan was distributed at the meeting. Denise asked the Committee to think about how to carry out each task in the plan. It was noted that the goals in the plan can be changed, deleted or added to as needed.

Denise will follow up on the dates of the National Access Awareness week this year. It was suggested to make the presentation to Council during this week. There was discussion on what will be included in the presentation and that it should be positive and include the items on the work plan that have been done or are a work in progress. Councillor Smith asked if the Beyond Minimum documentation could be ready, even in draft, for the presentation. All were asked to share ideas on what should be included in the presentation. Mary suggested considering teaming up with the Age-Friendly group on the window cling, as to not overwhelm businesses with these types of decals. As part of looking at City owned buildings, a door knob project was mentioned to be included in the work plan. This would be to assess the feasibility of replacing knobs with levers throughout.

An update of the Five Year Accessibility Plan could be added to the work plan. Adam Smith noted some progress has been made and there are other items that can easily be accomplished. It was thought that the last version of this plan did not have Committee input and it would be nice to have the opportunity this time. Adam offered to prepare a draft progress report and circulate for discussion at the next meeting. It was suggested to review progress of the plan annually and rework it in 2018.

Kathy shared a document which lays out timelines in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005) as a reference for the Committee as the work plan is developed.

*Chad left the meeting at 6:04 p.m.*

Changes and additions mentioned will be made to the work plan and it was decided it will be voted on at the next meeting.

## **8. Age-Friendly Steering Committee Update**

Mary provided the update once again. The Seniors Housing Forum information has been circulated to the community. Mary encouraged those interested to sign up on-line for the March 30<sup>th</sup> event. Some Committee members had already signed up.

The Age-Friendly plan will be finalized by the consultants in next week and presented on March 30<sup>th</sup> over the lunch break to those in attendance at the Forum. Then the plan will be presented to Council by the steering committee in April. Mary spoke about the elements in the plan and the next phase to implement the recommendations in the plan. She noted the plan may have some of the same goals as accessibility does. There may be areas where members of this Committee may want to come on board, addressing as a team effort. It was mentioned that the Age-Friendly plan is not only for the older population but will be good for all.

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

There were none.

#### **10. Next Meeting – April 13, 2016**

#### **10. Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.