



# Minutes

**Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee  
Of the City of Kenora  
Wednesday, March 8, 2017 – City Hall Council Chambers  
5:00 p.m.**

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**With** Chair Denise Mialt, Councillor Sharon Smith, Ruth Bowiec, Deborah Hatfield, Chad English, Marion McKay

**Staff** Adam Smith, Special Projects & Research Officer, Kelly Galbraith, Administrative Assistant

**Regrets** Vice-Chair Diane Pelletier, Councillor Rory McMillan, Rev'd Sandra Tankard, Mary Bawden

**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.

**3. Confirmation of Minutes**

**Moved by Ruth Bowiec, seconded by Deborah Hatfield and Carried -**

That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on February 8, 2017 be confirmed as written and filed.

**4. Beyond Minimum Letter – Further Revisions**

Adam informed the group he has revised the beyond minimum letter further to include more detail on the Community Improvement Plans (CIPs). The revised letter will be ready for circulation in April once the CIPs are approved. The idea of circulating an additional letter which outlines the geographical boundaries of the CIPs as well as a separate letter for existing

businesses was shared. Councillor Smith commented there needs to be better marketing and promoting of the beyond minimum letter. Adam will follow up with the Planning department and the Economic Development Officer to see what they have arranged for the marketing and promoting the letter. He will report back to the committee at the next meeting. The distribution of the letter to the Kenora Construction Association was also mentioned. Kelly will follow up with the Communications Clerk to have the letter posted under the AAC & Inclusion tab on the new Kenora.ca website.

Marion arrived at 5:07 p.m.

## **5. Accessibility Training for Businesses**

An information piece on free online Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Training was circulated to the group. Denise shared her enthusiasm for the training and asked the committee members to help spread awareness of the training to their contacts.

The 2025 deadline to make Ontario accessible for persons with disabilities was discussed. A story about an accessibility issue at the Knox United Church was shared with the group. Denise offered to assist with putting some information together for the church to be brought forward at the next Parish Council meeting.

## **6. Announcements and Communications**

### **• Article – Sledge Hockey Manitoba holds demonstration in Kenora**

Sophie English (Chad's daughter) was recently featured in the Kenora Daily Miner and News article "Sledge Hockey Manitoba holds demonstration in Kenora". Chad spoke on his daughter attending the event during the Scotiabank Hockey Day in Canada festivities and the joy it brought to him to see her score 3 goals. The event was very well received in the community and attracted people of all ages and abilities.

### **• ParaSport Games and Provincials Update**

Denise spoke about her recent trip with her wheelchair curling team to the ParaSport Games in Brantford. On the opening night of the games the team attended an event with 350 disabled athletes from across Ontario. While at the curling rink she had the opportunity to watch a curling game for the visually impaired. She spoke on the emotional component of the games and how important it is to get the message out that anything is possible for people with accessibility issues and disabilities.

- **Invitations to AAC Forums 2017**

An information piece on Community Accessibility Forums 2017 was circulated to the committee. The forums are being held throughout Ontario to put a provincial focus on accessibility legislation and things to come in the future. The forums are free of charge to attend, with the closest event being held on June 14<sup>th</sup> in Thunder Bay. Denise expressed her interest in attending the event and asked if any funding for travel expenses is available through the committee/City. Adam will bring this forward to Karen Brown to see if this is a possibility.

### **7. Roundtable**

Marion brought forward a concern from a citizen with accessibility issues, who requested assistance from a City staff member to help them place money in the parking meter but the City staff declined to assist the citizen. Councillor Smith will bring this forward to the Karen Brown.

### **8. Next Meeting – April 12, 2017**

### **9. Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.