



NOTES

Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Of the City of Kenora Wednesday, October 18, 2017 – City Hall Council Chambers 5:00 p.m.

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With Chair Denise Miault, Ruth Bowiec, Deborah Hatfield, Marion McKay

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

Regrets Councillor Rory McMillan, Rev'd Sandra Tankard, Chad English, Diane Pelletier, Councillor Sharon Smith, Mary Bawden

1. Call to Order

Denise called meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. It was noted quorum was not present however the group decided to proceed with the meeting.

Meeting attendance was discussed. It was commented that to make a difference the committee needs dedicated members who are able attend meetings and pass motions.

Denise shared that she was hoping to bring forward a recommendation for the accessibility logo. She received an email from a representative with the Stop the Gap Program for an update on where the committee is with the program. There was a discussion on a waiver which may be required for the program. Denise will reach out to them for more information and provide the committee with follow up.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

There were none declared.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The September 13th meeting minutes were unable to be confirmed as quorum was not present.

4. Accessible Pedestrian Signals

Adam spoke on a recent incident where an individual misinterpreted the accessible (audible) pedestrian signals. He shared that other municipalities have a short video clip on their websites which is a tutorial for the signals. He informed the group that the audio sounds distinguish between North/West and South/East and asked if they would be in support of having a similar video available on the accessibility page of kenora.ca. The group agreed that this would be an important element to have on the website. Adam will bring this forward to Kerri Holder, Communications Clerk.

5. Work Plan Action Items

The outstanding items from the 2017 work plan were reviewed. It was noted 2018 will be the final year of the multi-year accessibility plan. A new 4 year plan will need to be developed. Adam will be completing a report for ADOA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act). He will share his report with the committee via email once it is complete, for input and feedback.

An inspection of a City building was recognized as an outstanding item. There was a discussion on whether or not the inspection needs to a building or if it could be done at a park such as Garrow Park. In the last year many accessible features and upgrades have been completed at Garrow Park and the group agreed this would be a good location for an inspection. It was asked if this item could be carried forward to the spring of 2018 when the weather conditions are more favorable. This was also seen as a good opportunity to identify possible recommendations for the future work to be done at Norman Park with the construction of the Splash Park.

6. Potential Projects for Enabling Accessibility Fund

The group had been asked to think of potential projects for the Enabling Accessibility Fund. It was commented that Norman Park has lots of opportunity for accessibility. The existing play structure at the site was discussed and it commented there is opportunity to add accessible features such as a low swing that can accommodate a wheelchair. Marion shared a story of a fully accessible playground she visited in Bemidji which had a similar swing. The group was asked to continue to brainstorm on such projects and bring their ideas to the meetings.

7. Announcements and Communications

Garrow Park Playground -

Photos of the newly constructed playground at Garrow Park were circulated to the group. The playground includes accessibility features. Chad English and his daughter Sophie attended the playground and Chad shared some feedback on the accessible features. He noted that he would not deem the playground fully accessible, however he shared that the playground is fully inclusive with accessible features.

Splash Park/Norman Park -

There was a discussion on the recent announcement that the City of Kenora and Council is in support of the Rotary Club applying for Trillium funding, for the Splash Park project at Norman Park. The importance and opportunity for accessibility features at Norman Park were discussed. It was commented that accessibility needs to be thought of throughout the whole project, including parking stalls, washroom improvements, trails and the splash pad.

9. Next Meeting – November 8, 2015**11. Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.