



# Minutes

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

Wednesday, January 08, 2018 – City Hall Council Chambers  
5:00 p.m.

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**With** Chair Denise Miault, Vice-Chair Diane Pelletier, Councillor Sharon Smith, Mary Bawden, Ruth Bowiec, Deborah Hatfield, Chad English

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

**Guest** Lori Nelson, Director, Lake of the Woods Museum

**Regrets** Councillor Rory McMillan, Rev'd Sandra Tankard, Marion McKay

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Denise called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

There were none declared.

**3. Design of Art Centre – Guest Lori Nelson, Director of the Lake of the Woods Museum**

Lori reached out to the group looking for their input on the design of the Art Centre. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2018 and open in July 2019. Currently the Art Centre is in the design phases and will be going to tender in a month or so. Lori shared that accessibility has been on the forefront throughout the design and she is looking for the input and feedback from the committee.

The Art Centre will be home of an art collection by Walter J Phillips with many pieces featuring and inspired by Lake of the Woods. The collection is being donated by couple who has spent many years on Lake of the Woods. They would like to

donate their collection to the City so everyone can enjoy it. Lori shared artist renderings of the design and floorplan of the new building.

The location of the Art Centre will be near the museum, attached to the old Annex building. An additional 5700sqft will be built with floors above and below ground. Challenges of the site include the shape of the design. Trillium funding was used to do feasibility study on the old Annex building which is a heritage building. Concerns with humidity and air flow were identified as well as accessibility concerns. The Annex building was originally built as the land titles building and features vault doors. The building is only accessible by stairs from the exterior. It was asked how wide the vault door is and whether or not it would fit a wheelchair. The vault doorway is said to be quite narrow and Lori did not believe a wheelchair would fit through the doorway. It was asked if this is an issue with the 2025 ADOA deadline and Lori informed the group heritage buildings allow for violations to some extent. Adam and Kevin Robertson will meet to review the heritage designation leniencies.

The new addition can be accessed by ground level. It will feature two levels above ground and one level below ground. An elevator will service 5 floors, including two floors of the old Annex Building. Universal, fully accessible washrooms have been incorporated into the design and door widths are standard which will allow for wheelchairs to pass through. Accessibility for visual, hearing, physical, etc. has also been incorporated into the design.

It was asked if there was any thoughts on making the new building more of a heritage design. Lori shared that the works of Walter J. Phillips were integrated into the design of the building. The design features a community of buildings with simple forms, and gable and shed roofs with the same slopes. The design is meant to go together with the existing buildings but not to necessarily match. It was designed as a creative building for creative activities. There are large exterior wall spaces with projection opportunity.

There was a discussion on the washrooms at the Art Centre. It was asked if separate washrooms are needed for men and women. The requirements to be deemed a universal washroom were also discussed.

Lori encouraged the group to come visit the old Annex building and asked the committee members for their thoughts to be brought forward in the next few weeks. A meeting with the architect is scheduled for February and Lori will provide feedback and ideas brought forward by the committee at this time.

The group thanked Lori for attending and including them in early stages of the project. Denise offered to do a site visit once construction begins to provide further input and feedback.

*Lori left the meeting at 5:35pm.*

#### **4. Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **Moved by Councillor Smith, Seconded by Mary Bawden and Carried –**

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

Discussion:

At the January AAC meeting, the location of the Norman Park Splash Pad was discussed and concerns were brought forward. The grade of the trail to the site needs to be altered and parking needs to be updated. Adam was to draft a letter of recommendation to the Rotary Club on behalf of AAC to have the Splash Park located at the top of Norman Park near the community club.

It was commented the City of Kenora should have input on the location of the Splash Pad with long term operation costs being considered. It was identified the recommendation should be brought forward to the City, not to the Rotary Club. Adam and Councillor Smith will speak with Karen Brown, CAO regarding the concerns brought forward. The group felt it was important that AAC communicates their concerns to City Council.

The letter drafted to the Rotary Club has been deferred.

#### **5. Provincial Task Force**

Denise shared that she was contacted in early December to be part of a provincial task force organized by the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, The Strategic Counsel. They are looking for feedback and input on the work of Accessibility Advisory Committees across Ontario; what are you doing as a committee, should there be changes made to the AAC requirements, etc. A survey will be circulated to the committee.

#### **6. 2017 Accessibility Compliance Report & Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Amendment**

Adam filed the compliance report on behalf of the committee. He informed the group that for the most part the City is in compliance. One issue that was identified was the prescribed maintenance. Adam spoke with James Tkachyk and prescribed maintenance is being done however it is not in our multi-year accessibility plan. Adam will bring this forward as a housekeeping item for the January Council meeting.

#### **7. Age Friendly Survey Results**

Mary shared the results of the Age Friendly survey conducted in late 2017 and focused on the sections pertaining to transportation and outdoor spaces and buildings. She informed the group that the participants had the option to select more than one option when answering questions and stressed that many of the answers were answered based on second hand information, not firsthand experience i.e. I've heard, I was told by a friend, etc. Overall the feedback provided was positive. Some accessibility concerns were brought forward and discussed.

*Chad left the meeting at 6:15pm.*

8. Announcements and Communications

- Transit accessibility for all remains a dream unfulfilled across Canada

There was a discussion on public transportation in the City of Kenora. The City bus and handi-transat were discussed. Mary shared that based on the Age Friendly survey results most people are able to get to where they need to go.

9. Additions to the Agenda

It was asked if there would be interest in moving the meeting time to 4:00pm rather than 5:00pm. The majority of the group agreed that 4:00pm would work better for them. Kelly will circulate a Doodle poll with meeting dates and times for the February meeting.

*Ruth left the meeting at 6:20pm.*

An update on the accessibility concerns to access Dollarama was provided. The sloping of the sidewalk/curb is scheduled to move forward however there have been delays due to the cold temperatures.

10. Next Meeting – February 10, 2018

11. The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm