



Minutes

Of a SPECIAL Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Of the City of Kenora Monday, July 30, 2018 – Kenora SportsPlex 4:00 p.m.

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**With** Councillor Sharon Smith, Mary Bawden, Chad English, Chair Denise Miault, Vice-Chair Diane Pelletier, Marion McKay

**Staff** Kelly Galbraith – Deputy Clerk/Customer Services Lead, Heather Kasprick – Clerk, James Tkachyk – Parks & Facilities Division Lead, Bruce Graham – HR Strategist/Certified Playground Inspector

**Regrets** Councillor Rory McMillan, Rev’d Sandra Tankard, Ruth Bowiec, Deborah Hatfield, Adam Smith - Special Projects & Research Officer

### 1. Call to Order

Denise called meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

### 2. Artificial Turf

The group had the opportunity to access the field of the Kenora SportsPlex. Heather provided information on the maintenance and machinery required to uphold the quality of the turf.

James provided samples of artificial turf from suppliers which included various lengths and abrasiveness. The manufacturer recommended the low pile option as this product wears the best however, it was noted that artificial turf has not been installed in a playground in Canada at this time. The product comes with a 5 year warranty.

Costs associated with the artificial turf were discussed. The estimated costs of \$75,000 includes the removal of the Engineered Wood Fibre product from the site and the installation of the artificial turf. Of the \$75,000, approximately \$60,000 would be used for the purchase and installation of the new product.

Maintenance and hygienic concerns with artificial turf were brought forward. Moisture from rain and the surrounding beach, animal waste and food and drink spills were identified as possible contaminants on the artificial turf surface. If an area becomes contaminated it is difficult to correct.

*Heather left the meeting at 4:25 p.m.*

### **3. Playground Ground Cover Product Options**

At the July 17<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the removal of the Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) product and replacement with sand was discussed as a temporary solution however, it was determined that sand does not meet Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards.

There was a discussion on the poured-in-place rubber surface product. This product has been installed at a local school and upon a site visit to this location it was seen that this product is showing wear and tear. The rubberized surface is beginning to crumble in some areas and requires repair. Safety concerns of the surface becoming slippery when wet were identified.

### **4. Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF)**

The Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) product was discussed at length. It was shared that this product is the most commonly used ground cover on playgrounds and that it has been used in over 50,000 playgrounds in North America. EWF is recognized as one of the safest choices for protective material as it provides the best shock attenuation in the event of a fall. EWF is AODA approved and requires minimal maintenance to maintain its protective properties. If an area becomes contaminated, it is easy to remove and replace with new material.

The EWF product installation requires wetting and tamping of the wood chips to allow for them to compact. It was asked if this occurred at the time of the installation of the product at Garrow Park. It was also asked if the type of wood used for the EWF chips is known. Since the EWF product is commonly used in playgrounds the group inquired if contact information of other municipalities who have installed the product could be made available. James will follow up with the supplier of the EWF product.

The wooden barrier surrounding the Garrow Park play structure was identified as a concern to those with accessibility devices such as wheelchairs and walkers. The barrier hinders access to the play structure. The wooden barrier was installed in order to reduce the EWF product from migrating to the beach. Installation of a ramp was brought forward as a possible solution.

Areas at Garrow Park where the EWF product has not settled were identified. These areas are difficult to navigate through with accessibility devices. It was asked if tamping could be done to compact the product further. The question was raised if installing mats as a pathway around the play structure would be possible.

## **5. Sub-committee**

It was communicated by City staff that the installation of a new product to replace the EWF is unable to take place until the spring of 2019 due to production time and seasonal elements. This will allow for research to be done to ensure the right decision is made before committing.

The need for accessible playgrounds which go “beyond minimum” and long term planning was discussed by the group. Chad offered to work with City staff to determine the best solution for Garrow Park and future playground developments. Feedback and recommendations on the various options will be brought forward to the AAC committee for review. Denise has offered to contact other municipalities who have used the EWF product for their feedback, if the contact information can be made available.

## **6. Roundtable**

A local resident contacted Councillor Smith regarding the Coney Island docks. Councillor Smith will contact Kevin Robertson, Chief building Official to discuss AODA compliance for docks.

## **7. Next Meeting – September 5, 2018**

## **8. Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.