



M i n u t e s
Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee
Of the City of Kenora
Wednesday, March 7, 2018 – City Hall Council Chambers
4:00 p.m.

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

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

**Regrets** Deborah Hatfield, Chad English, Marion McKay, Councillor Rory McMillan, Rev'd Sandra Tankard

**1. Call to Order**

Denise called meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

There were none declared.

**3. Enabling Accessibility Fund with guest James Tkachyk, Parks & Facilities Division Lead**

James Tkachyk spoke to the group regarding the July 2018 intake for Enabling Accessibility from a buildings perspective. He provided information on buildings that had been previously updated but are not necessarily in compliance any longer. Items such as door widths, windows, door knobs, washrooms and grab bars were discussed. James reassured the group that going forward accessibility is on the forefront of all projects.

There was a discussion on the wood chips that were used at the Garrow Park playground. It was reiterated that the wood chips do meet accessibility standards however, concerns with maneuverability for wheelchairs is a concern. It was commented that the woodchips may still need time to compress and it was identified

there may be grant opportunity for the supply of rubber matting around play structures. The matting was commented as being a practical solution that would also reduce injuries.

Upgrades to the Norman Park Washrooms were also discussed. It has been determined that the location of the Splash Park will be on the upper level of Norman Park. Currently the clubhouse at this location is leased by Kenora Kinsmen Club from the City of Kenora. The condition of the clubhouse was discussed and possible partnership opportunities were identified.

It was identified there is a need to pick one project annually and further to aim for capital projects that are budgeted for. James and Adam will work together to identify such projects and Adam will bring them forward to the group as they develop.

James informed the group that from a buildings standpoint he tracks accessibility compliance in a large spreadsheet. He offered to share the spreadsheet with group to see the progress that is being made.

The group thanked James for attending and sharing this information.

*James left the meeting at 4:35pm.*

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

**Moved by Mary Bawden, seconded by Ruth Bowiec and Carried -**

That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on January 8, 2018 be confirmed as written and filed.

#### **5. Certificate of Recognition for Accessibility**

**Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Diane Pelletier and Carried -**

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee hereby adopts the use of a certificate of recognition to acknowledge businesses and organizations for their efforts in accessibility.

#### **Discussion:**

Denise shared that in the past Northwestern Independent Living Services Inc (NILS) provided businesses and organizations with a certificate of recognition for the work they have done to make their location accessible. The idea of the AAC creating a sticker or decals for storefronts had been discussed in 2017 however, a certificate was seen as a great way to acknowledge the business/organization for their efforts towards accessibility. The group agreed that this would be a good project for the committee to take on.

Members of the committee were encouraged to bring forward nominations of businesses/organizations who meet the specified criteria. An alternate committee member will visit the location to confirm the criteria is met.

Criteria such as clear aisle ways, customer service, access to the building and policing of handicap parking stalls were shared. The group was asked to send Kelly any

further ideas for criteria via email. Kelly will draft the certificate and bring to the next meeting for review.

## **6. Consultation of Municipal AACs – Survey**

A survey from the Strategic Counsel, conducting a consultation of municipal Accessibility Advisory Committees on behalf of the Accessibility Directorate was circulated to the group in February. Denise shared that she received an email from the Strategic Counsel indicating the email response to the survey was really good. Over 500 responses were received.

## **7. 2018 Work Plan**

The 2018 work plan was circulated to the group for their review. It was noted the multi-year accessibility plan expires in 2019. The development of a new plan will commence in the fall of 2018. Garrow Park has been determined as the location for the tour of a City building/recreation space.

## **8. Announcements and Communications**

Denise shared that her wheelchair curling team won Provincials and will be heading to the Nationals in Leduc, Alberta. A Beef on a Bun fundraiser will be held on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> in support of the event.

Mary shared the idea of having an event where the mayor would be in a wheelchair for a day to create accessibility awareness. Denise shared a personal story of a colleague who did a similar exercise and wrote about their experience.

Ruth provided an update on the Parish Hall access to Notre Dame Church. There is a grant available and the Accessibility Ruling on accessibility to the lower hall will be assisted with funding of up to 35% of the total cost. It is not a good idea to rely on the Health Unit to supply Notre Dame Church with accessibility access as the church should be made more accessible. A lift would be more cost effective than an elevator and a lift would meet government standards.

There was a group discussion on the 4:00pm meeting time and the group agreed this time is preferable. The April meeting will be set for 4:00pm.

## **9. Next Meeting – April 4, 2018**

## **11. Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.