



Minutes

**Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee
Of the City of Kenora
Wednesday, May 2, 2018 – City Hall Council Chambers
4:00 p.m.**

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**With** Denise Miault - Chair, Ruth Bowiec, Deborah Hatfield, Chad English, Diane Pelletier

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

**Regrets** Councillor Sharon Smith, Councillor Rory McMillan, Rev'd Sandra Tankard, Marion McKay, Mary Bawden

**Guest** Casey Pyykka, Community Program Liaison

## **1. Call to Order**

Denise called meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

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

There were none declared.

## **3. Sledge Hockey Program Presentation with guest Casey Pyykka, Community Program Liaison**

Casey Pyykka, Community Program Liaison was welcomed by the group. She shared that in January 2018, Adam Smith and her worked on a grant application for funding to begin a sledge hockey program in Kenora. In April it was announced that the application was successful and the sledge hockey program will be moving forward in the fall of 2018.

The program is designed for people of all abilities with hopes of having 40 participants by next year. The funding will allow for the purchase of 12 sledges and is a one year grant. The City will be contributing ice times in kind. After the first year it will be up

to the community to keep to the program running. Once the sledges are received a training camp will be held with Bill Muloin from Sledge Hockey Manitoba to learn about the sledges along with drills, as well as hosting a clinic to develop buzz in the community and gain volunteers.

In 2017, Hockey Day in Canada celebrations included a sledge hockey demonstration and the response was overwhelming. A public survey was also conducted to drive local interest. Community businesses and organizations have come forward to offer their assistance with promoting the sledge hockey program and the OPP are interested in in hosting a sledge hockey fundraiser.

Keewatin Area has been selected as the venue for the program as the arena is accessible. The annual ice user meeting will be held in May at which time ice times will be determined. The possibility of an adult league in the evening has been discussed as well as an all age's league depending on the demand.

**Discussion:**

Chad shared Sophie and his experiences with Sledge Hockey Manitoba. He expressed his excitement to see a program brought to Kenora and would like to be actively involved. Protective gear and costs associated with equipment were discussed. The idea of incorporating sledge hockey into the National AccessAbility Week event was shared.

The group thanked Casey for her presentation and requested to be kept informed on program developments as they become available.

***Casey left the meeting at 4:15pm***

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

**Moved by Ruth Bowiec, seconded by Diane Pelletier and Carried -**

That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held April 9, 2018 be confirmed as written and filed.

**Discussion:**

The Splash Park fundraising efforts made by the Rotary Club of Kenora were praised. Upcoming fundraising events were shared.

**5. National AccessAbility Week (May 27-June 2)**

Garrow Park had previously been discussed as a possible venue for the National AccessAbility Week event however, the location might not be an option due to the weather. The idea of hosting an event to highlight the various accessible community sports and incorporating the sledge hockey program announcement was shared. The group agreed this would be a great theme for this year's event. Wheelchair curling, sledge hockey and para Nordic skiing were identified as some sports which could be showcased. Deborah requested to display masks for Brain Injury Awareness month at the event. Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> was selected as the event date. Kelly will confirm the Rec Centre room availability and work with Kerri Holder, Communications Clerk to have the event advertised on social media.

## **6. Enabling Accessibility Fund**

Adam readdressed the changes to the Enabling Accessibility Fund application. Midstream projects are required for this year's applications. The Sportsplex was identified as a good opportunity to pursue as capital budget for upgrades has been approved. Other projects identified were deemed too small. It is still unknown if small stream projects will be open for the program this year.

## **7. Roundtable**

Council Chambers is no longer available for a meeting space until further notice. The June meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room at the Kenora Rec Centre.

## **8. Announcements and Communications**

There were no announcements or communications brought forward.

## **9. Next Meeting – June 6, 2018**

## **11. Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.