



Minutes

**Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee
Of the City of Kenora
Wednesday, September 4, 2019
Kenora Rec Centre, 2nd Floor Meeting Room
4:00 p.m.**

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**With** Diane Pelletier, Councillor Sharon Smith, Mary Bawden, Brenda Ranville

**Staff** Kelly Galbraith - Deputy Clerk, Adam Smith - Manager of Development Services

**Guest** Jackie Franck - Program Coordinator - Kenora Youth Wellness Hub, Kylie Hissa -Planning Analyst

**Regrets** Councillor Rory McMillan (alternate), Chad English, Ruth Bowiec

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

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

There were none declared.

**3. Youth Wellness Hub discussion with guest Jackie Franck, Program Coordinator – Kenora Youth Wellness Hub**

Adam introduced and welcomed Jackie Franck, Program Coordinator with the Youth Wellness Hub, to the meeting. Jackie shared that she is looking for input and suggestions from the AAC on the development and design of the Youth Wellness Hub. The Hub will be an integrated youth service site, for those ages 12-25 offering resources for mental health, substance abuse, primary care, social and cultural services. A number of agencies will be working together to best support clients. The Hub will provide access to services already available and make them more accessible to youth.

The building was purchased by Kenora Chiefs Advisory (KCA) and is located at 120 Main Street. The building requires a lot of work in its current state. The design will

be a youth friendly location and not a typical office space. There is access to the building through an entrance off of Main Street as well as access to the lower level through the harbourfront. Jackie shared she has been in contact with Kevin Robertson, Chief Building Officer to discuss Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements. It was identified that the staircase is a barrier and Jackie asked the group for further suggestions on how to make the space accessible.

**Discussion:**

Beyond Minimum was discussed by the group. Door width, power buttons, bathrooms and wheelchair manoeuvrability were suggested to be taken into consideration during the design process. Elevators versus lifts were also discussed. Diane volunteered to do a site visit and provide recommendations and she will see if Chad has interest in attending as well.

Funding for the project was discussed. It was noted the building requires extensive renovations however, the renovation budget is \$86,000. Asks for additional funding will be put out to local businesses and residents. A letter will be sent to the community for funding or in kind services. The Enabling Accessibility Fund and Community Improvement Plan (CIP) were also identified as potential funding opportunities.

Jackie thanked the group for having her and shared she looks forward to meeting with them again as the project progresses.

*Jackie left the meeting at 4:30*

**4. Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Update - Kylie Hissa, Planning Analyst**

Kylie shared that 2018 was the first year for the Accessibility Grant offered through the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Program. The grant is for a maximum of \$2,500 or 50% of the total cost. Knox United Church applied for barrier free access to the church by widening the sidewalk and installing an accessible door at the sidewalk level. The Clarion Hotel installed automatic sliding doors and Atlantic Industries applied for a barrier free access ramp at their main door. Another local business inquired about the Accessibility grant but decided not to pursue accessible upgrades.

**Discussion:**

Councillor Smith shared she was contacted by a local resident who learned that a local business did not want to pursue accessible upgrades. The resident expressed their disappointment.

The Beyond Minimum letter developed by the AAC was discussed. Councillor Smith shared she was disappointed to hear the letter has not been handed out with CIP applications and business licences. The AAC worked hard to develop and update the letter. The letter is an education piece for building owners.

It was asked that the Beyond Minimum Letter be brought forward to the October AAC meeting for review.

**5. Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.