



Minutes

Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Of the City of Kenora Thursday, February 10, 2022 – Virtual Attendance 4:00 p.m.

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**With** Councillor Sharon Smith, Ruth Bowiec, Mary Bawden, Diane Pelletier

**Staff** Stace Gander, Director of Community Services, Kevin Gannon, Director of Engineering and Infrastructure Services, Heather Pihulak, City Clerk, Kelly Galbraith, Deputy Clerk

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

### 1. Call to Order

Mary called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

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

There were none declared.

### 3. Introduction – Kevin Gannon

Stace introduced Kevin Gannon, Director of Engineering and Infrastructure Services.

Kevin advised that he is an ex-military veteran with accessibility challenges. He appreciates the committee and the work they do to address accessibility in our community.

### 4. Winter Snow Removal Update

Snow has been a big topic in the community and it has been a challenge this year. The accessible parking stalls are a priority for the City. It doesn't mean that staff don't forget things or mistakes are made, but when it does get brought up we will go out and correct it. From Kevin's lens it has been recognized there are areas in the City that there are accessible parking spots which the design work does remove accessibility concerns. Kevin has spoken with the Roads team and this is work that

they can take on internally. The Roads team will look at the other accessibility areas and how they can better look at these items and better address them. There are certain limitations within Kenora where the access or design of the infrastructure is not an easy application of accessibility on the driver's side of the vehicle.

Our team is designing to understand accessibility but also want to portray to the committee that there are challenges with old design and infrastructure that present challenges to adhere to the accessibility needs. We are always open to how we can do things better. Any new development has to follow accessibility standards in Ontario in that new design and build.

Mary questioned the focus on contractors. Going beyond the minimum standards and always trying to do better. Kevin explained that there can be varying standards depending on the pinch points in the landscape and land ownership. It's not that the engineers don't consider it, they consider it on every design and are part of the mindset on every design but often there are restrictors that are in play when looking at the designs consider going beyond the minimum for standards. We need to look at all four seasons and consider the maintenance for the ramps and the infrastructure we are designing to ensure the design will be safe for four seasons and some of the design parameters are not the easiest to allow the level of service but provides proper drainage to be safe.

Councillor Smith requested that Kelly circulate the "Beyond the Minimum" document that was designed by the Accessibility Committee. Councillor Smith would like this developed into a brochure to be handed out to contractors when applying for building permits.

The group thanked Kevin for attending.

***Kevin left the meeting at 4:47pm.***

#### **5. Adopt Minutes of previous Meeting – January 13, 2022**

**Moved by Ruth Bowiec, Seconded by Councillor Smith and Carried;**

That the Minutes of the January 13, 2022 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be confirmed as written and filed.

#### **6. Recruitment Sub-Committee Update**

Chad, Kelly and Diane met to discuss the vacancies on the committee. The call for member's advertisement was reviewed and the time commitment for the monthly meeting was added. Kerri Holder, Communications Clerk will advertise the vacancy in the Municipal Memo and on the City of Kenora's website and social media. Kelly will circulate the advertisements to the group. Members were encouraged to reach out to their networks to promote the committee and the vacancies. Councillor Smith thanked Chad and Diane for the efforts.

## **7. Roundtable**

Stace shared that the province will be contributing \$260,000 towards an accessible playground at Norman Park. There are currently a lot of funding opportunities available and there is excitement for the things we are seeing in the community.

## **8. Next Meeting – March 10, 2022 at 4:00pm**

## **9. Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.