



Minutes

Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Of the City of Kenora Thursday, March 23, 2023 – City Hall/Virtual 4:00p.m.

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- With:** Maureen Wasacase      Chad English      Mary Bawden      Heather Bird  
Kelsie Van Belleghem
- Staff:** Danica Farion – Executive Assistant      Kelly Galbraith – Deputy Clerk (v)  
Brian Wall – GW Architecture Inc.
- Regrets:** Carolyn Hudson      Lindsay Koch  
Corrie Neufeld

### 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Danica called the meeting to order at 4:03pm

Land Acknowledgement delivered by Chad English.

### 2. Presentation by Brian Wall – City of Kenora Operations Centre Renovations

Brian Wall from GW Architecture Inc. presented the plan for the renovations at the Operations Centre, he highlighted the accessible features and upgrades being incorporated.

The committee also represents the hearing impaired community and as such, sound baffling and loud speakers should be taken into consideration. Braille for washroom signs should also be considered.

Levers and panic bars are now code for accessibility standards for doors.

The table thanked Brian for his presentation.

### 3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

**Moved By Kelsie Van Belleghem, Seconded by Maureen Wasacase, and Carried –**  
That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 be confirmed as written and filed.

### 4. Terms of Reference Review of Amended Version

The Table discussed the revised version of the Table of Reference.

Discussions surrounding the recruitment strategy to target potential members that meet necessary criteria, specifically a representative from a First Nation Community. The staff resource will bring this discussion back to the Clerk's Division for input.

**Moved By Mary Bawden, Seconded by Kelsie Van Belleghem and Carried –**

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee hereby amends the Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Advisory Committee with the revisions adopted as discussed; and further That the amended terms of reference be brought forward to Council at the April 12, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

## **5. 2023-2023 MYAP and MYAP Progress Report**

In depth discussions on the level of detail presented in the MYAP. There was a strong desire from some members to see more detailed scope of works outlined within the plan and that there was a lack of accountability with the vagueness of the plan as is. It was explained that the MYAP is a legislated requirement to outline goals and visions of how the City of Kenora can improve on accessibility features, and as it is a 4 year plan, creating a larger scope of work for each goal is impracticable as scopes of work have not yet been defined for all projects, priorities may change over the next 4 years, budgets and funding can fluctuate, and that these scopes of work are outlined during budget process and contract creation rather than this document. Members have asked that the identified years for works to occur be removed from the document if the rest of the information is to remain vague.

Discussions about identifying parks in a different manner than by their name was discussed in depth. The majority of the Table felt identifying the parks by their names was the best way to move forward.

A request to adjust the wording of "continuing" on items that were mandated to be brought up to regulation by a certain date but remain a constant practice as it sounds lazy. City Staff will rework the way this is presented.

City Staff reiterated that the AAC's perspective on this plan should remain focused on the goals identified rather than the presentation of the document itself.

**Moved By Mary Bawden, Seconded by Maureen Wasacase, and Carried –**

That the City of Kenora's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and the Multi-Year Year Accessibility Progress Plan with the revisions adopted as discussed in today's meeting be accepted; and further

That the amended City of Kenora's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and the Multi-Year Year Accessibility Progress Plan be brought forward to Council at the April 12, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

## **6. Kenora Library Strategic Plan**

The Kenora Library adopted their strategic plan the day before this AAC meeting occurred, a member of the AAC also sits on the City of Kenora Library Board and shared that their plan is fulsome and is excited for the goals they have set for themselves.

## **7. Inclusive Community Grant**

The City of Kenora has come across a Grant that would allow up to \$60,000.00 towards a project that must meet one of the three following priorities:

Priority 1: Increasing accessibility to outdoor spaces to improve older adults' and people with disabilities' community engagement

Priority 2: Enhancing the supply of accessible and attainable housing to support older adults and people with disabilities to age in place, in support of the government's broader goal to increase the housing supply.

Priority 3: Increasing the number of inclusive communities by developing Age-Friendly Community (AFC) plans that support long-term community planning to address the needs of older adults and people with disabilities.

The Table discussed the practicality of applying for a grant and what types of projects would be feasible. The Table had an open discussion on some ideas that they would like to see proposed as an opportunity for this funding. The staff resource will evaluate these ideas in consultation with appropriate City staff and move forward with the funding application appropriately.

Some ideas proposed were a wheelchair swing, stop gap program, adult changing table in the downtown core, benches and/or 'fence-seating', and rerouting accessible access to buildings to main entrances. The staff resource asked members to email other ideas if they have them over the weekend as it is a good idea to have a 'wish list' of items should other funding opportunities present themselves.

## **8. Roundtable**

Table discussed potential ideas for AccessAbility week (May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup>). The idea of an open house to hear from the community about their 'wish list' items could be very informative and eye opening. The table has agreed to start thinking of how this can be rolled out.

**9. Next Meeting** – Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 4:00pm

**10. Adjourn Meeting** – The meeting adjourned at 5:47pm.