



# Minutes

## Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Of the City of Kenora Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – City Hall/Virtual 4:00p.m.

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**With:** Chad English, Mary Bawden, Heather Bird, Corrie Neufeld (v), Councillor Van Belleghem (v)

**Staff:** Heather Pihulak, Director of Corporate Services/City Clerk, Kelly Galbraith, Manager of Customer Services/Deputy Clerk

**Regrets:** Maureen Wasacase

### 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Chad called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and delivered the land acknowledgement.

### 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

**Moved By Mary Bawden Seconded by Heather Bird, and Carried –**

That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held September 7, 2023 be confirmed as written and filed.

### 3. Central Park Presentation – Shaun Clifford, Facilities Manager

Shaun was unable to attend today and his presentation has been deferred to the January, 2024 meeting. Heather Pihulak shared that the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Council have heard the concerns of the committee. Councillor Van Belleghem has been working with SLT, Council and the Kyle Attanasio, CAO to ensure that the 2024 capital projects have steps in place to bring the projects to the committee before the projects are out of the gate. Plans are being put in place to ensure committee engagement and City process improvement for 2024. Kyle will be attending the January AAC meeting for a fulsome discussion with the committee members.

The funding for the Central Park playground was discussed. It was questioned whether the remaining funding for the project could be used towards additional playground installments. It was confirmed that the funding stream is specifically for landscaping, however this can include features such as accessible pathways.

### 4. Keewatin Beach & Norman Park Update – Shaun Clifford, Facilities Manager

This item has been deferred to the January meeting.

### 5. Kenora Golf Course

The committee questioned if the Kenora Golf Course is owned by the City of Kenora. Staff shared that the land is owned by the City however the building and business operation are privately run.

It was identified that the Kenora Golf Course received some Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) funding for upgrades to the parking lot and deck, however accessible features were not included in the upgrades. The City does not have a say in the upgrades to the building, with the exception of building permits. AAC is a committee of Council however there is a public responsibility to ensure businesses are open to all. The committee requested a letter be sent to the Kenora Golf Course to inform them of opportunities to make the club house and golf course more accessible.

#### **6. Annual Committee Report to Council**

Staff shared the importance of the committee Chairperson and committee members presenting to Council annually. This is an opportunity for the committee to be in a public setting and share their priorities with Council. The staff resource will assist with drafting the annual report and it will be circulated to the committee for review prior to the AAC presenting to Council.

#### **7. Previous and Upcoming Projects**

The capital budget has not been approved at this time therefore it is unknown what projects will proceed. Once the budget has been approved the intent is to bring the projects forward to the committee.

#### **8. Roundtable**

It was identified an accessible parking stall has been closed with the installation of the downtown Christmas tree. Staff will investigate to see if this is required or if the sign was moved from an alternate location.

Councillor Van Belleghem shared the Oakville Universal Design Standards with the committee. She would like to see the City implement a policy and mandate rather than simply speaking the words "beyond minimum". She will be contacting Councillor Moncrief, Council rep for the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) to see if there is interest in SAC involvement as well. Councillor Van Belleghem will be bringing forward a notice of motion for universal design standards on City projects.

**9. Next Meeting** – January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 4:00pm

**10. Adjourn Meeting** – The meeting adjourned at 4:59pm.