



City of Kenora
Accessibility Advisory Committee
1 Main St South
Kenora, Ontario P9N 3X2

MINUTES

CITY OF KENORA ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING TO BE HELD at Kenora Wellness Centre 18 Mike Richards Way December 12, 2012 – 5:00 P.M.

Present:

Denise Miault	Chair
Diane Pelletier	Member
Ruth Bowiec	Member (left at 5:30)
Bayley Kurtz-Ostenfeldt	Member
Marion McKay	Member
Kenneth Puckall	Member
Sharon Smith	Council
Rod McKay	Council
Heather Lajeunesse	Staff Resource

Regrets: Members-Barb Penner, Deanne Sutton, Staff Resource-John Nabb

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Denise called the December 12th, 2012 City of Kenora Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting, to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Introductions and Welcome: Denise welcomed new Committee members Kenneth Puckall and Marion McKay.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest: No conflicts declared.

4. Additions to the Agenda:

2 items added under #9 New Business:

- Access Ontario Information
- Retired Railroaders Association Inquiry

5. Approval of Minutes: Ruth / Sharon

6. Business Arising:

KDSB Housing Update

Denise provided the members with an update regarding the Committee's KDSB housing inquiry. She was speaking with the housing manager Tom Snyder of Direct Management Services and was asked as to why she wrote a letter regarding the housing. She indicated that she did not write a letter and then explained the nature of the inquiry and further indicated that the issue was simply brought forward to the Committee in order to find answers for the people inquiring through her workplace at Northwestern Independent Living Services (NILS).

Councillor Smith had asked Councillor Roussin to pass on the original inquiry to KDSB and an e-mail response was received. Heather Lajeunesse read the e-mail response to the Committee. It was mentioned that there has been some positive movement lately with regards to retrofitting bathrooms in some units to suit needs. It was stated that Direct Management Services cannot apply for funding because they are not a non-profit agency, but they are in fact contracted by the non-profit organization. It was mentioned that NILS has applied in the past for funding and was approved. Denise indicated at the time when they applied there was a very short timeframe between when the funding was announced and the application deadline. John Nabb has also applied in the past for related funding on behalf of the City.

Henesy Terrace has 13 units and currently there is a large waiting list. It was mentioned that sometimes the apartments are being given to non-residents of Kenora first, which makes it surprising that there is no formula in place to give local residents first opportunity. People think that NILS owns the buildings but they do not. NILS provides staffing to meet needs but do not take care of the buildings but they do tend to receive questions and complaints about the housing. It is believed that Kenora Non-Profit Housing Corporation looks after Henesy and that the money comes from the KDSB for housing. There should be a contingency fund to repair and upgrade buildings as they age and it should not be entirely dependent on grants. It is assumed that KDSB has a budget/reserves for building upgrades and maintenance.

Action: Councillor Smith will continue to research this item and will look into attending the next KDSB board meeting in January. Denise also agreed to attend.

Addition to agenda Item-Retired Railroaders Association Inquiry

Ruth Bowiec had to depart the meeting early so this item was moved up on the agenda in order for her to be able to provide an update the organization at their annual Christmas dinner meeting. The Retired Railroaders Association is looking to put a ramp in at the Railroad Museum to make it accessible and do not have any funds as they are all volunteers. They are inquiring as to where they can start to look for funds to do so.

Councillor Smith indicated that the organization has contacted her as well. Funds do become available each year for such projects. For example, the Calvary Church applied for funding for a ramp this year of which the City signed the application in support. It was suggested that the Railroaders talk to the Calvary Church about how they applied or look on the Ministry of Community and Social Services (COMSOC) website to look for information.

7. Old Business:

Committee Membership

The Accessibility Advisory Committee is currently slated for 12 members and has never had a full membership since it was formed. It was questioned if the structure can be looked into and membership numbers changed so that the Committee can have a full membership. Denise reviewed what the Committee makeup should be as per the accessibility plan 2003/04. Over the years there have not been as many people with disabilities apply and members that fit some of those criteria have recently resigned. It was suggested that it may not be possible to find enough volunteers that have the disabilities that are mentioned in the plan. Over the next month it is asked that each current member look into encouraging more people to come on board. It was asked that members look into local organizations to recruit from and make suggestions for the next meeting.

Accessibility Plan 2003/04

Accessibility plans are supposed to be created annually. In the New Year the Committee will work on updating the Plan. It was suggested that each committee member take a section to review and revise so that a new plan can be developed together with John Nabb as the staff resource. It was mentioned that in the past Committee members had toured all City facilities in order to identify issues. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to do this again. www.AccessON.ca has a wealth of information that can be used as well to update the Plan. It was further agreed that the Accessibility Plan 2003/04 is worthy and that it just requires updating.

There was discussion of some areas of the City where accessibility is a concern. The Paterson Medical Clinic was mentioned in that there are only two rooms in the old section of the building in which wheelchairs can fit through the doorways. The new part of the building is accessible but it is in the old part is where people have to go for medical exams.

It was agreed that with the aging population in Kenora accessibility should be a priority, specifically for business owners. It was suggested that it can be worthwhile to write to business owners as they are getting ready to open to inform them of accessibility concerns. Larger organizations have proven to be more accommodating, is the smaller businesses that have difficulty. It was agreed that is good to make people aware of the issues and thank those that do accommodate as efforts do not go unappreciated.

Action: Councillor Smith to talk to City Economic Development officer regarding sharing of information with new and existing businesses.

There was discussion of roads and winter conditions. The hill to Henesy Terrace is an ongoing issue for those with accessibility needs. Denise plans to arrange a meeting with City Roads supervisor Rob Halverson regarding winter road and sidewalk concerns. It was also mentioned that the A&W intersection is a concern.

Action: Councillor McKay will talk to the Rob Halverson about the road concerns.

8. Updates & Information:

It was agreed by the Committee to hold all future monthly meetings in the Rec Centre Multi-Purpose Room.

Action: Heather Lajeunesse to book room for 2013 meetings.

9. New Business:

Access Ontario Information

Councillor McKay recently attended an Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) conference and Access Ontario had a booth there. He had inquired with the representative about the resources of the booth for the hearing/sight impaired, etc. and they seemed a little embarrassed as the booth was not accessible in this manner. He asked what types of things the City as a corporation can to do deal with for example a new employee with such disabilities. The representative sent a package via mail to show what the organization can do. One interesting service they provide is that they will translate any document you send them to brail for the vision impaired. There are all types of resources and contacts for people to use available on their website at www.AccessON.ca

Next Meeting January 9th 2012, Wellness Centre 18 Mike Richards Way – Multi Purpose Room

10. ADJOURN

Moved by: Dianne moved that the December 12th 2012 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned 6:14 p.m.