



City of Kenora
Accessibility Advisory Committee
60 Fourteenth St. N., 2nd Floor
Kenora, Ontario P9N 4M9
807-467-2020

MINUTES

CITY OF KENORA ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE OPERATIONS BUILDING, 60 FOURTEENTH ST. N, February 8th, 2012 – 5:00 P.M.

Present:

Rod Mckay	Council
Sharen Smith,	Council
Deanne Sutton	Member
Diane Debbo,	Member
Ruth Bowic	Member
Kendra Dobinson	Member
Diane Pelletier	Member
John Nabb	Resource

Regrets, Members , Barb Penner, Denise Mialt, Dianne Griffiths

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Deanne Sutton, called the February 8th, 2012 City of Kenora Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting, to order at 5:06 p.m.

2. Introductions and Welcome: Deanne welcomed Members and Councilor Rod McKay to the meeting, Deanne advised the committee that Denise has sent her regrets and that she was asked to chair the meeting on her behalf.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest - No conflicts declared

4. **Approval of MINUTES:** Diane D / Councilor Smith

5. **Business Arising:** By law enforcement data

- Deane asked John if any information was made available from the Bylaw department relating to accessible tickets.
- John explained that he had contacted Kevin Robertson on the matter Kevin explained that he would contact Heather Kasprick to see if POA keep such data. Heather responded to the request, but POA does not monitor or collect that information.
- Councilor Smith also commented that she had met with Heather and confirmed that POA does not collect the info as per the request of the committee. Heather did explain that she has not received any complaints but will pass the concern on to the staff
- John noted that the Bylaw officers reported to Kevin Robertson and that he would pass on the concern to him to ensure staff was made aware of the concern and to increase visibility/enforcement at the Recreation Center location.
- Deanne reminded the committee that if you find issues with parking or have concerns relating to parking enforcement contact Heather Kasprick Deputy Clerk at City Hall
- Councilor Smith indicated that Colleen should be invited to the next meeting to talk about possible initiatives to ensure accessibility parking availability at the Recreation Center

6. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

7. **Updates & Information** Councilor Smith wanted the committee to know that Diane Schwartz-Williams from the Northwest Business Centre would like to attend the next Accessibility Meeting to share some initiatives/ local business directions relating to barrier free access.

8. **Presentation**

- Mr. Fred deWind Sidewalk clearing

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- Deanne welcomed Mr. Fred deWind and everyone at the meeting introduced themselves to Mr. deWind
- Deanne asked Mr. deWind if would like to bring forward his presentation concerning the sidewalks
- Mr. deWind provided an overview of his disabilities and the impact of the built environment challenges there are, specifically it was noted that A & W intersection was extremely difficult to cross and that lack of snow clearing has made it difficult to access the crossing activation buttons
- Councilor McKay acknowledged Mr.deWind's concern and asked how he was overcoming the lack of access.
- Mr. deWind explained that he tries to get close enough to reach which may take several tries in difficult conditions
- Mr. deWind further provided pictures of the area to the committee
- Mr. deWind noted that there were further concerns on the sidewalks specifically in the Pine portage Road Area, he noted that the sidewalks when plowed leave enough snow to create a slippery condition, snow not being cleared from the curb made it extremely difficult to cross and ice created during melting conditions was not sanded.
- Mr. deWind described situations he has had to endure due to the lack of maintenance on the sidewalk which clearly explained his desperation to have these concerns brought forward to the committee for himself and others with disabilities
- Councilor McKay noted that the City would look into possible priority sidewalk plowing
- Councilor Smith noted that community needs to know these issues and explained that 2012 was the year to indentify and reduce for barriers in Ontario

- Councilor Smith asked in light of his concerns to identify barriers would Mr. deWind consider joining the committee
- Mr. deWind acknowledged Councilor Smith's invitation and agreed to make application to join the accessibility committee
- John Explained to Mr. deWind that the application were available on the Kenora web site and should be directed to the City Clerk Joanne McMillin
- Councilor Smith wanted to express the need for a communication plan for the committee to have its concerns brought forward to the community
- John wanted to confirm with Mr.deWind the specific areas of concern to ensure the correct information goes forward to Manager of Operations
- Mr. deWind detailed the information to John and explained he will continue to monitor the situation and keep notes of any other concerns he comes across
- John thanked Mr. deWind and provide his contact information as committee resource
- Mr. deWind did express a concern about accessibility parking and how he has developed a communication plan to those who park in accessible parking spot without tags, Mr. deWind had illustrations which he passed around to the committee review
- The committee further discussed the parking issues around the table
- Diane D brought forward a concern regarding the snow piles located in accessibility parking areas downtown, Diane noticed how difficult a person was having getting around after parking their car in an accessible parking spot
- Diane D asked what the City could do to prevent this happening
- John replied that the downtown core is a priority for the City and it is maintained by the night crew and could have just been left by mistake

- Councilor Mckay commented that John was correct the roads department consider the downtown core as a priority and it must have been an anomaly for the snow to be left in those locations
- Deanne asked Mr. deWind with him having so much difficulty getting around has he incurred many expenses in wheelchair repairs
- Mr. deWind replied he has and it is extremely expensive to maintain the chair which is ongoing due to the lack of attention on the sidewalk or lack thereof sidewalks
- Councilor Mckay asked Mr. deWind if there was a winter kit of some sort to provide a better grip
- Mr. deWind replied there was not such kit and if there was it would create a huge issue transitioning from outdoors to indoors
- Mr. deWind noted that if only people could walk in his shoes or in his case ride in his chair to really get an understanding of the barriers people have to overcome in the community
- Councilor Mckay noted that maybe some thought should be put into having a possible councilor try getting around for a period of time to understand the barriers Mr. deWind is expressing
- Councilor Smith thanked Mr. deWind for the idea and offered Councilor McKay the opportunity to take the challenge
- Deanne asked Mr. deWind what his mode of transportation was to the Operations Center with the difficulty he was explaining with the sidewalks
- Mr. deWind explained he has a car and used that to attend
- Councilor Smith asked being that it was a little out of the way maybe another location closer to the downtown core would be more acceptable, Councilor Smith offered council chambers as an alternate
- The committee disused that option and asked if John could send an email to the chair asking to have an email circulated to the committee for their comments
- Councilor Mckay noted that he would like to continue coming to the meetings and asked to be included on the email list of the committee

- Councilor Smith noted that due to conflicts of some members could the meeting date be changed to either the 7th or the 21st of March
- John will send an email to the chair for comment and circulation

Next Meeting as per the Chair will be determined at a later date

10. ADJOURN

Moved by: Denise Miault

THAT the February 8th 2012 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee
Be adjourned 5.45 p.m.

CARRIED

ADOPTED AS PRESENTED THIS 8th DAY OF February, 2012

CHAIR