



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 November 14, 2012 – 5:00 P.M.

Present:

Denise Miault	Chair
Sharon Smith	Council
Rod McKay	Council
Deanne Sutton	Member
Barb Penner	Member
Bayley Kurtz-Ostenfeldt	Member
Barb Penner	Member
John Nabb	Staff Resource
Heather Lajeunesse	Staff Resource

Regrets: Members-Diane Debbo, Diane Pelletier, Ruth Bowiec

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Denise called the November 14th, 2012 City of Kenora Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting, to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Introductions and Welcome: Denise welcomed Committee members.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest: No conflicts declared.

4. Approval of Minutes: Bayley / Deanne

5. Business Arising:

The Public Outreach Session meetings held by the City to determine if there is a need for on-demand accessible taxicabs within the municipality were well attended, with more people at the morning session than the evening one. Most present had concerns regarding the Kenora Handi Transit and would like to see the schedules and hours extended to include evenings and weekends. There are many social activities that take place on the weekends and there is no transportation available, such as Handi Transit, to accommodate those with

accessibility needs. The City has created an in-house committee to address the accessibility requirements for municipalities that have been provincially mandated by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. Follow up regarding transportation and taxicabs is expected to happen in January 2013. City Clerk Joanne McMillin is looking at passing a new taxi by-law in January but only to take care of housekeeping matters at this time and will not address the accessibility concerns as of yet. It is realized that the change will be hard on the taxi companies and may be costly but it was further added that it may provide an increase in business over time if given a chance. There was an inquiry as to whether or not the Handi Transit can run later in the evenings and on weekends. This is a suggestion which may possibly be considered by the City. At the public consultation meetings a survey was distributed and there was an inquiry as to what the results were from the survey.

Action: Heather Lajeunesse to follow up with City on survey results re: accessible taxicabs

Heather Lajeunesse gave an update to the Committee on an action item from the last regular meeting regarding whether or not the City buses, which are accessible, are currently being operated in that capacity. It was confirmed that as part of the City contract with Excel Coach Lines the drivers have to be trained to use the lift equipment. Tasha Cross, Manager of Excel Coach Lines, had confirmed by e-mail that the bus drivers are trained to use the equipment and if a customer is requiring assistance the drivers could provide it. Tasha also indicated that the situation does not occur often as most customers with accessibility needs most often take the Handi Transit.

The Committee agreed that they would like to keep moving forward with addressing the need for accessible transportation in Kenora.

- 6. Old Business:** Denise read a letter to the Committee from currently resigned member Fred De Wind.

Action: Heather Lajeunesse to draft letter to Fred De Wind to thank him for his service on the Committee

Councillor Smith mentioned that at the regular meeting of the Committee in June she was to follow up on action item regarding who provides the funding for upgrades to accessible housing and who is responsible, in order to find a contact to refer people to who have concerns or issues. She indicated that she is still working on finding out information and that added she had sent a letter to Dianne Apland at KDSB shortly after the meeting inquiring about the item but did not receive a response. Councillor Roussin will be attending a KDSB meeting in Dryden tomorrow and Councillor Smith will contact him and ask that he bring the inquiries forward at the meeting.

Action: Councillor Smith to e-mail Councillor Roussin re: accessible housing formula

7. Updates & Information:

Denise indicated that she has been in contact with the City Clerk, Joanne McMillin by e-mail regarding the committee's membership and recent resignations. There are two new members to be appointed at the Council meeting on November 19. The new members are Marion McKay and Kenneth Puckall and their membership will be effective December 1, 2012.

It was decided that the December meeting will focus on reviewing the membership and committee make-up. There was an inquiry as to what the guidelines are for the composition of the Committee, and whether or not there is a need to have certain members that focus on or represent different disabilities. A review of the Accessibility Plan 2003/2004 was suggested in order to determine what the current issues are that members could look into and from there develop a new updated plan. Terms of reference are to be reviewed as well.

Action: Heather Lajeunesse to e-mail the plan to members, including new members.

Denise gave an update on the status of the proposed disabled swim program for the Kenora Rec Centre pool. She has been in contact with Recreation Manager Colleen Neil to discuss the suggestion. Colleen did not see any issues and was optimistic to the idea. Currently one lifeguard is designated for 30 swimmers. All lifeguards are trained to lift someone in the pool and can assist those with disabilities. One minor concern pointed out is that the lifeguard may not be readily available for a few moments when assisting a person into the pool. Further details such as scheduling are currently being looked into and if the sessions are well received and attended then funding may possibly be pursued through community organizations such as the Rotary Club.

8. New Business:

It was mentioned that the Recreation Centre parking lot is currently in a dangerous state for pedestrians after recent freezing rain followed by low temperatures. John Nabb indicated that the sanding of the lot has been minimal and somewhat difficult due to operational hours and the volume of traffic at the Recreation Centre.

Action: John Nabb to look into parking lot conditions.

Next Meeting December 12th 2012, Wellness Centre 18 Mike Richards Way

9. ADJOURN

Moved by: Deanne Sutton moved that the November 14th 2012 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned 5:50 p.m.