



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 September 12, 2012 – 5:00 P.M.

Present:

Denise Miault	Chair
Sharen Smith,	Council
Diane Debbo	Member
Diane Pelletier	Member
Barb Penner	Member
Bayley Kurtz-Ostenfeldt	Member
Heather Lajeunesse	Staff Resource

Regrets: Members-Deanne Sutton, Ruth Bowiec, Staff Resource-John Nabb,

Fred de Wind, Kendra Dobinson and Dianne Griffiths have resigned from the Committee. Current members will attempt to recruit new members for the Committee. Committee membership will be looked at during the next meeting.

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Denise called the September 12th, 2012 City of Kenora Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting, to order at 5:05 p.m.

2. Introductions and Welcome: Denise welcomed Committee members and introduced and welcomed new member Bayley Kurtz-Ostenfeldt to the Committee.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest - No conflicts declared.

4. Approval of Minutes: Diane Pelletier / Diane Debbo

5. Business Arising:

There was discussion on the minutes from the last AAC meeting held in June and how current housing is not accessible. Denise continues to get calls inquiring about this issue as inquiries are not being addressed by the Kenora District Services Board. Councillor Smith stated that she had sent an e-mail to Diane Apland at KDSB inquiring about this but has not received a response yet.

There was further discussion about the current structure of the KDSB and who is responsible for which buildings. It was confirmed that some buildings are managed by the KDSB and others are managed by Direct Management Services.

The Kenora Jail was also discussed. The jail is a provincial building which is also not accessible. There is no elevator in the building and prisoners have to be carried up and down the stairs by staff as required.

Action: Councillor Smith will continue to try and find out more information regarding social housing through KDSB and report back to the Committee.

6. Old Business: None

7. Updates & Information: None

8. New Business:

Denise showed a publication from another community with an advertisement for free swimming for people with disabilities, including adults and children. It was suggested to look into this to see if it can be offered in Kenora on a trial basis, maybe once or twice a month. It was recommended to have something in place during the day for adults and something geared towards after school for children. Swimming can be excellent therapy for people with disabilities. The shallow pool is very accessible, warm, etc. Denise will follow up with Colleen Neil to see if the suggestion is feasible. In case the City will not support this, it was suggested to then approach an organization such as the Rotary Club to ask them to pay for the pool time to donate to this cause. Dianne Debbo confirmed that if this goes forward she will volunteer to organize the children's swimming.

Action: Denise will follow up with Colleen Neil to see if the suggestion of free swimming is feasible.

There was discussion of the issue of transportation for people with disabilities in the City, especially on Saturdays when events are happening (eg. Wheelchair curling clinic). Handitransit only operates on weekdays, which leaves taxis and buses as the only other transportation available on weekends. At this time there are no accessible taxis (with wheelchair lifts) in the City. There was an inquiry as to when this will be provincially mandatory. There was also an inquiry

about accessible buses and whether or not the current drivers have the training to load and secure passengers. It was mentioned that during Access Awareness week an accessible City bus was displayed but there was no one trained available to operate and demonstrate the lift.

Action: Heather L will look into the status of accessibility for taxi licensing and also whether or not the accessible buses are currently being used to transport passengers with disabilities.

Councillor Smith updated the Committee on a by-law that was passed by Council a couple of months ago. There was an amendment to the Animal Control by-law to add the definition of 'guide dog' and to exempt persons with disabilities who are reliant on guide dogs from picking up dog waste. Councillor Smith further mentioned that Council is pleased with the amendment.

Denise indicated that she has started to work on the Accessibility Plan and will bring the previous one (2004) to the next AAC meeting. Each member can take a section and revise to bring it up to date. Information is required from John Nabb in order to do so. There was mention of the cobblestone sidewalks in the City and how it is extremely hard on scooters and wheelchairs resulting in repair to them more often. As well, wear and tear may require replacement sooner than required which is an issue as they are usually required to last a certain period of time before funding will allow new ones. Councillor Smith suggested that as the City develops infrastructure the planners should be made aware of these issues.

There was further discussion on motorized scooters and how they require substantial room to get around. Worker's compensation and ODSP insist that people get big ones which operate on car batteries as they want them to last longer. Funding is only provided for replacement every 5 years. Even though these scooters are lasting longer it creates even more of an accessibility issue for the people who depend on these devices. It was agreed that there is a big disconnect about what is happening and what actually should be happening.

Action: Denise to find out who the local manager is of ODSP to find out why this is happening and what the guidelines are for ordering these scooters.

Councillor Smith mentioned that she has been contacted by Pastor John at the Pentecostal Church. The Pastor wants to know what can be done to improve accessibility for their church. There was an inquiry as to whether or not there are any agencies that can assess such buildings and determine what needs to be done to make them more accessible. It was confirmed that there are such agencies. It was suggested that Wayne Ficek could be contacted for this information.

Next Meeting November 14th 2012, Wellness Centre 18 Mike Richards Way

9. ADJOURN

Moved by: Barb Penner moved that the September 12th 2012 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned 5:50 p.m.

CARRIED

ADOPTED AS PRESENTED THIS 12th DAY OF September, 2012

CHAIR