



ACTION

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

**Wednesday, May 8, 2013
5:00 p.m.**

Kenora Recreation Centre Multi-Purpose Room

PRESENT: Denise Mialt, Chair
Ruth Bowiec
Marion McKay
Diane Pelletier
Ken Puckall
Bayley Kurtz-Ostenfeldt
Sharon Smith, Council
Heather Lajeunesse, Administrative Assistant
John Nabb, Staff Resource
Warren Spencer, Paterson Medical Clinic

REGRETS: Rod McKay, Council
Deanne Sutton
Barb Penner

Denise Mialt called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

A. Introductions & Welcome:

**B. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature
Thereof:**

1) On Today's Agenda

2) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance

There were none declared.

C. Confirmation of Minutes:

Moved by R. Bowiec, Seconded by S. Smith & Carried:-

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee
February 13, 2013 be confirmed as written and filed.

D. Items:

1. Paterson Medical Clinic Access

Warren Spencer of Paterson Medical Clinic was present at the meeting to listen to concerns that have been brought forward to the Committee. Ruth Bowiec

indicated that Anne Baker, who is on the hospital's accessibility committee had brought an item forward to her to bring to this Committee. Ruth distributed some notes to the group containing some background information. There has been much concern with accessibility at the medical clinic with regards to getting patients out of the Handi Transit and up the front incline into the front entrance of building, which has manual doors. Handi Transit is also not able to turn around in the parking area at these doors due to cars being parked in the area.

Warren indicated that vehicles have been parking in the front of the building and this has been an ongoing issue. They are currently working on a design to change the main entrance to have a circular approach for drop offs so that vehicles do not have the chance to park there, as well larger vehicles can turn around.

It was confirmed that the new west entrance was designed for accessibility and the front doors do not have power. Tokens have been given to the Handi Transit drivers to use to get into the parking lot to drop off passengers at the west accessible entrance, and they are able to turn around as well.

Warren agreed that signage outside needs to be better and they are looking into this. He added that the inside signage is the responsibility of the tenant. He indicated that he will be meeting with the tenants to determine a signage plan but says in the end it is completely up to the tenants and we will see what the outcome is. As for outside signage, Warren shared that there are two new handicap signs going on the railings and they are looking into putting two more, including one on the south side of the building that directs people between the buildings to the main door.

Warren stated that that many of the accessibility issues at the clinic are related to the fact that they inherited the west building, which happens to be the entrance to the lot and the main entrance to the clinic. There have been meetings with the City and OPP to ask for more parking enforcement but these parties do not have any jurisdiction on the property. They can arrange to have vehicles towed but the timing is never good as vehicles are usually gone by the time the tow truck shows up.

Warren shared that Channel Technical Engineering Services will be providing them with a design to address the entrance concerns which will provide better vehicle movement. He agreed to come back and share the designs with the Committee once he has received them.

Diane Pelletier touched on some interior issues of which Warren confirmed are the tenants' responsibility. There was discussion of there being only one accessible room for large wheel chairs in the original building. Warren confirmed again that the building was inherited and this is the design. It was also shared that there are no scales available for these patients and they have to go over to the hospital to get weighed. Patients also cannot get into the lab for blood work. Warren stated that he will look into accessibility for the life labs. Denise shared that the full size exam room is down the hall far from the doctors is a challenge for some as it can make patients feel uncomfortable etc. when the doctors have to go out of their way to see them. Warren stated that he will have a look to see if there is an area on the other side of the west building so that there could be a three foot door on each end of the building. He reconfirmed that he will look into the life labs and see if they can get another

room in the west building with the larger doors. Councillor Smith suggested a site inspection with the people that have concerns and Warren agreed that this could be done. It was agreed that physicians and others need to understand the concerns. Warren shared that the doctors' administrator is Sheila Alcock and any concerns about them can go through her. He added that his role is through the corporation that owns the building and he deals with construction, renovations and now the general operations of the centre.

Warren suggested the Committee give him a list of concerns and he will sit down with each of the people involved at the medical clinic. This was agreed to by Committee members and Warren provided his e-mail address to the group. There was an inquiry about the tokens for drivers and questioned whether these tokens could also be provided to community support programs for patient drop offs. Warren indicated that he hasn't been approached by anyone other than Handi Transit and indicated that any requests for tokens can be addressed to him.

Warren indicated that he is not sure of the timing on the conceptual drawings for the new entrance lot plan but will let the Committee know and attend another meeting or meet for a site visit.

Warren Spencer was thanked for attending the meeting and departed at 5:20

2. Business Arising

Denise shared good news indicating that since the meeting that the Committee had met with housing, the remaining inaccessible bathrooms at Henesy Terrace have now been renovated and are converted to accessible.

3. Old Business

Councillor Smith indicated that the Committee has previously discussed they would review the Terms of Reference once the new Property and Planning manager was hired. She announced that Charlotte Caron was the successful candidate for the position and that Charlotte will be working with the Committee on the Terms of Reference following summer break. It was suggested to invite Charlotte Caron to the next meeting in June to meet the Committee before the break. Councillor Smith stated that she will look into having Charlotte attend the next meeting.

S Smith

John Nabb confirmed that no funding from the government was approved upon the City's application for funds for power operated doors for the recreation centre arena washrooms, adding that the City will apply again.

4. New Business

No new business was discussed.

5. Updates & Information

John Nabb shared that he had engineering staff at the recreation centre today and that the City is proceeding with a lift system from the walking track to the ice surface so that people can access events on the floor and go back and forth to access bathrooms. They will also be installing a four foot door at the ice surface to accommodate. It was confirmed that people with strollers can also use the lift. Logistics of the system will be worked out once it has been implemented.

6. Next Meeting Date

- Wednesday, June 12th at 5:33 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

