



ACTION

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

**Wednesday, November 13, 2013
3:00 p.m.
Operations Board Room**

PRESENT: Denise Miault, Chair
Bayley Kurtz-Ostenfeldt
Deanne Sutton
Ken Puckall
Ruth Bowiec
Sharon Smith, Council
Charlotte Caron, Manager of Property and Planning
John Nabb, City Facilities Supervisor
Kerri Holder, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS: Rod McKay, Council
Barb Penner
Diane Pelletier
Marion McKay

Denise Miault called the meeting to order at 3:26 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
May 8, 2013 be confirmed as written and filed.

D. Items:

1. Business Arising

Paterson Medical Centre

Denise read e-mail messages from Warren Spencer updating the progress on

the issues presented to him by the Committee on May 8, 2013.

- 1) Front Entrance and Traffic: Traffic congestion at the front entrance is part of Kenora Health Care Centre's future realignment construction plan. They are considering an option to designate a "drop off" zone and two additional disabled parking spots. They are working on larger and improved signage also. The City of Kenora has been approached to assist with parking enforcement and on September 17, 2013 Council passed a resolution supporting enforcement of the no parking area.
- 2) Exam Tables: There are at least four exam tables that lower to the floor at the Paterson Medical Centre.
- 3) Weight Scale: There is weight scale to accommodate wheel chair patients in the Family Health Team building.
- 4) Waiting Room: Family Health Team and Kenora Medical Associates have been contacted to provide waiting room space for wheel chairs.
- 5) Directional Signage: Tenants have been contacted.

Warren will continue to monitor and correct the accessibility issues at the Paterson Medical Centre.

It was indicated that the Family Health Team weight scale is not wide enough to for a wheel chair to rest completely on the platform. Another challenge noted was that not all doctors are rotating to rooms that have lowering tables. It was noted that Diane Pelletier had some concerns but was not present today to comment. Denise will follow up with Diane to see if her concerns have been met. Otherwise there have been no new complaints received.

Denise will request to meet with Sheila Alcock as she is responsible for the tenants and Warren is responsible for the building.

D. Miault

2. Old Business

None

3. New Business

It was suggested that this Committee support WSL with the development of the new marina, Tall Pines Marina, as their site plans are in progress and include accessibility components. It was mentioned that Tall Pines Marina would like to achieve The Blue Flag certification. This certification is given to beaches and marinas that meet specific environmental and water quality criteria and it may have accessibility criteria also.

Councillor Smith attended the Urban Trails Committee meeting and discussed plans for trail systems at the Discovery Centre to include accessible trails. Sharon will keep the Committee up to date on the progress of those trails.

4. Terms of Reference

The purpose of addressing the Terms of Reference at this meeting was to change Committee make-up. There was discussion about the origin of the current Terms of Reference. It was noted that NILS (Northwestern Independent Living Services) had brought in the initial structure. It was questioned whether or not the Accessibility Act was consulted when setting out the Terms of Reference. The number of current Committee members was confirmed to be ten with three vacancies. It was suggested before making a change to contact those who are not present to confirm their interest in staying on the Committee. There was concern that if they wait to amend the membership, there may not be quorum next meeting and there is a quorum today so should proceed.

It was questioned whether having a quorum at every meeting is necessary and it was decided that having more than a few members advising Council on accessibility issues is important.

The membership term was also discussed. The current Terms of Reference

describes staggered terms, however it was agreed that this Committee should follow the protocol of other committees of Council, which is the term of Council. Specifics of the membership term to be discussed at the January meeting.

Moved by R. Bowiec, Seconded by K. Puckall & Carried:-

To amend the Terms of Reference to accurately reflect the Committee membership to be ten (10) as opposed to twelve (12) as stated in the current Terms of Reference.

Moved by D. Sutton, Seconded by S. Smith & Carried:-

To remove under Length of Term "The length of term for members of the inaugural Committee will be staggered as follows:

- 4 members with one year terms
- 4 members with two year terms
- 4 members with three year terms".

5. Updates & Information

Charlotte reported that Sharen McDowall is responsible for accessibility for the City and not Jaret Ring as previously mentioned. A meeting with Sharen and City managers took place to review accessibility standards, new legislation and mandated timelines. Sharen will be working on the new City of Kenora Accessibility Plan and is expected to bring it to Council in December. The accessibility plan will be available for this Committee to review in January and it was indicated that Council and staff will accept comments and recommendations from this Committee then.

John presented information on the automated lift project at the Kenora Recreation Centre. This automated lift allows a person with accessibility needs to be at ice level to watch hockey games or participate in other events held on the ice pad. Construction is complete and they are waiting for the final inspection. It is anticipated to be in operation by December. Council passed the budget to allow for this purchase which had a cost of \$70,000. It was noted that we are the only arena in the Northwest to have a lift like this.

Not all doors at the Kenora Recreation Centre are equipped with automatic door operators. John reported that he had applied for funding to install automatic door operators last year and the application was denied. Recently that application had been reopened and although there was no guarantee this funding would be granted, it is good news to be considered once again. This funding would allow installation of 20 door operators. It was clarified that this would be strictly for the Kenora Recreation Centre and not the Keewatin Memorial Arena.

Diane shared that she recently read an article by a wheel chair curler listing the new and proper terms to use when referring to disabled persons. It was requested that Diane forward the link to the Committee members for their reference.

John updated the group on the front step construction at the Keewatin Memorial Arena. There was a two inch change between the steps and the door and new concrete steps have changed that elevation. It was noted that this is one example of how the City is approaching construction and building projects; with accessibility in mind. It was suggested that an accessibility clause be included in tenders for contracting and was confirmed that contract work is always checked to ensure standards are met. Credit was given to Stonemakers for

D. Miault

addressing accessibility with their projects within the City. Recently Stonemakers worked with the Beer Store redesigning the front entrance to make it accessible. Denise received an inquiry about the entrance at the Beer Store and will return the call with the news that as with new construction, it will meet current accessibility standards.

D. Miault

Councillor Smith spoke about disabled parking on Ottawa Street in Keewatin. A complaint had been received about the disabled parking spot in front of the Post Office. A by-law was passed by Council to designate disabled parking spots on Bay Street around the corner from the Post Office. It was explained that the location was chosen as there may be less abuse of these spots by being off Ottawa Street. Currently the City is working on painting and directional signage for those parking spots.

Ruth is a member of the Railway Museum Committee and reported that they received a grant in the amount of \$6,500 from the Kenora and Regional Community Foundation. This money will be used to put in an accessibility ramp to the museum.

6. Next Meeting Date

- Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.