



## Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Wednesday, April 16, 2014  
5:00 p.m.  
City Hall Council Chambers

**PRESENT:** Denise Miault, Chair  
Ruth Bowiec  
Bayley Kurtz-Ostenfeldt  
Marion McKay  
Sharon Smith, Council  
Kerri Holder, Administrative Assistant

**REGRETS:** Diane Pelletier  
Barb Penner  
Ken Puckall  
Deanne Sutton  
Rod McKay, Council  
Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk

Denise Miault called the meeting to order at 5:04 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  
March 12, 2014 be confirmed as written and filed.

### D. Items:

#### 1. Presentations/Deputations

None

#### 2. Business Arising

The work plan that was developed at the last meeting was reviewed to determine the actions and volunteers required to achieve each goal.

Councillor Smith shared that she had been in touch with Charlotte Caron, Manager of Property and Planning, about the goal around the City of London's accessibility standards. It was suggested to name this project 'Beyond Minimum' so that the City of Kenora will be known as the City that goes beyond the minimum standards of accessibility. There are two parts to this concept. The first is working with City buildings and the second is for new builds within the community. It was noted that the City of London document relates to City buildings and there is a need to further investigate what is already in place here. It was suggested that changes could mean a new by-law or a communication piece. There would be a need to provide education to contractors, perhaps when issuing building permits. It was also suggested that representatives of the Committee attend construction sites with the Chief Building Inspectors to offer recommendations. All agreed this is the direction they want to take this goal. Denise offered to take the lead on this.

**D. Miault**

There was discussion about how to introduce the Stop Ramp program. It was suggested to draw up a generic letter to businesses with contact information for more information. Denise offered to develop the letter. It was asked if there were any businesses on board from the previous introduction of the program through the Kenora & District Chamber of Commerce however it was unknown. There was a suggestion to have a media event featuring one or two businesses that are taking part when it does get off the ground. There was a suggestion made to involve the Harbourtown BIZ group as well as the Lake of the Woods Development Commission to reach out to businesses. There was an inquiry about what the ramps could be made out of. Contacting the schools and shop teachers was suggested, as they may be willing to build the ramps and advise on the best material to use, wood or metal. All agreed this is a good community project. Denise and Bayley will work on this together.

**D. Miault  
B. Kurtz-  
Ostenfeldt**

A program acknowledging accessible businesses has been done in the past and it was mentioned that as the first week of June is National Accessibility Week, it may be a good time to revive this project. It was thought that a small token of acknowledgement could be presented. Concerns were raised about how the Committee would pay for this project. This will be further investigated with staff.

There was discussion around promotion of the Committee's projects in conjunction with National Accessibility Week. It was thought that a newspaper column had been done by Heather Kasprick in the past. Councillor Smith to follow up.

**S. Smith**

It was mentioned that chair lifts on docks to accommodate getting in and out of boats could be a possible additional project for the Committee to focus. There was discussion about the types of lifts and the stability of the dock to house a chair lift. It was mentioned that the Discovery Centre docks may be an ideal location for this equipment. There was discussion about addressing other disabilities with hearing or sight, not only focusing on mobility. It was suggested that signage would be suitable for hearing impairments.

### **3. Old Business**

#### **Handi Transit Ride**

Denise Miault read a letter from Handi Transit which included a copy of the response sent to the rider also. There was a concern that one issue remained unresolved. Most felt that it was important for the bus driver to know the conditions of the riders for health and safety reasons.

Councillor Smith suggested that a Committee member attend a Handi Transit board meeting to make a deputation in favour of adopting a policy that the conditions of riders should be known by the bus drivers and also suggest a way to collect this information. There were concerns of confidentiality that may need

to be addressed. It was also suggested to invite a Handi Transit board member to be on this Committee.

**4. Updates and Information**

On behalf of the Kenora Branch Ontario Seniors Coalition, Ruth Bowiec shared a concern regarding an ongoing accessibility issue at the Paterson Medical Clinic. It was further explained that Handi Transit has difficulty turning around at the west door entry where there is an automatic door opener. Patients are being dropped off at the main entrance instead where there is no automatic door opener. This issue was addressed at a previous Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting on May 8, 2013. It was suggested to contact Warren Spencer to find out the progress on the changes for this. There was discussion about responsibility and ownership of the medical building. It was clarified that the Paterson Medical Centre is not a City building but that the Kenora Medical Associates have ownership. It was further suggested that a representative from the Kenora Branch Ontario Seniors Coalition attend a board meeting of the Kenora Medical Associates to bring this to their attention. Ruth will report back to the Seniors Coalition and Denise will follow up with Warren Spencer.

There was a discussion about the amount of snow this year and the lack of accessible parking spots on Main Street. There was an inquiry as to whether or not the City would be making a plan to avoid this in the future. It was recognized that the amount of snow was an issue and the relationship between Denise and the roads supervisor had not been established early enough. There was further discussion about icy entrances and snow piles on sidewalks, particularly at the Keewatin Library and Kenora Library. Councillor Smith shared that she is supporting a review of the winter maintenance policy and suggested that this Committee be involved in that project.

**5. New Business**

Councillor Smith mentioned that the spring paving contracts and other projects are coming up for tender and recommended that a representative of this Committee be involved. Wayne Ficek was also mentioned as a resource for the projects. Councillor Smith to follow up with Rick Perchuk, Operation Manager, and Karen Brown, CAO.

**6. Next Meeting Date**

- Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

**D. Miault**

**S. Smith**