



## **Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes**

**Wednesday, September 17, 2014**

**5:00 p.m.**

**City Hall Council Chambers**

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**PRESENT:** Denise Miault, Chair  
Bayley Kurtz-Ostenfeldt  
Marion McKay  
Barb Penner (arrived 5:03 p.m.)  
Deanne Sutton  
Sharon Smith, Councillor  
Heather Kasprick, City Clerk  
Kerri Holder, Administrative Assistant

**REGRETS:** Ruth Bowiec  
Diane Pelletier  
Ken Puckall  
Rod McKay, Councillor

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

### **A. Introductions & Welcome**

Denise welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **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 M. McKay, Seconded by S. Smith & Carried:-**

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee  
June 18, 2014 be confirmed as written and filed.

### **D. Items:**

#### **1. Presentations/Deputations Election Presentation**

Heather Kasprick presented information about the upcoming election on October 27, 2014 and the new format for voting – online and telephone. It was

explained that when the internet/telephone voting option was presented to Council, accessibility was the focus. These methods allow all people to vote in the municipal election in a way that is most convenient. Electors can cast votes from home, or while away from the municipality, from their mobile phones or lap tops. It was noted that those who need a special device to communicate will be able use that to cast their vote. Electors with disabilities will not need to travel to a polling station. Voting can take place any time from October 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. until October 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. This method is proven to increase voter participation for these reasons. Other positive elements of electronic voting are more accurate voting, secure and private methods, faster results, and less printed material. Internet/telephone voting is becoming more common and 150 municipalities in Ontario are using this format this election. Heather explained the process involved. A letter will be sent out to all those on the voter list beginning the week of October 14<sup>th</sup>, containing a unique PIN and voting instructions for both internet and telephone options. Voters will need the PIN and their date of birth to sign on. The letter will also show the list of candidates the voter is eligible to choose from. The process and prompts for both internet and telephone were shown to the group. The process ends with an official confirmation of the votes cast. A voluntary voting survey will be available after the votes are cast. This will gather useful information from the public on these methods of voting for future elections. Assistance is available to voters through a toll free number, 1-855-366-9099, as well as in person at City Hall during the week of October 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>. Election staff will also be set up at some senior homes, apartment buildings, the Kenora Recreation Centre, and Library. All were encouraged to check that they are on the voter list.

## **2. Old Business**

There was some discussion about membership of this Committee given that its term will be ending with the end of Council's term. It was explained that a notice will be advertised in November for applicants interested in sitting on committees in the new term and all were encouraged to apply once again. Kerri to send forms to Committee members once available.

In discussion about the work plan, there was consensus to continue with the various projects once the new Council is in place. In the meantime, it was decided to continue with communication pieces. It was determined that this would include promotion of businesses introducing accessibility standards, and testimonial videos were suggested also. Heather Kasprick will keep the Committee informed about any communication pieces during this time, as well as work with Kerri on a testimonial video.

## **3. Updates and Information**

An email message received over the summer was shared with the group. The visitors, one of which was a person in a wheelchair, expressed their difficulty with accessibility of their accommodations, at the Farmer's Market (including parking), and in downtown shops. Heather Kasprick's response to the visitors describing the City's effort to improve the City's accessibility was also shared. It was noted that the letter had been forwarded to the Kenora and District Chamber of Commerce and the Harbourtown BIZ also. A suggestion was made to send a copy of the letter to the Lake of the Woods Development Commission and its Committees (Tourism Committee and Business Development Committee). Denise to write up an introduction to send on behalf of this Committee.

Councillor Smith presented the group with an accessibility publication she had

**H. Kasprick  
K. Holder**

**D. Miault**

brought back from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference in August. This new pamphlet, Making Accessibility Happen, is a resource for Accessibility Advisory Committees. Kerri to inquire about ordering copies for all members of this Committee.

**K. Holder**

**5. New Business**  
**Accessibility Grant Application**

In July there was a call out for applications to receive grants from the Enabling Accessibility Fund through the Hon. Greg Rickford's office. This grant became available for upgrading shovel ready projects in terms of accessibility requirements. Under normal circumstances this would have come to the Committee for input however there was a short turnaround time for preparing and submitting the application subsequently City managers met briefly to make the quick decision. Heather Kasprick explained the shovel ready project chosen was the Norman Park project and included in the application was the cost for a beach mat. All were pleased with this selection. There was an inquiry about how the mat will be staffed should the grant be approved. There was a concern raised about sand on the mat and other users interfering. It was explained that other municipalities installing the mats had these problems at first however, within a short time frame, respect for the proper use of the mat did come about. It was explained that these issues could be addressed within the tender for caretakers of the park.

**Letters of Support**

On behalf of the Committee, letters of support were sent to the Kenora Curling Club and the Paterson Medical Centre. Both organizations were applying for accessibility grants also. The Medical Centre was seeking support for a circular drive and the Curling Club was looking to make the curling ice surface accessible. Denise also sent support letters on behalf of NILS.

Councillor Smith shared that the Calvary Church had contacted her in regards to renovation guidelines and she referred them to Denise or Wayne Ficek for assistance.

**6. Next Meeting Date**

- Wednesday, October 8, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.