



## **Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2015**

**5:00 p.m.**

**City Hall Council Chambers**

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**PRESENT:** Diane Pelletier, Chair  
Mary Bawden  
Ruth Bowiec  
Chad English  
Deborah Hatfield  
Marion McKay  
Councillor Sharon Smith  
Heather Kasprick, City Clerk  
Kerri Holder, Administrative Assistant

**REGRETS:** Councillor Rory McMillan  
Denise Mialt  
Sandra Tankard

**Diane called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.**

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

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

### **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  
January 14, 2015 be confirmed as written and filed.

### **D. Items:**

#### **1. Presentations/Deputations**

##### **Making Accessibility Happen Booklets**

The booklets were handed out to each member. They are a publication from Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure as a guide to serving on a municipal accessibility advisory committee. This booklet clarifies

the role of the Committee and is a great resource for the Committee to build a work plan from. It was noted that there may be items in the booklet that members would like to add to the Terms of Reference also. It was decided to dedicate some time to review this at another meeting. It was requested that Kerri send out the current Terms of Reference to the group and distribute a copy of the booklet to those not in attendance.

**2. Business Arising**

None

**3. Old Business**

**Enabling Accessibility Grant Update**

Earlier this month an email announcement that the Enabling Accessibility Grant application sent in last January had been approved for the Norman Park accessible walkway project in the amount of \$50,000. The City's contribution will be \$57,000 also. Details of the project were talked about, specifically the park walkway and the pad to get to the beach. It was noted that construction has started and will be completed this year.

*Marion McKay arrived at 5:12 p.m.*

**AODA Celebration Event**

It was reported that Denise has been registered to represent the Committee and the City of Kenora at this event, which is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> in Thunder Bay. All are invited to attend also and Heather will forward details of the event to the group with instructions on how to register. There was discussion about the preparation of the presentation that Denise will be giving, and whether City staff or the Committee would work on it. Heather will touch base with Denise to get started and report back to the Committee.

**4. Work Plan Review**

**Introducing Stop Gap to Local Businesses**

A list of businesses that could benefit from the Stop Gap was presented to the group for consideration of a mail out to introduce this opportunity. There was discussion about the difficulty of getting into those businesses that are not accessible on the store front and the function of the ramp. It was decided that if communication is to be sent out, that it should be more general information about accessibility. The message in the letter should include the need to address accessibility as the deadline to meet requirements is coming. It should commend efforts of those businesses that have already made accessible changes and bring to their attention the options of the Stop Gap. A testimonial from Sure Thing (Mort Goss) would be beneficial to include also. The letter should come from the Committee rather than the City. It was suggested to send to the Harbourtown Biz group. It was requested that Kerri and Heather draft a letter and send to the group for review.

The idea of a fact sheet was suggested also. It could include tips such as making shopping aisle wider, installing automatic doors or using door levers instead of door knobs. The booklet may provide ideas for a fact sheet also. The group decided to bring ideas back to the next meeting.

**Accessible Business Recognition**

Samples of a window cling design with accessibility symbols were reviewed with possible slogans. The group requested that the designs be reworked. Most favoured the wheel chair symbol as it is well known and the most visible. It

**K. Holder**

**H. Kasprick**

**K. Holder  
H. Kasprick**

was agreed to put this project on hold for now.

**5. Updates and Information**  
**Paterson Medical Clinic Update**

An update was provided from Warren Spencer on this by email. The realignment project has been approved for funding allowing the project to proceed this summer. This includes new entrance realignment and power operated door, roadway space for emergency vehicles and passenger vehicle pickup and drop-offs, as well as out of the way traffic flow for taxi waiting. The group was pleased to hear the plans.

**6. New Business**

**Accessible Viewing At Keewatin Memorial Arena**

The Recreation Department has asked if the Committee would provide suggestions on how to make Keewatin Memorial Arena more accessible for viewing what is happening on the ice surface. It was asked if there is funding within the recent project tender for accessibility fitting. It was explained that there was nothing extra for accessibility purposes and the initial plan had to be scaled back to suit the budget. The idea is that the group could recommend changes to be ready in the event that a funding opportunity came along and an application had to be submitted quickly. There was a suggestion made that it would be helpful to take a tour of the arena as some had not been inside recently. It was asked if the group would be able to see the plans for the renovations before making accessibility changes. It was explained that there will be no changes for this on the plans but that the work will be done on the roof and the ice pad only. There was discussion about other accessibility features that exist there already and some things were identified to be changed without seeing the facility. It was unknown if the bathrooms had automatic doors or not. It was noted that there is an accessible entrance and reserved parking out front. Heather will arrange the tour with Colleen Neil.

**Chair lifts**

There was an inquiry about types of chair lifts available for businesses and other community buildings. A particular group is looking for options as they know a lift has to be in place by 2025. It was suggested to contact Nourish as they have a chair lift to get to the second floor and also the City's building department may have suggestions. It was thought that there may be grants available to cover the cost of chair lifts that could be researched also.

**7. Next Meeting Date**

- Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

**H. Kasprick**