



Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

5:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

PRESENT: Denise Miault, Chair
Deborah Hatfield
Marion McKay
Mary Bawden
Rev Sandra Tankard
Councillor Sharon Smith
Kerri Holder, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS: Councillor Rory McMillan
Diane Pelletier
Chad English
Ruth Bowiec
Heather Kasprick, City Clerk

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

A. Introductions & Welcome

Denise welcomed everyone 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. The basis for this declaration was explained for those who were new to the Committee.

C. Confirmation of Minutes:

Moved by M. Bawden, seconded by S. Smith & Carried:-

That the confirmation of the April 8, 2015 Minutes be postponed to the next meeting scheduled for September 9, 2015.

D. Items:

1. Business Arising

There was nothing to report.

2. Old Business

Work Plan Brainstorming

Denise spoke about the work plan and the completed projects from last year. Some of the action items in the plan will be rolled over to this year. The group was asked to spend time reading the Making Accessibility Happen booklet, specifically the chapter on the role of committee, to come up with new action items to provide the work plan basis for this year. The next meeting will concentrate on building the work plan. It was noted that having action items and a completed check list is important to show the Committee's involvement with enhancing accessibility in Kenora. It was suggested to deliver a deputation to Council once the work plan is in place. Kerri to send the last work plan to the group.

K. Holder

Fact Sheet Ideas

This sheet will accompany the letter as discussed at the last meeting and will be made up with the work plan activities at the next meeting.

General Information Letter Review

The draft letter was distributed for review and comments. It was suggested to expand the mailing list to include all businesses. The group felt that they needed to offer their guidance to businesses on making accessibility changes, as indicated in the role of the committee in the booklet, and this would be added to the end of the letter. There were some changes and inclusions suggested. Kerri to rework the letter for the next meeting.

K. Holder

Keewatin Memorial Arena

The tour the Keewatin Memorial Arena could not happen today due to safety concerns during the renovations. The tour can be revisited in the fall. The existing accessibility of the facility was considered and it was determined that the ice surface viewing area is acceptable however viewing from outside the ice surface is the main issue. It was suggested that a lift to the upstairs area would be suitable. The viewing height provides a better angle and the room is a comfortable temperature compared to the ice surface viewing area. Some research on types and costs of lifts could be done now to be ready if a funding opportunity becomes available. It was noted that lifts accommodate one person at a time. All agreed a lift of some kind would improve viewing access. Councillor Smith suggested that this recommendation be brought forward to Colleen Neil, Recreation Services Manager.

3. Updates and Information

Denise spoke about the upcoming AODA 10th Anniversary Celebration conference in Thunder Bay where she will be presenting accessibility successes in Kenora. She is excited to hear about what other communities are doing. A power point presentation had been prepared and shown to the group for review and input. Some suggestions were given. Kerri will prepare the final version.

K. Holder

4. New Business

A recent experience with difficult access at the Discovery Centre was shared. An exhibit (Wildlife Rescue Exhibit) is set up in the building which extends to the second floor. It was reported that the lift to the second floor was not readily available due to obstructions and the use of the lift had to be requested to be used. Also space to manoeuvre a wheel chair around the building was limited. At the time, these concerns were brought to the attention of the Tourism Development Officer and help was offered. It was noted that the City needs to be cognizant of accessibility in all facilities in order to move forward.

5. Next Meeting Date

The meeting schedule was discussed and it was agreed not to meet in July or August, unless an urgent issue comes up. In the meantime, Denise advised that members could contact her by email on accessibility issues or concerns.

- Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.