



Minutes

Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee of the City of Kenora Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers

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With Chair Denise Miault, Mary Bawden, Ruth Bowiec, Deborah Hatfield, Marian McKay, Diane Pelletier, Sandra Tankard, Councillor Sharon Smith, Heather Kasprick, Manager of Legislative Services and Communications, Kerri Holder, Administrative Assistant

Regrets Chad English, Councillor Rory McMillan

Guest Les Brown

1. Call to Order

Denise called meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Presentation

In response to the information letter sent out, Mr. Les Brown requested to present information about an accessibility device, Acorn Stairlift, to the group. He explained he is now the local contact person for the company and he then described the model types, installation process and costs. Mr. Brown indicated this lift was installed in his home and he would provide a demonstration for anyone interested. Pamphlets were distributed. There were comments about the merit of this product and all thanked Mr. Brown for attending.

Mr. Brown left the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

There were none declared.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by R. Bowiec, seconded by S. Smith and Carried -

That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held September 9, 2015 and October 13, 2015 be confirmed as written and filed.

4. Business Arising

Keewatin Memorial Arena Tour Review

It was reported that the tour was great and opened the group's eyes to what it takes to make a building accessible. It was recognized that progress is being made. The Committee focused on identifying a suitable viewing platform in the ice surface area. Denise asked the group to vote by a show of hands in support of either a viewing platform on the upper level or a platform at the ice surface level. The majority voted in favour of a space on the upper level. How to bring people up to the space was discussed next. A lift system would be needed to accommodate most types of chairs and scooters. It was agreed that if this is cost prohibited then other options would be considered. Heather will look into the feasibility of the Committee's recommendation.

The stairs to the second floor area was an item of concern also. It was suggested to consider the Acorn Stairlift as a solution and perhaps explore a partnership with the Keewatin Curling Club. It was asked if this lift would conform to regulations and standards. Heather will check with Kevin Robertson, Chief Building Officer.

Paterson Medical Clinic Construction Zone Update

Denise reported that the site is now paved and there is direction for alternate parking. Kerri reported that Councillor McMillan followed up with Warren Spencer and, at that time, signage for alternate entry was posted. Heather indicated that she has reviewed directional signage and enforcement signage for parking to be posted once the project is complete.

5. Work Plan

Beyond Minimum Information Package

Heather explained that this is one of many projects she has lined up for the new communication clerk and she will be working directly with the building department on this also.

Councillor Smith shared that Wayne Ficek had contacted both her and Denise about some new construction/developments (Norman plaza and Raysolar Inc.) where there was opportunity to go the extra step to beyond minimum. It was noted that these are examples where the information

package would benefit as situations like this continue to come up. The building department has been consulted.

Business Congratulations

It was noted that this item was on the work plan from last year to acknowledge local businesses success in accessibility. The Committee was asked to approve a brand or logo for this project. There was support for a simple window cling and there was discussion about the samples provided. A slogan would need to be picked; a list of catchy phrases was read out loud and some brainstorming was done. The group was asked to make a decision on the phrase through e-mail by indicating their top three choices. Kerri will e-mail the list to the group to determine which one to include in the window cling design.

Business Letters

It was reported that the information letters had been sent out to 528 businesses in Kenora. There have been four responses requesting assistance with accessibility in various ways, such as entry ways, second level access, and washroom space. Denise has made some follow up visits to discuss individual needs and will contact the others. It was suggested a similar letter could be sent each new term to keep accessibility on top of mind.

6. Updates and Information

Age Friendly Steering Committee Update

Mary provided the update on the activities of the Age Friendly Steering Committee. The first round of information gathering has been completed with the consultants and it is expected that they will hear back on the focus group sessions before Christmas. Mary indicated she attended all the groups and varied information was shared, which included accessibility needs. The consultants are also working on building a service directory. They will be discussing the best way to publish the directory to make it accessible for all and easy to update going forward.

AODA 10th Anniversary Champion Award

It was announced that Denise had been a nominated for and selected as a winner of the AODA 10th Anniversary Champion Award. Denise thanked the group for nominating her, saying it was a pleasant surprise. The group offered congratulations.

Ruth left meeting at 5:53 p.m.

7. New Business

Community Concerns

School Walkway

Chad English had been contacted by a parent about a school walkway concern and, in his absence, Deborah spoke about the situation. Deborah had taken pictures of the walkway and shared with the group. The Pope Johns Paul School student, who has cerebral palsy and uses a walker now, has difficulty traversing the walkway to the playground. The walkway was accessed by the student's physical therapist and it was concluded that the grade of the walkway is too steep and installation of handle rails would be beneficial. The parent contacted the school board with recommendations from the physical therapist and it was reported that the school board declined to make changes at this time. The parent plans to lodge a formal complaint to the Human Rights Commission.

It was asked what the Committee can do as this involves school property. It was suggested that the parent attend a school board meeting to give a deputation on this issue to the entire school board. Denise offered that she could be there for support and invited other Committee members to attend also. A letter of support from the Committee was suggested also. Deb and Chad will report back to the parent.

Bus Access

Denise was contacted by a scooter user indicating that he was told he could not get on the City bus with his scooter. The reason given was because of the type of scooter. Denise explained that this type of scooter is a small power road scooter and also noted the person can transfer himself from the scooter to a seat. It was unclear why this scooter could not be brought on the bus. Heather will contact the bus company to find out why this happened. It was mentioned that there are other scooters and strollers allowed on the bus.

David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility

Information about this award was shared with the group. Nominations are being accepted before December 3rd for individuals who have gone above and beyond to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. There was discussion about the amount of information required to submit an application like this and it was thought that in anticipation for next year, this should be revisited in June or July next year. Kerri will send the website link to the group.

Council Resolution Regarding Committees

Councillor Smith requested that this item be added to the agenda. She explained that Council is considering a resolution about annually changing

Council leads on its committees. This has come from the governance review to shift the appearance that Councillors are experts in a particular area. Heather spoke about the portfolio structure in place now. Councillor Smith indicated that this item will be coming forward at the Council meeting on November 17th and she is looking for feedback from the group as it is important to hear from the committees. The group shared concerns about continuity and consistency, being comfortable with the subjects dealt with at the meetings, and the on-going work plans and projects involved. There was consensus to support the four year term as it is now. Heather suggested that Committee members e-mail comments and thoughts to her to share with Council.

Denise shared that the Kenora Curling Club has completed the accessibility project making the ice surface accessible for everyone without help. They are hosting a "learn to curl" on November 22nd and all abilities are invited to sign up.

Councillor Smith reminded the group about the Norman Park and Keewatin Beach open house on November 18th at the Discovery Centre. Kerri will send an e-mail with the poster which was circulated earlier.

8. Next Meeting

- December 9, 2015

9. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.