



# Minutes

## Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee of the City of Kenora

Wednesday, September 9, 2015 – City Hall Council Chambers  
5:00 p.m.

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

**Regrets** Diane Pelletier, Councillor McMillan

### 1. Call to Order

Denise called meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

### 2. Welcome Back & Introductions

Denise welcomed everyone back after the summer break. Denise indicated she has held the position of the chair for some time and is open to passing the position on to another member who may be interested. Mary shared that she is now co-chair of the Age-Friendly Steering Committee. She gave an update on the activities of the group and indicated that the strategic plan will touch on accessibility within the community also. It was suggested that an update from the Age-Friendly group be added to the agenda going forward and Mary was agreeable to this.

### 3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

There were none declared.

### 4. Confirmation of Minutes

**Moved by M. Bawden, seconded by S. Tankard and Carried –**

That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held June 3, 2015 be confirmed as written and filed.

## **5. Business Arising**

Heather provided an update on the Keewatin Memorial Arena improvements. She explained that the tour will be scheduled in October as the facility will be open to the public then and Colleen Neil, Recreation Services Manager, will be available to accompany the group.

## **6. Old Business**

- AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) Celebration Event  
Denise gave a review of the June AODA Celebration Event. Kerri had prepared a report for the Committee, detailing the topics, key note speakers, and other presentations. Denise noted other attendees were interested in what is going on in Kenora. The networking was beneficial and it was a great opportunity to learn about the successes of other communities. Denise commented that she was proud of our community and what has been done in terms of accessibility. There was discussion about the possibility of having one of the key note speakers, Mark Wafer, come to Kenora. It was suggested that the Chamber of Commerce and the Harbourtown Biz may want to be involved. Denise will contact the speaker's organization to find out more information about costs etc. Councillor Smith suggested that the presentation be given to Council to inform the community of these great achievements and the progress in accessibility in our City. Denise and Kerri will work on updating the presentation for Council.

*Marion left the meeting at 5:26 p.m.*

- Work Plan Review

The 2014 work plan was distributed to the group for review. Denise spoke about the role of the committee and the opportunity to tour municipal buildings, such as the Keewatin Memorial Arena, to advise on accessibility matters. Completed items on the work plan were noted and new ideas were added for the coming year. The idea behind "beyond minimum" was reviewed. It is about providing education about accessibility when building permits are issued. There was discussion about putting together brochures or information packages. It was mentioned that materials, such as pamphlets and booklets, are available from the AODA, through Access Ontario, for the public on various topics. Research would be needed to find out what is available and what information should be part of the packages. A plan is needed to work with the City's building department to distribute these materials. As the City department is undergoing some changes at this time, it was decided to put this item on hold. A revised target was set to May 2016.

The letter intended to share accessibility information to local businesses had been revised as requested and the group approved of the latest version. It is planned

that the letter will be sent out this fall. It was suggested this action item be included in the presentation to Council also.

In terms of the "congratulations" to local accessible businesses, the group discussed the options of the item to be presented. A sign that could be easily printed up in-house and a City logo custom plaque were compared. All agreed with the plaque option has more value and is permanent. A window sticker was also a good option and could be given in addition. It was suggested to review the sample window stickers drawn up earlier this year. Also it was noted that the design of the window cling would be the logo for accessibility in our City, the brand to keep accessibility on the top of everyone's mind. Kerri to send out window cling examples again for Committee to decide on.

Activities to recognize National Access Awareness Week next June 2016 were discussed. Celebrating the improvements at the Kenora Public Library was mentioned. Denise will contact Cathy Peacock, head librarian, about this plan for next year.

## **7. Updates and Information**

- Kenora Health Care Centre Update

Councillor Smith shared that a concern was brought to her attention about the construction zone at the Paterson Medical Centre right now. It was reported that there is no signage directing alternative routes or temporary entrances for the public and particularly for disabled patients to access the clinic. It was acknowledged that while the end result of the construction will be good, people are experiencing difficulties getting in and around the area now. It was recognized that this is not a City facility, nor a City project, but that someone from the City should contact Warren Spencer to address this. Denise noted the best way to get into the clinic is through the lower level. Kerri will follow up with Councillor McMillan who is the City representative on that board.

## **8. New Business**

- Norman Park Project Involvement

Heather reported that the project for the accessible trail at Norman Park was not completed as planned due to various factors. Permission has been given to extend the timeline for the Enabling Accessibility Grant awarded last year. The project has been shifted to be included with the Beaches, Parks and Trails Concept Plan update by Scatliff Miller Murray. As well, Committee members had been contacted by Cheryl Oakden of Scatliff Miller Murray who is gathering information from stakeholders for the concept plan update. Councillor Smith suggested a follow up be done as focus group discussions were taking place. Kerri will follow up on this.

- Keewatin Concern

Ruth brought forward a concern from a Keewatin resident about the need for transportation to various retail outlets (Walmart and Ted's No Frills) in Kenora,

perhaps on a weekly schedule. There was discussion about a shopping bus, the costs involved and whether Handi-Transit was considered. Heather shared a copy of the City of Kenora bus schedule noting various bus times leaving Keewatin. Ruth was thanked for bringing the concern forward. She will provide the bus schedule to the resident.

- Proposed Event Centre Workshop

The Event Centre Committee and Stantec-Nelson are holding a workshop on September 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed Event Centre project. It was asked if a representative from the Committee could attend to bring accessibility to mind when considering the design. Heather explained the importance of having a rep at this workshop. Mary indicated she could attend if no others were available. All were asked to forward any suggestions to Mary to share.

- Other

Denise received a couple of calls this summer about the new marina (Tall Pines Marina), not being accessible. Heather shared that the owners are aware of this and are looking at improvement plans over the winter for next summer. Councillor Smith noted that this is an example of where an accessibility information package would benefit a new project.

The benefits of the dock handles were discussed and it was reported the benefits have been shared through stories from those who have used them. It was suggested that a picture of the dock handles could be included in the information package given out when someone applies to install new docks.

A picture of an accessible swing was circulated as information for future playground projects and possibly included in the accessible park in Norman. It was suggested that this could be included in the parks department budget for playgrounds.

## **9. Next Meeting**

- October 14, 2015 – Keewatin Memorial Arena

## **10. Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.