

DATE: MARCH 22, 2012

MEETING NO. 04-2012

TIME: 1:35 P.M.

PLACE: THUNDER BAY 55 PLUS CENTRE
700 RIVER STREET

CHAIR: MS. T. SODERBERG

PRESENT:

Mr. J. Duncanson
Councillor R. Johnson
Mr. D. Lillington
Mr. M. Rubenick
Mr. R. Sponchia
Ms. T. Soderberg
Ms. A. Vaillant
Mr. R. Wheeler

OFFICIALS:

Ms. D. Heinrich, Supervisor Community
Partnerships
Mr. S. Holloway, Inclusion Coordinator
Mr. G. Stover, Committee Coordinator

ABSENT

Ms. C. Auger
Ms. S. Bryenton
Ms. K. Higginson

1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

ACTION

The Chair welcomed those in attendance and members introduced themselves.

2.0 COMMUNICATION PROCESS

The Chair provided an overview of the communication process and the speakers' list.

ACTION

3.0 AGENDA APPROVAL

MOVED BY: Mr. J. Duncanson
SECONDED BY: Mr. D. Lillington

With respect to the March 22, 2012 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting, we recommend that the agenda as amended, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

4.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting No. 03-2012 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on February 16, 2012 be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Mr. R. Rubenick
SECONDED BY: Mr. R. Wheeler

THAT the Minutes of Meeting No. 03-2012 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on February 16, 2012 be confirmed.

CARRIED

5.0 ACCESSIBILITY TERMINOLOGY

Discussion held relative to the following:

- Consistency in terminology is needed throughout the province.
- The use of the phrase 'Person with a disability' is preferred.

6.0 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

6.1 Terms of Reference

Mr. S. Holloway, Inclusion Coordinator advised the Committee that the

**Mr. S.
Holloway**

ACTION

Terms of Reference working group met on March 8, 2012 and discussed topics that they will be addressing during the duration of the working group. Topics include narrowing the focus of the Accessibility Advisory Committee as well as the possibility of hosting an Open House in 2012.

6.2 Built Environment

Mr. S. Holloway provided an update relative to the Victoriaville Mall BMO location and advised that the working group is suggesting that the power door operator/opening button be placed on the other side of the door for easier access.

Mr. D. Lillington and Mr. M. Rubenick advised the Committee that they toured the new EMS building and provided information relative to the following:

- Location of the automatic button for staff to open entrance doors.
- Coloured tiles used for fire escape path.
- Gravity hinges are used to allow for automatic door closing.
- Good positioning of the power door operator/opening buttons.

7.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 2012 Annual Accessibility Plan

Ms. D. Heinrich, Supervisor Community Partnerships provided a copy of “The City of Thunder Bay’s Ninth Annual Accessibility Plan”, on desks, and responded to questions relative to the following:

**Ms. D.
Heinrich**

- Implementation of the plan.
- Follow-up with City departments.
- Regular updates to the Committee.

7.2 Follow-up on Accessibility Issues Identified by AAC during “Around the Table”

Mr. S. Holloway advised the Committee that a process does exist for bus operators when dealing with riders who have poor hygiene.

ACTION

7.3 Active Transportation Committee

This item was deferred to the next Committee meeting.

7.4 Public Art Committee

This item was deferred to the next Committee meeting.

7.5 Walkability Committee

The Chair advised the Committee that there is no update at this time.

7.6 Committee Membership

Mr. G. Stover, Committee Coordinator advised the Committee that applications for vacant positions have been received.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Service Animal Signage

Ms. D. Heinrich advised the Committee that various City Departments are enquiring about a designing a specific and consistent sign to welcome service animals in City buildings. A draft sign was circulated to Committee members for comments and a discussion was held relative to the following:

- Smaller print for the AODA compliance sentence.
- Simplicity of the sign.
- Initiatives that exist in other municipalities.
- Type/ design of picture.

Ms. D. Heinrich will provide an updated sign to Committee members for comments.

**Ms. D.
Heinrich**

ACTION

8.2 Courtesy and Priority Seating Campaign

Mr. S. Holloway advised the Committee that the courtesy and priority seating campaign for public transit has commenced. Training is being given to bus operators. Local ads including billboards are being used to promote the initiative and increase public awareness.

9.0 AROUND THE TABLE

9.1 Lakehead Archery

Mr. D. Lillington advised the Committee that Lakehead Archery is hosting a fundraiser in mid-April to promote accessibility and archery. The business plans on making their facilities more accessible.

9.2 Former Sister Margaret Smith Centre/ St. Joseph's Care Group

Mr. R. Rubenick advised the Committee that the Former Sister Margaret Smith Centre is scheduled for demolition. During which time, parking for St. Joseph's Care Group will be limited.

9.3 Road Projects

Councillor R. Johnson advised the Committee that road projects occurring throughout the summer in high pedestrian areas will have the asphalt lifts fixed.

9.4 Glider Slide at Marina Park

Councillor R. Johnson advised the Committee that the Parks Division is in the process of making the area more accessible.

9.5 Tax and Water Rebate

Councillor R. Johnson advised the Committee that City Council passed a resolution allowing for low-income seniors and persons with a disability to apply for a tax and water rebate.

ACTION

9.6 Transit

Concerns were raised relative to the backward facing wheelchair areas on City buses and the ability to see an upcoming stop.

10.0 NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. at 55 Plus Centre.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.