

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting 02-2022

Date: Thursday, April 14, 2022

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Virtual Location: MS Teams

Chair: Anne Antenucci

MEMBERS

Anne Antenucci
John Gobeil
Councillor Rebecca Johnson
Todd Kennedy
Tara Lennox
Brian Spare
Randy Sponchia
J.R. Wheeler

SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE

Parent to a Child with a Disability
Citizen Representative
Council Representative
Service Agency Representative
Learning Disability Representative
Hard of Hearing/Late Deafened Representative
Developmental Disability Representative
Brain Injury Representative

OFFICIALS

Krista Power
Dana Earle
Scott Garner
Flo-Ann Track

City Clerk
Deputy City Clerk
Municipal Accessibility Specialist
Council & Committee Clerk

RESOURCES

Jessy Bogacki

Program Supervisor, Adult Fitness, Wellness & Inclusion Services

GUESTS

Leanne Lavoie

Election Coordinator

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

At the February 10, 2022 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee the following individuals were nominated for the position of Chair and agreed to let their name stand: Anne Antenucci, Kai Crites and Tara Lennox; and the following individuals were nominated for the position of Vice Chair and agreed to let their name stand: Anne Antenucci, Kai Crites and Tara Lennox.

A resolution was passed directing Administration to administer the secret electronic ballots and present the results for approval at the next meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

MOVER: Tara Lennox
SECONDER: Anne Antenucci

WITH RESPECT to the Chair and Vice Chair positions for the Accessibility Advisory Committee, we recommend that Anne Antenucci be appointed Chair and that Tara Lennox be appointed Vice Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the 2022 calendar year, and until such time a replacement has been appointed, as required annually.

AND THAT the secret electronic ballots for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair for the Accessibility Advisory Committee be destroyed following the meeting held on April 14, 2022.

CARRIED

The newly-appointed Chair, Anne Antenucci, assumed the position of Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair called the meeting to order and a roundtable of introductions followed.

3. COMMUNICATION PROCESS

Council & Committee Clerk Flo-Ann Track explained the communication process.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOVER: Tara Lennox
SECONDER: Todd Kennedy

WITH RESPECT to the April 14, 2022 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, we recommend that the Agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting No. 01-2022 Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on February 10 2022, to be confirmed was distributed on Thursday, April 7, 2022.

MOVER: Rob Wheeler
SECONDER: Tara Lennox

THAT the Minutes of Meeting No. 01-2022 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on February 10, 2022, be confirmed.

CARRIED

6. AVAILABILITY OF HYBRID MEETINGS FOR COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Purpose: Consultation

Memorandum from City Clerk Krista Power dated March 24, 2022 relative to the above noted was distributed on Thursday, April 7, 2022.

City Clerk Krista Power provided an overview relative to the above noted and responded to questions.

MOVER: Todd Kennedy
SECONDER: Brian Spare

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum from City Clerk Krista Power dated March 24, 2022 relative to the Availability of Hybrid Meetings for Council Advisory Committees we recommend that the Accessibility Advisory Committee continues to meet virtually utilizing MS Teams for the remainder of the 2022 calendar year;

AND THAT meeting participation options for the 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting schedule be represented at the January 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

CARRIED

7. ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Purpose: Consultation

Municipal Accessibility Specialist Scott Garner provided an overview relative to the City of Thunder Bay's Accessibility Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Open House and responded to questions.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted. Some of the items discussed were as follows:

- Event to take place on June 1, 2022 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, in conjunction with National Access Ability Week - May 29 – June 4, 2022 at City Hall's McGillivray Square.
- Flag raising ceremony and the reading of the proclamation is scheduled for the day of the event. Mayor to be invited to raise the flag and read the proclamation.
- AAC Chair and Vice Chair to provide opening remarks.
- Food trucks have been invited to provide food services for purchase.
- A program should be created to provide event and stakeholder information.
- Media release and public service announcements are being developed.
- Members to confirm availability to attend/host.
- Name tags will be provided, and Members are asked to wear AAC Vests if able to.
- Transportation to and from the event will be arranged for AAC Members.
- Councillor Johnson and Randy Sponchia agreed to host the AAC table from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.
- Copies of the City of Thunder Bay 2019-2024 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan will be available for distribution.
- Everyone is welcome.
- Swag bags will be provided for door prizes.
- Stakeholder groups will be invited to attend, set up tables and provide information relating to services available, and asked to promote the event to respective user groups.
- Members were asked to provide a list of stakeholder groups/organizations to be invited. Some of the groups/organizations provided were:
 - Transit Services - demonstrating the new Quantum Securement Devices
 - CNIB
 - Age Friendly - Senior Organizations/residences
 - Inclusion Services
 - Healthcare providers/Service agencies/working groups, for example
 - Thunder Bay 55+ Centre
 - George Jeffries
 - Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences
 - Chiropractors
 - Northwest Community Health Centre

Administration to provide an update relating to the event at the June 9, 2022 AAC.

8. 2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Purpose: Consultation

In an effort to ensure that the 2022 Municipal Election is consistent with the core principles of the City of Thunder Bay's Multi Year Accessibility Plan and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, City of Thunder Bay Accessibility Plan 2022 Municipal Election planning document was developed in advance of the election in order to identify measures to be taken and reported to Council following the election.

The plan is intended to highlight measures that the City of Thunder Bay will be implementing to ensure equal opportunity for all electors and candidates.

2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan was distributed on Thursday, April 7, 2022.

Municipal Election Coordinator Leanne Lavoie provided an overview relative to the above noted and responded to questions.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted. Some of the items discussed were as follows:

- Election Day is October 24, 2022.
- The following advance voting options will be available:
 - Online voting will be accessible and available from 10:00 am on Tuesday, October 5, 2022 through to Election Day at 8:00 pm when the polls close. Any major internet browser can be used to cast votes.
 - 2 Advance voting locations are available for all qualified voters:
 - October 5 & 6, 2022 – West Thunder Community Centre - Thunder Bay South
 - October 12 & 13, 2022 – 55+ Centre – Thunder Bay North
 - New - A drive through voting location will also be available, location to be determined.
 - The automatic ballot marker will be available at advance polling locations and on voting day, located at West Thunder Community Centre and Thunder Bay 55+ Centre. The automatic ballot marker is similar to the AutoMark System used for the 2018 Municipal Election. Feedback received after 2018 Municipal Election noted that the AutoMark ballot marker required additional time to cast votes. Similarly, additional time will be required to cast votes using the automatic ballot marker at the upcoming Municipal Election. Election Staff will be available for ease of operation for individuals requiring the automatic ballot marker.
 - Telephone voting will not be utilized for the 2022 Municipal Election, this was determined based on the feedback provided by telephone voters after the 2018 Municipal Election.
- Transit passes will be provided to qualified voters, printed on the voter information cards and mailed.

- There will be thirteen voting locations. Each location will be assessed to determine:
 - the location is accessible
 - adequate accessible parking is available
 - level and slip resistant entrances
 - adequate lighting
 - accessible doorways for voters utilizing mobility devices
 - room for seating
 - the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition will not be used as a polling location for the 2022 Municipal Election, it is currently used as Covid 19 Vaccination site
- Election Staff will be on hand at voting locations to assist voters and:
 - ensure entrances are clearly marked
 - signage marking the route from the building entrance to the voting area is in place
 - monitor the polling station for inappropriate campaign behaviour

The Chair thanked Municipal Election Coordinator Leanne Lavoie for appearing before the AAC.

At 2:18 pm the meeting recessed.

At 2:30 pm the meeting reconvened.

9. TRANSIT DRIVER'S APPRECIATION DAY

Purpose: Information

Correspondence from President – Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 966 Fred Caputo dated April 1, 2022, relative to the above noted, was distributed on Thursday, April 7, 2022, for information.

10. ROUNDTABLE OF ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Committee members reported on the following accessibility issues encountered or identified in the community.

10.1 Thunder Bay Community Auditorium (TBCA)

A Member noted that the TBCA is still not accepting cash as a payment option for event ticket purchases.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted.

Municipal Accessibility Specialist Scott Garner to draft a letter to the Community Auditoriums Acting Director to advise that under the AODA the TBCA Payment Policy is creating a barrier to accessibility.

10.2 Volunteer Pool & Canada Games Complex

A Member noted that signage at the Volunteer Pool and the Canada Games Complex should be updated to include language that addresses children accompanying their caregiver in the change rooms for accessibility.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted.

Program Supervisor, Adult Fitness, Wellness & Inclusion Services Jessy Bogacki to report back at a future meeting, date to be determined.

11. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Members provided the following updates relative to the above noted.

11.1 Walkability Committee

Brian Spare provided an update relative to the above noted and advised that he is stepping down as the AAC Representative to the Walkability Committee.

Municipal Accessibility Specialist Scott Garner to attend future meetings of the Walkability Committee as the AAC Representative.

12. NEW BUSINESS

13. 2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be scheduled from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the following dates:

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Thursday, June 9, 2022

Committees of Council will not meet from July - December due to the 2022 Municipal Election. A meeting may be scheduled if Administration needs to review projects or provide information.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 pm