
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting No. 06-2019

Date: Thursday, June 13, 2019

Time: 1:30 P.M.

Location: West Thunder Community Centre

915 Edward Street S., Thunder Bay

MEMBERS

Mr. T. Brownlee
Mr. K. Crites
Mr. J.P. Gamache
Mr. J. Gobeil
Ms. D. Hamilton
Ms. R. Harrison
Councillor R. Johnson
Ms. T. Lennox
Mr. M. Rubenick
Ms. T. Soderberg
Mr. B. Spare
Mr. J.R. Wheeler

SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE

Caregiver to a Person with a Disability
Mental Health
Mobility Disability
Citizen Representative
Speech Impairment
Service Agency
Council Representative
Learning Disability
Senior with a Disability
Visually Impaired or Blind
Hard of Hearing/Late Deafened
Brain Injury

OFFICIALS

Ms. K. Power
Mr. S. Garner
Ms. F. Track

Deputy City Clerk
Municipal Accessibility Specialist
Committee Coordinator

RESOURCES

Mr. B. Maxwell
Inclusion Services

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

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2. COMMUNICATION PROCESS

The communication process was explained and Mr. B. Spare agreed to keep the speakers list.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOVED BY: Mr. T. Brownlee

SECONDED BY: Mr. J. Gobeil

With respect to the June 13, 2019 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, we recommend that the Agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting No. 05-2019 Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on May 9, 2019, to be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Mr. M. Rubenick

SECONDED BY: Mr. B. Spare

THAT the Minutes of Meeting No. 05-2019 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on May 9, 2019 to be confirmed.

CARRIED

5. MULTI YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Mr. S. Garner, Municipal Accessibility Specialist, provided an update relative to the above noted.

Human Space, a division of Quadrangle, completed their 1st week of public facility audits in April, and will be returning at the end of June to complete the remaining facilities.

6. CODE OF CONDUCT

Ms. K. Power, Deputy City Clerk provided information relative to the above noted.

Document entitled “Code of Conduct for Members of Council” was provided for information.

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It was the consensus of the Committee that the City of Thunder Bay's Integrity Commissioner be invited to a future meeting to make a presentation relative to the above noted.

7. 2019 AAC OPEN HOUSE

Mr. S. Garner, Municipal Accessibility Specialist provided an update relative to the above noted.

Document entitled "AAC Open House Feedback" was provided for information. The document will be circulated to appropriate departments. Mr. Garner will provide follow-up in October regarding the feedback received.

Discussion followed regarding 2020 open house planning:

Interviews of AAC members by Janis Gummeson from Shaw TV;

Walkability Committee style open house;

Public notices, ie at the university;

Provide lunch, charge \$10;

Built for and around services;

Attach public feedback from open house to minutes;

Provide free rides to and from the open house via Transit and Lift+;

Mr. Garner to find out from other communities what they do for their AAC open houses.

Next open house: May 28, 2020, and the last Thursday of May for future years.

The meeting recessed for a coffee break at approximately 2:25 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:41 p.m.

8. ROUNDTABLE OF ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Committee members reported on accessibility issues encountered in the community.

Mr. Rubenick raised concerns regarding accessibility for people with disabilities at the upcoming Blues Fest.

Councillor Johnson recommended that the City of Thunder Bay apply for accessibility certification through the Rick Hansen Foundation if criteria can be met.

Councillor Johnson will be attending the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre meeting regarding their strategic plan. Any recommendations from the committee may be emailed to Councillor Johnson on or before the morning of June 26th.

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Ms. Soderberg raised concern about a recent CBC Radio story that stated medical schools are refusing disability awareness training for their officials and students. Local pressure should be put on the Northern Ontario School of Medicine to provide such training.

Concerns raised that the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan “One City, All Together” has poor colour contrast. A memo regarding this concern is to be drafted.

Traffic signal review: how do we evaluate the accessibility of crosswalks and light standards? Engineering to be invited to review annually.

Mr. Crites noted barriers on sidewalks and multiuse trails, such as slopes off the side of the trails which pose a hazard for people using wheelchairs or white canes. Tactile surfaces need to be installed so that people who are blind or visually impaired do not walk off track. Mr. Crites is concerned that there is no tactile plate between the multi-use trail, protected bicycle lanes and bus stop on Arundel St. near Toledo St.

MOVED BY: Councillor R. Johnson

SECONDED BY: Mr. B. Spare

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee requests Engineering to provide a report with respect to the use of tactile warning surface indicators on multi-use trails.

CARRIED

9. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

9.1 Built Environment

Deferred.

9.2 Public Art Committee

Deferred.

9.3 Walkability Committee

Deferred.

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10. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. M. Rubenick discussed a request from the TBRHSC for good examples of barrier-free parking. Mr. Rubenick provided photos to Mr. S. Garner of Canada Games Complex, Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre and Spence Clinic.

Transit routes will be disrupted during construction on Donald St. E. between Vickers St. and May St. until October.

Will the new light standards at Donald St. and Syndicate Ave. be accessible? Mr. S. Garner will follow up with Mr. M. Miedema, Project Engineer.

11. NEXT MEETING

The Accessibility Advisory Committee will meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month, except July, August and December, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the West Thunder Community Centre, 915 Edward Street South, Thunder Bay, unless otherwise notified.

- No meeting in July 2019
- No meeting in August 2019
- Thursday, September 12, 2019
- Thursday, October 10, 2019
- Thursday, November 14, 2019

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

AAC Public Open House Feedback

May 30th, 2019
Castlegreen Centre

Customer Service

- Be mindful of customers who may have mental health disabilities
- City services should know to call Crisis Response or S.O.S.
- Castle Green is Great!
- Auris Loop for hearing at facilities
- Deeper training for accessibility and recognizing special needs that may not be obvious
- Inclusion Services and Marina Park update in Sept by Randy & John at AAC meeting

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Information & Communications

- Need more volume at City Council meetings on TV
- Make street addresses and numbers visible from the street
- Print material in large font and languages ie. will strategic plan be available in large print
- Street name signs should be larger (not hidden by trees)
- Mandatory street numbers on all businesses
- Make City Council meetings more accessible

Transportation

- How do we stop Lift + drivers from taking punches off of bus pass for this event & meetings (AAC)
- Have all city buses equipped to lower floor of bus upon entering bus
- Bus system more accessible, book 1 month in advance
- More available accessible cabs
- Simpler Lift+ booking procedures
- AVA is still too low to hear clearly

Public Spaces

- Bike lanes not good
- Garbage bags on the Arundel multi-use trails
- Need to have obstacles removed from public spaces
- Sandwich boards on public sidewalks
- Snow plowing at bus stops needs to be better
- Make all sidewalks continuous
- Bigger sidewalks
- Wider sidewalks
- Power outlets for mobility devices and tablets - put them at easy to find locations
- More curb access to sidewalks
- Art installations on a hill/high traffic areas:
 - Sheila Burnford & Susan Ross - Local artists
 - Animal art
 - Book: Incredible Journey – about 3 animals
- Accessible playground equipment
- Senior playground equipment
- Accessible community gardens
- More accessible playground equipment
- Have a totally accessible playground
- Making parks more accessible ie. less “hilly”
- All buildings should have elevators
- Curbs MUST be flat
- All street signs should be blue

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- Bigger sidewalks smooth riding on
- Sidewalks are improving, and like accessible features on signage and stop lights
- Street signs more accessible, many missing, can't find street
- More accessible parking spaces in city
- NO Roundabouts
- Reduce number of street lights, stop signs are better
- A visual awareness line at the curb cut at the Complex main door
- Curbs colour coded and signed wheelchair sign
- Wheelchair buttons accessible
- Roads very bumpy to use in wheelchair

General

- Federal funding, help people in wheelchairs walk – robotic rides – new technology
- A pole that is fastened to the floor and ceiling that allows you to keep your balance while walking for exercise
- Apartments (new ones) must be fully accessible – part of building code