



Minutes

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting No. 10-2019

Date: Friday, December 13, 2019

Time: 1:45 P.M.

Location: Victoria Inn

555 Arthur St. W., Thunder Bay

MEMBERS

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

SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE

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

OFFICIALS

Ms. K. Power	City Clerk
Ms. D. Earle	Deputy City Clerk
Mr. S. Garner	Municipal Accessibility Specialist
Ms. F. Track	Committee Coordinator

RESOURCES

Mr. B. Maxwell	Inclusion Services
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GUESTS

Ms. K. Hunter	Health & Wellness Coordinator
Mr. G. Mason	Planner II – Development & Emergency Services
Mr. D. Smith	Mobility Coordinator
Ms. C. Hurlbert	

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. COMMUNICATION PROCESS

The Chair explained the communication process. Ms. T. Lennox agreed to keep the speaker's list.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOVED BY: Mr. J.P. Gamache

SECONDED BY: Mr. B. Spare

With respect to the December 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. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Holiday Health & Wellness

Ms. K. Hunter, Health & Wellness Coordinator appeared before the Committee, and provided an overview relative to the above noted.

Ms. K. Hunter provided some useful self care tools/tips to assist in combating stress during the upcoming holiday season:

1. Goal Setting: set small achievable goals;
2. Mental Rehearsal: visualize the steps you must take to achieve your goals before starting them, this can help you remain calm and confident when completing tasks and goals;
3. Deep Breathing: take 3 – 5 deep breaths to help calm your central nervous system and re-energize;

4. Take care of yourself before you take care of others – self care is often something we forget during busy times of year.

Ms. K. Hunter responded to questions.

The Chair, Mr. K. Crites, thanked Ms. Hunter for her presentation on behalf of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting No. 09-2019 Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on November 14, 2019, were provided with the agenda for confirmation.

MOVED BY: Ms. T. Lennox
SECONDED BY: Mr. B. Spare

THAT the Minutes of Meeting No. 09-2019 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on November 14, 2019 to be confirmed.

CARRIED

6. MULTI YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

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

Ms. M. Neilans, representative of Human Space, a division of Quadrangle, met with sector representatives in November 2019 to discuss the Multi Year Accessibility Plan. An update will be provided in January 2020.

7. TRANSIT DRIVER'S APPRECIATION DAY – MARCH 2020

Ms. D. Earle, Deputy City Clerk provided an update relative to the above noted and responded to questions.

8. ROUNDTABLE OF ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Committee members reported on accessibility issues encountered in the community.

8.1 Junior Inclusion Services

A member reported that Junior Inclusion Services has modified the method in which regular participant's are scheduled, and made note that the change is appreciated.

Mr. D. Smith, Mobility Coordinator, provided an overview relative to the above noted, and responded to questions.

After an internal review of the Children, Youth & Junior Inclusion Services by the supervisor some efficiencies were recommended, the scheduling of regular participant's with Inclusion Services was one of the recommendations.

8.2 Security Camera Footage

A member reported that footage from security cameras located at the Thunder Bay Regional Hospital is only available for 2 months. Footage required for the investigation of a report is provided to the police immediately.

8.3 Accessible Barriers Around Construction or Detours

A member reported that a safe and accessible detour has been installed around a section of sidewalk on Simpson Street to redirect sidewalk traffic around buildings under construction that were recently involved in a fire.

The member also suggested that the Accessibility Advisory Committee make a recommendation for City Council to consider that accessibility requirements be included within RFP's and for City Departments, relative to providing safe, accessible detours around construction performed within the City of Thunder Bay.

A discussion was held relative to the above noted.

Ms. K. Power, City Clerk and Mr. S. Garner, Municipal Accessibility Specialist to provide a follow up relative to the above noted at the January 16, 2020 meeting of the AAC.

8.4 Mobility Devices – The Ontario Human Rights Code

A member reported that a person utilizing a walker was asked to leave their assistive device outside a business before entering so that the floor in the business was not damaged.

Mr. S. Garner, Municipal Accessibility Specialist provided information relative to the Ontario Human Rights Code, Policy on Ableism and Discrimination, Section 8. Duty to Accommodate and responded to questions.

Mr. S. Garner, Municipal Accessibility Specialist, will follow up with the business and provide information to the person effected relative to the above noted.

8.5 Customer Service Response – Dangerous Power Line Reporting

A member reported that during a recent storm they had heard a noise outside and their power went out. Using a magnifier they looked out the window and could see something in the yard they could not identify, but thought it was a wire, so they called Synergy around 8:50, and were transferred. The member identified that they were blind, that they had no power and thought they could see something that might be a wire down in the yard. The member asked if it would be safe to go out the front door. The member was advised to stay inside.

To confirm what was down in their yard, the member took photos and sent them to a friend. The friend could not contact the member as the telephone was also out and did not have the members cell phone number, so around 1:00 the friend along with their brother, drove over to check on the member and confirmed there was a downed wire.

The member called Synergy again around 3:30 to see where they might be on the list and was advised that the issue in the area had been resolved, at which time the member confirmed that in fact it was not. The customer service representative told the member they should have called back hours before. The member was just being patient and waiting their turn. A crew arrived approximately 30 minutes later and the power was restored around 5:00.

A discussion was held relative to the above noted.

Administration will follow up with Mr. R. Mace, President and C.E.O., Synergy North to confirm what AODA training policies Synergy North has in place for their customer service representatives, as the first point of contact, when a customer identifies a disability.

The meeting recessed for a coffee break at 2:40 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 2:55 P.M.

9. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

9.1 Built Environment

Mr. K. Crites provided an update relative to the above noted.

On December 5, 2019 members of the Built Environment group met with representatives from Stantec Architecture and the City of Thunder Bay's Engineering Division to discuss design for accessibility as it relates to the planning of a future Indoor Multi Sports Facility.

Some of the items discussed were: resources available through CNIB relative to building for people with visual impairments, the London Building Code, sliding doors vs hinged doors, ramps, elevators, moving walkways, parking, transit access and walkability.

Future consultation meetings will be scheduled with the Built Environment Group as the project progresses.

9.2 Public Art Committee

Mr. R. Wheeler provided an update relative to the above noted.

The Public Art Committee is currently planning events for the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the City of Thunder Bay's Amalgamation, more details to follow.

9.3 Walkability Committee

Mr. B. Spare provided an update relative to the above noted.

A Traffic Calming Pilot Project, in the form of a painted crosswalk, is to be completed spring of 2020 on Dawson Road in front of Vance Chapman School.

10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PAST MEETINGS

10.1 Terms of Reference

The Accessibility Advisory Committee meets monthly, a minimum of 8 times a year on the 2nd Thursday of each month, except for July, August and December.

Over the course of the last year the committee has found it difficult to cover all of the agenda items often having to defer Working Group Updates, and at times, Roundtable of Accessibility Issues.

Including the annual Open House and regular meetings, the AAC has met a total of 11 times in 2019, not including the meetings of the Built Environment Group, Public Art Committee and the Walkability Committee.

At the November 14, 2019 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee a discussion was held relative to inviting the Administrative Accessibility Working Group to AAC meetings.

Mr. S. Garner provided an overview relative to the above noted and responded to questions at that time.

Items discussed were:

- Length of the AAC meetings – does the Committee require more time to discuss all agenda items
- Inviting members of the AAWG, Administration and hosting presentations at alternate meetings of the AAC.

- Designating specific AAC meetings for Roundtable Discussion of Accessible Issues and Working Group Updates to ensure members are able to report regularly.

It was the consensus of the members to review the current Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Volunteers will make up a TOR Sub-Committee. Mr. S. Garner will arrange a meeting of the TOR Sub-Committee and provide a follow up at the January 16, 2020 meeting.

10.2 Update from Engineering

Ms. Kayla Dixon, Director – Engineering & Operations, to provide an update relative to the above noted at the January 16, 2020 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

10.3 Boulevard Lake Dam

Mr. M. Vogrig, Project Engineer, to provide an update relative to the above noted at the February 13, 2020 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. NEXT MEETING

*Reminder: The Accessibility Advisory Committee will be meeting at the 55+ Centre in the New Year on the following dates:

AAC 2020 Meeting Schedule

- January 16, 2020
- February 13, 2020
- March 12, 2020
- April 9, 2020
- May 14, 2020
- June 11, 2020
- September 10, 2020
- October 8, 2020
- November 12, 2020

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.