

DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

MEETING NO. 01-2021

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

MEETING LOCATION: MS TEAMS

MEMBERS

SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. A. Antenucci	Parent to a Child with a Disability
Mr. T. Brownlee	Caregiver to a Person with a Disability
Mr. K. Crites	Mental Health Representative
Mr. J. Gobeil	Citizen Representative
Ms. D. Hamilton	Speech Impairment Representative
Ms. R. Harrison	Service Agency Representative
Councillor R. Johnson	Council Representative
Ms. T. Lennox	Learning Disability Representative
Ms. T. Soderberg	Visually Impaired or Blind Representative
Mr. R. Sponchia	Development Disability Representative
Mr. J.R. Wheeler	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

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and provided a roundtable of introductions.

2. COMMUNICATION PROCESS

The Chair explained the communication process.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

It was the consensus of the Committee that the order of the agenda be changed to allow a New Business item, Multi Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP)

MOVED BY: Ms. Tara Lennox
SECONDED BY: Ms. Dawn Hamilton

WITH RESPECT to the January 14, 2021 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, we recommend that the Agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

4. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

Mr. S. Garner provided an overview of the Chair and Vice Chair responsibilities and of the electronic, anonymous voting process. Ms. F. Track will contact the members to administer the electronic vote.

Ms. A. Antenucci, Ms. T. Lennox, and Ms. T. Soderberg were nominated for the position of Chair, and agreed to let their names stand.

Ms. D. Hamilton, Ms. A. Antenucci, Mr. K. Crites and Ms. T. Lennox were nominated for the position of Vice Chair and agreed to let their names stand.

MOVED BY: Ms. Tara Lennox
SECONDED BY: Ms. Dawn Hamilton

WITH RESPECT to the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair, we recommend that an electronic, anonymous vote be conducted and the results presented at the next meeting.

CARRIED

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting No. 03-2020 Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on December 17 2020.

MOVED BY: Mr. Randy Sponchia
SECONDED BY: Ms. Anne Antenucci

THAT the Minutes of Meeting No. 03-2020 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on December 17, 2020, as amended, be confirmed.

CARRIED

6. 2021 BUDGET

Ms. K. Power, City Clerk and Ms. D. Earle, Deputy City Clerk provided an overview relative to the requested 2021 Operating and Capital budgets for accessibility and responded to questions.

Discussion related to the following items:

- Concerns of capital reduction presented to Council of \$50,000
- Review of existing capital projects and the delay due to the pandemic
- Overview of operating and capital budgets for 2021
- Facility audits were conducted in 2019 to determine the work required to make each facility 100% accessible. The Office of the City Clerk and Construction Services manage this work and request capital funding as required.
- The City is required, under the AODA, to provide an annual status report on the progress taken to improve accessibility in its facilities, services, and programs.

7. COMMUNICATIONS - OUTSIDE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Ms. K. Power, City Clerk provided an overview relative to the above noted.

Discussion related to the following items:

- If a member of the AAC attends a meeting relating to accessibility, information should be shared with the committee through either an update or the minutes of the meeting.
- City Administration should be attending AAC for any accessibility related input on city programs, services, and infrastructure.
- Members raised concerns that infrastructure is installed prior to accessibility consultation.
- Notes from the most recent CNIB-Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) Committee meeting have been received from the CNIB and will be shared with the committee.
- The Clerk's office will follow up on communication with internal departments.

The committee recessed at 2:03pm.

The committee resumed at 2:17pm.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP)

Ms. D. Earle, Deputy City Clerk provided an update relative to the City's MYAP. The plan is in draft form and will be sent to the Committee for their review and feedback. The plan will be presented to Council in March for their adoption.

It was the consensus of the Committee to include the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) on the February 11, 2021 agenda for discussion.

9. ROUNDTABLE OF ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Discussion was held relative to the above noted.

Members advised the Committee of the following:

- A recent news article reported that Animal services was shifting operations to By-law Enforcement only and that the Humane Society would be covering the rest of the operations. Because of the location of the Humane Society services will be inaccessible for individuals that rely on transit.
- Transit had been reducing the number of accessible seats available to passengers by blocking them off, presumably to help passengers maintain physical distancing. There are a limited number of accessible seats for riders who require them. General seating across the aisle was not blocked off.
- There is limited contact information for the Thunder Bay Police online to report crimes for individuals with speech impairment in Thunder Bay, minor crimes can be reported online but major crimes cannot.
- Lift+ has a process if you do not travel on the bus within a year, your registration is put on hold. Suggestion that registration doesn't expire and that the Committee discusses the concerns with Transit. Can more notice be provided prior to sending the notice?
- Snow is not being cleared at pedestrian crosswalks and crossover traffic signal poles to allow for accessible access.
- Discrimination and attitudinal barriers towards people with mental health disabilities. Is there a potential to speak at the TBPS Board?
- Snow removal around traffic signals.
- How can the committee best deal with the issues with each division and then communicate with City Administration.
- Is there an opportunity to nominate an accessibility champion for a volunteer award?
- Is there a plan for a virtual open house in 2021?
- Consideration to partner with other groups for the virtual open house.

- Concern that 2 hour meetings are not long enough to address all outstanding and current agenda items. Can meetings be longer than 2 hours?
- In the past our AAC meetings were set at 2 hours because of the availability of sign language interpreters. We can increase the length of the meetings, and suggest agenda items rotate between presentations one month and round table discussion the next.

It was the consensus of the Committee to include Open House 2021 on the March 11, 2021 agenda for discussion.

10. 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 11, 2021
Thursday, March 11, 2021
Thursday, April 8, 2021
Thursday, May 13, 2021
Thursday, June 10, 2021
Thursday, September 9, 2021
Thursday, October 14, 2021
Thursday, November 18, 2021

It was the consensus of the Committee that future meetings be extended, and scheduled from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm.