

**DATE:** THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

**MEETING NO.** 02-2021

**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.P. Gamache      | Mobility Disability 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. B. Spare          | Hard of Hearing/Late Deafened 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              |

**GUESTS**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Mr. G. Sherman | Supervisor, Customer Care & Administrative Services –<br>Transit Services |
| Mr. B. Adams   | Manager – Roads – Infrastructure & Operations                             |

**AGENDA**

1. WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

At the January 14, 2021 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, Tara Lennox and Tessa Soderberg; and the following individuals were nominated for the position of Vice Chair and agreed to let their name stand: Anne Antenucci, Dawn Hamilton, Kai Crites and Tara Lennox.

It was the consensus of the Committee that secret electronic ballots would be cast, and that the results would be presented for approval at the February 11, 2021 meeting.

By a majority of votes by secret ballot, Ms. T. Soderberg was elected Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

By a majority of votes by secret ballot, Mr. K. Crites was elected Vice Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

MOVED BY: Brian Spare  
SECONDED BY: Tara Lennox

WITH RESPECT to the Chair and Vice Chair positions for the Accessibility Advisory Committee, we recommend that Tessa Soderberg be appointed Chair and that Kai Crites be appointed Vice Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the 2021 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 February 11, 2021.

CARRIED

The newly-appointed Chair, Tessa Soderberg assumed the position of the Chair for the duration.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair conducted a roundtable of introductions.

4. COMMUNICATION PROCESS

The Chair explained the communication process.

5. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOVED BY: Randy Sponchia  
SECONDED BY: John Gobeil

WITH RESPECT to the February 11, 2021 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, we recommend that the Agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting No. 01-2021 Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on January 14 2021, to be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Anne Antenucci  
SECONDED BY: Tom Brownlee

THAT the Minutes of Meeting No. 01-2021 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on January 14, 2021 as amended, be confirmed.

CARRIED

7. TRANSIT SERVICES

At the January 14, 2021 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee it was requested that members of Administration be invited to discuss accessible issues identified during roundtable.

Mr. G. Sherman, Supervisor – Customer Care & Administrative Services provided the following, for information, and responded to questions.

Lift Plus inactivity process: Letters are sent to registrants who have not used the service in 12 months. The letter has been revised. Approximately 35 letters are sent each month. Transit doesn't record the number of inactive registrants who request to be re-activated. Some are temporary registrants who request to have their registration extended. There are currently 1000 registrants.

Discussion related to the following items:

- Request for the inactivity period to be extended beyond 12 months, especially in light of the pandemic or change communication to include email and phone.
- Transit will review and communicate recommendations.

- Transit is researching ways to notify passengers ahead of being issued ahead of the inactivity letter being sent. For example, a phone message through the Lift Plus notification system.
- Concern re: blocking off of first row of seating on Lift Plus buses. This was done on buses with no barrier between the passenger and the driver where 6ft could not be maintained.
- Are there still concerns with booking line bottlenecks – no
- When will the new buses be here and put into service – Transit to follow up.
- Inactivity due to not being able to able to book a ride.
- Railing on the left hand side (as you're departing) of the new Lift buses is plastic and shorter. Concerns that the material is not supportive and the ramp is longer with no support. Garrick will follow up.
- Request to fax in trip requests if you have daily requests or introduce a phone system with a call back feature.
- Transit is reviewing flexibility in booking window and working with phone provider to improve system.
- Concern re: accessible seating on Transit buses being blocked and non-accessible seating not being blocked for physical distancing (incident occurred on September 11, 2021).
  - Operations Supervisors have confirmed that seats are no longer being blocked off.
- Transit bus stop signage – some signs have been installed higher than previously installed.
  - Mr. G. Sherman to follow up with Transit Planning.

The meeting recessed at 2:04pm.

The meeting resumed at 2:19 pm

## 8. INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS - ROADS

At the January 14, 2021 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee it was requested that members of Administration be invited to discuss accessible issues identified during roundtable.

Mr. B. Adams, Manager – Roads provided the following, for information and responded to questions.

Snow removal: Beginning with main roads and then to side streets. Service levels for sidewalks is 5cm on main roads and side streets. 72 hours to complete all snow removal, 500 km, 3 days to complete. When plowing is complete, sidewalks will be scraped and sanded as required, maintaining to a hard packed surface. Access to pedestrian crossings will be cleaned up during the secondary patrol, with the attempt to get as close as possible to buttons. Sometimes access isn't perfectly clear after the first clearing but better clean up is done on the second round, and as required by complaints.

Discussion related to the following items:

- Request that access to pedestrian signals is a priority on the first clearing, increased barrier as pedestrian is left to wait longer or attempt to cross unsafely.
  - Potential slow down in clearing when more time is taken on first clearing. Mr. B. Adams will follow up with team.
  - If there are frequent stops that aren't accessible through snow removal, Committee Members should let Ms. F. Track know and she will advise Mr. B. Adams.
- Request that ridges are not created between sidewalks or access to the road.
  - Mr. B. Adams will follow up with staff.
- Concern that bus shelters and bus stops are plowed in limiting access.
  - Roads maintains the sidewalk and Transit maintains the access to the stop. Working together to better improve access.
- Commendation for general clearing in some neighbourhoods this year, where there have been less barriers.
- Comments continue to arise every year on social media about snow removal.
- What is the pink spray paint on the sidewalks
  - Electrical underground locates are identified with pink paint.

#### 9. ARENAS – ACCESSIBLE ACCESS TO VIEWING AREAS

Ms. D. Earle, Deputy City Clerk provided an update relative to the installation of accessible viewing areas at the Fort William Gardens and Delaney Arenas.

- Health and safety considerations
- Signage
- How to operate – instructional sessions
- Ensure lift can be used by person who requires it independently, but also have a staff or support person available to use.
- Built Environment will be consulted when there is a design for consideration, site visits.
- Lift is large enough for wheelchair device and support person.
- Concerns about breakdown and maintenance – can a back up ramp be made available. Emergency Procedure in place to ensure that we have safe access.
- Preliminary meeting scheduled to host sledge hockey/para hockey at FWG and Delaney arena.

#### 10. MULTI YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN (MYAP)

On January 14, 2021 Administration provided copies of the draft Multi Year Accessibility Plan and appendixes to members for their review and feedback.

Ms. D. Earle provided an update relative to the above noted.

MOVED BY: Anne Antenucci  
SECONDED BY: JP Gamache

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee supports the adoption of 2019-2024 City of Thunder Bay Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

CARRIED

#### 11. NEW BUSINESS

It was the consensus of committee to include Roundtable discussions.

- Junior Inclusion informs registrants that, during the pandemic, staff will not be able to touch participants. Creates a barrier for participants who require guided services. For example, children with physical disabilities or low vision. Consideration for a waiver. Follow up with Community Services.
- Are there barriers in place for all Inclusion Services because staff are unable to support through required physical contact? Committee recognizes safety is important, but we need confirmation of short-term protocols.
- Continuing concerns that Thunder Bay Police are not accessible for persons with a disability relating to violent crime reporting. Contact information will be re-sent.
- April 6, 2021 is World Autism Day. A virtual flag-raising event will be held at City Hall.
- Tactile plates preferred colour is yellow, which seems to be a standard in the USA. Advocacy is suggested to change the Ontario standard.
  - Draft a motion for advocacy, through the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, to request the province change the standards for tactile plates.

#### 12. 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

At the January 14, 2021 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee it was the consensus of the Committee to schedule future monthly meetings from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, as follows:

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:48pm.