

Report CCR-CS-06-15

To: Chair Pringle and Members of the Corporate Services Committee
From: Robert Hatten, Communications Officer
Meeting Date: February 10, 2014
Subject: **Recommendations for Public Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee**
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CS38-15; Endorsed by County Council March 3, 2015 per Resolution CC41-15;

Recommendation(s)

WHEREAS the County of Grey is required have an Accessibility Advisory Committee, as directed by the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2011*;

AND WHEREAS the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* states that the majority of members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee must be persons with disabilities;

AND WHEREAS one member of the Grey County Accessibility Advisory Committee has resigned from the Committee and new stakeholder membership is required;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report CCR-CS-06-15 be received;

AND THAT Christina McDonald, Stan Arnelien, Jim Gow and David Mollison be appointed as voting members of the Grey County Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Background

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2011 (ODA) was passed by the Government of Ontario on September 30, 2002. The purpose of the ODA is to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities and to provide mechanisms to facilitate the involvement of

persons with disabilities in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in all that Ontario has to offer.

On May 10, 2005, the Government of Ontario passed Bill 18, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA, 2005). It took effect upon royal assent on June 13, 2005. The AODA provides for the development, implementation and enforcement of accessibility standards with the intent to make Ontario fully accessible by 2025. There are five standards areas encompassed within the AODA: Customer Service, Information and Communication, Employment, Transportation and Built Environment. These standards have been developed through two regulations: Accessibility Standards for Customer Service (O. Reg 429/07) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards (O. Reg 191/11).

Under the ODA, municipalities of 10,000 or more residents are required to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee. This Committee shall advise Council about the preparation and implementation of an Accessibility Plan. Under both the ODA and now the AODA, municipalities are required to consult with an Accessibility Advisory Committee to identify barriers and develop action plans for removing barriers and making municipalities accessible and inclusive.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee advises and assists County Council, member municipalities and affiliated Agencies, Boards, and Commissions, in promoting and facilitating a barrier-free Grey County for all citizens. The Committee helps foster a community approach to accessibility and inclusion by: reviewing municipal policies, programs and services; and identifying barriers and strategies for removing and preventing barriers faced by persons with disabilities.

Grey County's Accessibility Advisory Committee is formed in compliance with the ODA to include 50% plus one of persons with disabilities, with the remaining members including political representation, staff and interested members of the public. Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee are selected and appointed by County Council.

The Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) state that it will be comprised of five voting members as follows:

- One member of County Council (Corporate Services Committee); plus
- Three residents of Grey County who are persons with disabilities; and
- One person who is an advocate for a person with a disability, such as the parent of a child with a disability.

The County may also appoint up to three (3) non-voting members to provide input and assistance to the Committee.

The committee term is four years (in line with the council term). At the end of the term, recruitment will take place to allow for application from new members.

Interested Committee Members and Vacancies

At the end of the 2014 term one voting member stepped down from the committee leaving one vacancy; however council may choose to appoint new members.

Recruitment

Throughout January Grey County advertised and recruited for the vacant position on the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Ads were taken in local papers and a media release was posted receiving coverage in local papers, online and on the radio. Grey County's social media accounts were also used for recruitment.

Voting Members Interested in Returning:

The Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference does not prohibit the reappointment of members. Returning members have consulted on large ongoing projects such as the Grey Roots church and the Rural Transportation Study. It is recommended to reappoint interested members for continuity as feedback is requested from the committee on these and other projects.

- County Councillor Dwight Burley (Corporate Services Committee representative)
- Christina McDonald (advocate for a person with a disability)
- Stan Arnelien
- Jim Gow

Applicants

Two new applications have been received from residents qualifying for the committee as voting members. It is recommended by the Communications Officer to select David Mollison for the vacant position as he is experienced with accessibility advisory committees.

Non-Voting Members

- Holly Morrison – Georgian Bluffs
- Don Tedford – Hanover
- Robert Tremblay – Meaford
- Laura McDougall – Grey Highlands

- Dave Millner – Southgate
- Amanda Healy – Blue Mountains
- Brian Marcell– West Grey
- Grey County CAO
- Robert Hatten – Communications Officer

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

Considerations

There are no staffing or Information Technology considerations related to this report.

There will be minimal costs related to mileage costs for the members of the committee and these will be managed within the existing budget allocation.

The legal considerations related to this report are tied to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the implications of being in non-compliance with the standards contained therein. Non-compliance with the standards set out in the AODA may result in fines and other measures applied against the County of Grey by the Government of Ontario.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Grey County's corporate strategic plan 2012-2015 identifies "achieving excellence in governance and service" as a key goal, with ensuring "that county services and programs are inclusive, accessible, and reflective of the diversity of the population" listed as a key step in achieving this goal.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Hatten
Communications Officer

Director Sign Off: *Sharon Vokes*