

Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee September 5, 2019 – 2:00 PM

The Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee met on the above date at the Grey County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Councillor Dwight Burley, Christina Schnell, Andrew Edgcumbe, and Claudia Strelocke

Regrets: David Mollison, Catherine Sholtz and Andy Underwood

Staff

Present: Heather Morrison, Clerk; Kathie Nunno, Administrative and Accessibility Coordinator; Rob Hatten, Communications Manager; Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator; and Jacquelyn Morrison, Acting Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator

Municipal

Representatives: Melissa Hilgendorff, the Town of Hanover; Wendi Hunter, the Township of Georgian Bluffs; Sarah Traynor, The Town of The Blue Mountains; Jamie Eckenswiller, Township of Southgate, and Jonathon Zettel, Municipality of West Grey.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

The individuals present introduced themselves.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Review of Assisted Listening Device in Grey County Council Chambers

Rob Hatten noted that there is a new audio/visual system in the Council Chambers. The Committee viewed a demonstration in the Chambers of the system and were introduced to the assisted listening devices that will be available.

Staff addressed questions from the Committee on the system.

Discussion Re: Promoting Accessibility within Municipalities and Businesses – Hanover

Melissa Hilgendorff addressed the Committee. It was noted that the Town has received comments about businesses not being accessible. The Town would like to support businesses as well as the Business Improvement Area (BIA) to help them become more accessible but it is limited in what it can do directly. There was discussion on whether other municipalities have any recognition programs or use handbooks to assist businesses with better understanding accessibility requirements and needs. Discussion occurred on the value of recognition programs so patrons are aware of businesses that are accessible.

It was noted the Municipality of Meaford has an accessibility recognition program and Breaking Down Barriers had one in the past as well.

Ms. Hilgendorff provided information on a resource she has used with a previous employer which assisted their organization in providing accessibility accommodations. Ms. Hilgendorff will provide Kathie with the templates that were used.

A question arose as to whether other municipalities have separate budgets for Accessibility and what the budgets look like for next year. Heather Morrison noted she will ask the Grey County Clerks at the next meeting about this as well.

Rob noted that it is also important to look at other ways to support accessibility beyond the built environment. The Committee further discussed this matter.

Reports

CCR-JAAC-14-19 Pets and Service Animals in the Workplace

Jacquelyn Morrison reviewed the above noted report.

Ms. Morrison highlighted the changes of the policy. The policy has been updated to reflect changes in the legislation and policy structure and to improve the clarity and accessibility.

JAAC08-19 Moved by: Andrew Edgumbe

Seconded by: Claudia Strelocke

That Report CCR-JAAC-14-19 be received and Council endorse the updates to A-GEN-006-001 being the Pets and Service Animals in the Workplace Policy.

Carried

CCR-JAAC-15-19 Accessibility Customer Service Policy Update

Kathie Nunno reviewed the above noted report and spoke to the updates and changes to the policy.

The Committee discussed emergency management and processes that are in place to assist people with disabilities during disasters. It was noted that municipal emergency management plans and emergency services often have procedures in place to deal with this concern.

JAAC09-19 Moved by: Andrew Edgumbe

Seconded by: Claudia Strel Locke

That Report CCR-JAAC-15-19 regarding the updated Accessible Customer Service Policy be received, and

That the updated Accessible Customer Service Policy MS-AAC-001 be approved as presented, and

That MS-AAC-001-001, being the Accessible Customer Service Procedure be rescinded as it is now contained within the updated policy.

Carried

CCR-JAAC-16-19 2019 Accessibility Compliance Report

Kathie Nunno reviewed the above noted report. It was noted this report is required to be submitted by the end of the year.

Grey County is compliant with all necessary aspects.

JAAC10-19 Moved by: Christina Schnell

Seconded by: Andrew Edgumbe

That Report CCR-JAAC-16-19 be received for information; and

That the 2019 Accessibility Compliance Report be endorsed and submitted to the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

Carried

Other Business

Ms. Strel Locke spoke to an upcoming poetry festival called “Words Aloud”. The Artistic Director of the festival has inquired as to whether she could speak to someone at Grey County to discuss how to make the festival more accessible. Ms. Nunno noted she can discuss this with the Artistic Director.

Wendi Hunter further noted that there is an online guide from the Province which speaks to making festivals and events accessible.

Jamie Eckenswiler inquired about the site plan review process for this Committee. Kathie Nunno will coordinate site plan reviews with local municipalities in conjunction with the scheduled Committee meetings and could accommodate scheduling additional meetings as necessary so the application process can continue in a timely manner.

The following resolution was passed at the April 8, 2019 Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee and subsequently endorsed by Grey County Council:

JAAC04-19 Moved by: Christina Schnell Seconded by: Catherine Sholtz

That participating local municipalities submit the following draft site plans as early as practicable in the application process to the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (for review and comment): Newly developed or redeveloped public spaces; Municipal offices; Community centres; Recreation centres; and Other sports facilities.

Ms. Nunno noted that the Elmwood Community Centre has requested the Committee review the site for accessibility. The Municipality of Brockton or Bruce County would typically be the body that would review a building in this area, however the Elmwood Community Centre and the Brockton Accessibility Coordinator and Clerk requested the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee to review the photos, drawings and planning document to assist with the process. The Committee was supportive. The Elmwood Community Centre is also reaching out to Bruce County to see if they are able to comment as well. The Brockton accessibility coordinator, clerk and chief building official will be invited to the next meeting to speak to the project.

Wendi Hunter noted that she will have the Township of Georgian Bluff’s draft accessibility plan ready for the next meeting.

It was suggested that a site visit be undertaken upon completion of the Sarawak Family Park. Staff will also look at the status of the St. Vincent trail construction to see if a site visit can be undertaken as well.

Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

On motion by Andrew Edgcumbe and Christina Schnell, the meeting adjourned at 3:23 PM.

Dwight Burley, Chair