



Committee Report

To:	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	February 28, 2019
Subject / Report No:	CCR-CW-03-19
Title:	Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee Appointment Recommendations
Prepared by:	Rob Hatten and Kathie Nunno
Reviewed by:	Heather Morrison, Kim Wingrove
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	Participating Joint AAC Members
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Committee of the Whole as presented as per Resolution <i>CW48-19</i> ; Endorsed by County Council on March 14, 2019 as per Resolution <i>CC24-19</i> .

Recommendation

1. **That the following public members be appointed to the 2019-2022 term of the Joint Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee:**
 - i. **Andrew Edgcumbe**
 - ii. **Catherine Sholtz**
 - iii. **Christina Schnell**
 - iv. **Claudia Strelocke**
 - v. **David Mollison**
 - vi. **Andy Underwood**

Executive Summary

The Grey County Joint Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee advises County Council and participating local municipalities on ways to remove barriers in services and provides recommendations for making the County more accessible.

The committee has one Council member and up to six public members that serve on a four year term. This report provides recommendation for committee membership in 2019-2022.

Background and Discussion

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2011 (ODA) requires municipalities with 10,000 or more

residents to establish an accessibility advisory committee (AAC). The role of an AAC is to provide advice and assist County Council and participating local municipalities in promoting and facilitating a barrier-free Grey County for citizens of all abilities. The committee is responsible for reviewing municipal policies, programs and services and consults on the creation and implementation of multi-year accessibility plans.

In 2018, Grey County Council voted to create a joint municipal accessibility advisory committee together with Grey County local municipalities that wish to participate on this committee. Although only municipalities with more than 10,000 residents are required to have an AAC, there are many benefits for smaller municipalities to participate. The Grey County Joint Municipal Accessibility Advisory committee meets approximately four times per year. Meeting minutes are circulated to Grey County Council and all participating local municipalities, through their staff representation. The term of the committee is four years, aligned with the term of council. Participating local Grey County municipalities include Georgian Bluffs, Grey Highlands, Hanover, Southgate, The Blue Mountains, and West Grey.

Under the ODA, a municipal AAC must include 50% plus one of persons with disabilities. The remaining voting members can include political representation, staff and interested members of the public. The recently updated Terms of Reference for the joint AAC states the committee will include up to seven members total, including one member of Grey County Council.

Recruitment

At the end of the 2015-2018 term staff reached out to the existing membership and four public members expressed an interest in returning to the committee for another term: Andrew Edgcumbe, Christina Schnell, David Mollison and Catherine Sholtz. Two of these individuals identify themselves as persons with disabilities.

From approximately November 1 to December 31, Grey County recruited for AAC applicants. Efforts included social media posts, including paid posts, a media release and purchasing ads in the Owen Sound Sun Times, Grey Bruce This Week and Hanover Post. In total, three additional applications were received. Two applicants identified themselves as persons with disabilities, and one identified as an advocate for persons with disabilities.

Recommendations

Staff recommend appointing all four experienced AAC members for the 2019-2022 term (Christina, Andrew, David and Catherine). This group was involved in the recent update of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and if appointed will provide consistent oversight of its application of the coming years.

In addition, staff recommend appointing Claudia Strelocke to the committee. In an interview with Claudia, she self-identified as a person with a disability and made it clear she is an advocate for change.

Staff reached out to Andy Underwood who is the Executive Director of Home and Community Support Services of Grey Bruce. Andy has spent several years as a member of the Owen Sound Accessibility Advisory Committee and has made many positive contributions to improving accessibility in the community. Andy would be happy to participate as a member of the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

The committee must comply with legislation and be comprised of at least 50% plus one of persons with disabilities.

Financial and Resource Implications

Mileage or travel expenses are compensated for public advisory members. Costs in 2019 are expected to be consistent with previous years.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal (Director of Social Services)

Appendices and Attachments

[Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference](#)