



Corporation of the County of Grey Committee Minutes

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes May 9, 2012 – 2:00 p.m.

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

Present: Councillor Dwight Burley, Jerry Krauter, Scott Seiler, Nancy Seiler, Don Bullock, Christina McDonald and Warden McKinlay.

Regrets: Stan Arnelien (Voting Member), Lance Thurston, Chief Administrative Officer; Bill Klingenberg – Georgian Bluffs; Dan Best – Grey Highlands; Dave Millner – Southgate; Carol Watson – Southgate and Dawn Russell Smith – Meaford.

Staff

Present: Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services; Lisa Kidd, The Blue Mountains; Dave Mollison, West Grey; Don Tedford, Town of Hanover.

Call to Order

Mrs. Fedy called the meeting to order at 2:11pm

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mrs. Fedy called for nominations for Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2012.

Moved by: Councillor Burley

Seconded by: Scott Seiler

THAT Warden McKinlay be nominated as Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2012.

Carried

Moved by: Jerry Krauter

Seconded by: Councillor Burley

THAT Scott Seiler be nominated as Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2012.

Carried

Moved by: Warden McKinlay

Seconded by: Councillor Burley

THAT Jerry Krauter be nominated as Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2012.

Carried

Mr. Seiler declined his nomination.

Mr. Krauter declined his nomination.

Warden McKinlay agreed to let his name stand and was acclaimed Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2012.

Mrs. Fedy called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2012.

Moved by: Councillor Burley

Seconded by: Scott Seiler

THAT Jerry Krauter be nominated as Vice Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2012;

Jerry declined his nomination.

Moved by: Dwight Burley

Seconded by: Christina McDonald

THAT Scott Seiler be nominated as Vice Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2012.

Carried

Mr. Seiler agreed to let his name stand and was acclaimed Vice Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2012.

Warden McKinley assumed the Chair.

Minutes of Meetings

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes dated February 14, 2012

Moved by: Scott Seiler

Seconded by: Councillor Burley

THAT the February 14, 2012 minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as circulated.

Carried

Business Arising from Minutes

Mrs. Fedy advised that the minutes were approved by Corporate Services with final approval of County Council on May 1, 2012. The resolution to forward the DDD initiative to the Social Services will go forward at the June 13, 2012 meeting of the Social Services Committee.

Working Group

Mrs. Fedy advised the working group met prior to this meeting. Staff attended an information session in April in Collingwood highlighting assistive devices available for persons with hearing loss. An invitation was extended to the Hon., David Only to participate in the information session with response that his office will try to accommodate such. Consideration is being given regarding location and date of the event. Mrs. Fedy noted there is no budget dedicated to this event and noted the financial benefits of hosting within a municipally owned facility. The benefits of hosting the event on October 2, 2012 in conjunction with County Council were noted specific to the attendance of the media. Regular working group updates will be provided.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada – Federal Disability Report

This report was circulated to members of the committee electronically prior to the meeting. Hard copies were also provided. Statistics were highlighted within this report; not only an aging population, the report also highlights accessibility needs by all residents regardless of age.

There is currently a task force reporting to County Council on the long term care responsibilities. The committee concurred that the Federal Disability Report be forwarded to the task force overseeing senior services and Long Term Care. Mrs. Fedy advised of the strong working relationship with the Director of Long Term Care.

Moved by: Councillor Burley

Seconded by: Christina McDonald

THAT the Federal Disability Report be discussed further at the next meeting of the AAC.

Carried

Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals Update

Mrs. Fedy advised of the momentum of the Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals (ONAP) group with regard to information sharing. No additional information has been received with regard to the Accessible Built Environment (ABE) Standard. Many municipalities are using the City of London's Facility Accessible Design (FAD's). Mr. Tedford noted an upcoming workshop pertaining to the new Ontario Building Code and will report back at a future meeting.

Mrs. Fedy noted another pressing issue for some municipalities (where applicable) is accessible taxis to ensure equal access to services and assurance that patrons are not negatively affected by additional fees associated with use. Mrs. McDonald provided an example of her family's requirement to use accessible taxi service while in Ottawa. There was discussion regarding implications of taxis within municipalities.

Mrs. Fedy noted that fewer full service gas stations are available and the implications of the inaccessibility. Mr. Krauter noted that Pioneer Gas Stations are very accommodating to provide assistance. Suggestions were made to make prior arrangements with local gas stations to provide assistance with service. Mrs. Fedy advised that this issue is being given consideration by the ONAP group to lobby gas companies regarding requirements to provide assistance.

Accessible Customer Service compliance date for private sector is January 1, 2014. Mr. Tedford noted the benefits of accessibility advisory committees to provide awareness to public and private sectors for enhanced accessibility.

Mrs. Fedy noted that the requirement to prepare and submit annual accessibility plans under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA, 2001) is currently under review. Under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA, 2005), municipalities are now required to submit five-year annual accessibility plans. There is ongoing discussion among the membership of ONAP to identify advantages and disadvantages to submitting joint plans in conjunction with lower tier municipalities. Mr. Tedford noted interest on behalf of the Town of Hanover to continue participation for a joint plan submission.

Municipal Updates

The Blue Mountains – staff have been trained on creating accessible documents. The municipality was not successful in its application for EnAbling Funding for accessible doors. Members of staff will be attending a workshop on Implementing the Integrated Accessibility Standards in Bruce County on June 22, 2012.

Grey County – Mrs. Fedy advised staff also have been provided with training on creating accessible documents and thanked Mr. And Mrs. Seiler for their participation to provide awareness training to staff regarding screen reader software. There was discussion regarding air compressor accessible doors. Mr. Tedford noted that Ontario Fire Marshalls' offices are instrumental in positive accessibility changes.

Other Business

There was discussion regarding committee status and associated budgets. Mrs. Fedy advised of pending internal changes within the Corporation to appoint a dedicated body to oversee accessibility and communication. There was discussion with regard to declarations of pecuniary interest. Mrs. Fedy will consult with the Clerk's Department regarding the requirement to include or exclude declarations of pecuniary interest on subcommittee agendas. Warden McKinlay clarified that disclosures of pecuniary interest is not associated with dedicated budgets for committees or subcommittees but rather to ensure adherence to transparency in the delivery of public services.

There was discussion regarding site plan reviews; further discussion may be warranted regarding this issue. Mr. Seiler advised that the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the City of Owen Sound has requested that the City of Owen Sound obtain legal advice regarding the scope of work and responsibilities for its accessibility advisory committee. A recommendation was made to be provided with a copy of the legal advice from the City of Owen Sound, once received.

Mrs. McDonald noted an example of a large automatic door opener which was two feet tall at the CBC in Toronto accessible by her daughter independently from her wheelchair. Mr. Bullock noted that he has experienced similar examples of inability to access automatic door openers.

Mrs. Seiler noted many changes to the City of Toronto including enhancements of accessible features. Mr. Seiler noted that he recently obtained a cell phone with large key pad for basic use. General discussion concluded that tools for accessibility are becoming more available and less complex.

It was recommended to review the mandate and responsibilities overseen by the accessibility advisory committee.

Mr. Krauter noted positive changes are evident within communities.

Next Meeting Dates

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

On motion of Councillor Burley and Mr. Bullock, the meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Warden McKinlay, Chair