

Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee June 24, 2019 – 10:30 AM

The Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee met on the above date at the Township of Southgate Municipal Office at 185667 Grey Road 9, with the following members in attendance:

Present: Councillor Dwight Burley, Christina Schnell, Andrew Edgcumbe, Catherine Sholtz, Andy Underwood, and Claudia Strelocke

Regrets: David Mollison

Staff

Present: Kathie Nunno, Administrative and Accessibility Coordinator

Municipal

Representatives: Township of Southgate: Joanne Hyde, Clerk; Bev Fisher, Chief Building Official; Jamie Eckenswiller, Legislative and Communications Coordinator; Jim Ellis, Public Works Manager; and Kevin Green, Facilities Manager (for Arena tour)

The Committee was asked to provide accessibility-related comments for the Southgate municipal office and the Dundalk arena. The group toured the facilities and provided the following comments:

Site Visit Southgate Municipal Office

Chair Burley invited the Township of Southgate staff to tour the Georgian Bluffs municipal office to see how accessibility was achieved with the council chambers addition.

Positive Feedback

- Website has been updated to promote e-commerce features. This benefits those who prefer online access as well as for those who struggle to get to the rural location. Saugeen Mobility's radius restrictions were mentioned.
- Council chambers has a sound system and viewing screen.

Necessary Changes to Achieve Compliance with Legislation

- Cluttered hallways are not accessible
- Check the Health & Safety Act and the Fire Code to ensure compliance
 - First aid kit needs to be accessible
 - Fire extinguisher needs to be lowered
 - Make sure exits are safe
 - Halls need to be free of items (chairs/boxes)
- Exterior ramp to main door needs a height-compliant hand rail.
- Access to the automatic door openers needs to be unrestricted: move plants and chairs away from the button.
- Accessible parking is not currently in a suitable location. Suggest moving on the other side of the main door ramp.
- Accessible service counter: suggest split level.

Accessibility Things to Consider when Planning the Renovation

- Lighting could be better; LED lighting would be more economical and provide better lighting
- Current flooring in work area could pose a tripping hazard.
- Hallways are narrow.
- Rooms are small and crowded with furniture.
- Reception area could be larger and have visual contrast (colours).
- Automatic door opener on Council Chambers door to outside.
- Consider an addition for Council Chambers/universal washroom. This is potentially also more cost effective.
- Lever door handles instead of knobs.
- Location of the municipal building was discussed. It is in a rural location, but there is limited opportunity to improve this. One thought would be a satellite office in a more accessible location available on predetermined dates/times.
- Relocate server room (The door was closed when the committee was touring the building so we could all pass by. This caused overheating and we were unable to have a demonstration of the audio-visual features of the Council Chambers.)

- Automatic entry door (such as grocery store doors) This would be more reliable than the automatic door opener buttons. It was mentioned that children often play with the buttons and it is easy for the motors to burn out with repeated, frequent use.
- Vertical bar actuator allows the door to be operated by a hand/arm or a crutch,



cane, or wheelchair footrest.

The Committee members then relocated to the Dundalk Arena at 550 Main Street in Dundalk, ON.

Site Visit Dundalk Arena

Positive Feedback

- Snow storage is away from accessible parking or access routes
- Flooring is tactile
- Location for lift installation works well
- Plan for second floor is very open

Necessary Changes to Achieve Compliance with Legislation

- Accessible door opener worked exiting the building, but not entering the building
- Concession counter needs to have part of it be an accessible height

Accessibility Things to Consider when Planning the Renovation

- Accessible viewing area: The inside area that overlooks the ice surface that has two steps up on either side, a four-foot wide area with a bench and metal railings could be modified to meet requirements:
 - Ramp on one side with 1/12 slope and proper height hand rail
 - Expand the width of the viewing area to 5' 6"
 - 5' 6" turning radius achieved by a seat that raises like on a bus
- Sledge-friendly ice surface
- Stick storage zone in change rooms across from change room doors helps to maintain clear paths of travel and reduces trip hazards
- Accessible change rooms
- Consider looking at the Walkerton arena renovation as it has some features that were done well.

Bathrooms on the Main Level

- Faucets: automatic on/off or have lever handles
- Insulate the pipes to prevent burning
- Lower coat hooks, soap dispensers and paper towel holders (automatic dispensers are great)
- External change table has limited privacy
- Grab bar near urinals in men's washroom; ladies' washroom could have a raise/lower grab bar on the right-hand side (when sitting) of the toilet

Additional Information

Here is a link to [Guidelines for Barrier-Free Design of Ontario Government Facilities](#) provided by the Province of Ontario. This document was created in 2014, so will not include any changes made since that time.

[Grey County's draft checklist for site plan accessibility](#) also has some things to consider

[City of Ottawa's Design Guidelines](#)

The meeting adjourned informally at 12:40 PM.

Dwight Burley, Chair