

Accessibility Advisory Committee July 24, 2018 – 1:30 PM

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

Present: Chair Dwight Burley, Christina Schnell, Andrew Edgcumbe, David Mollison

Regrets: Tara Turnbull and Catherine Scholtz

Staff

Present: Rob Hatten, Communications Manager; Heather Morrison, Clerk; Jacquelyn Morrison, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator; Savanna Myers, Manager of Economic Development; and Joel Meier, GIS specialist

Municipal

Representatives: Wendi Hunter, Township of Georgian Bluffs; Margaret Wilton-Siegel, Municipality of Meaford; Cassidy Payne, Municipality of Meaford; and Sarah Traynor, The Town of The Blue Mountains

Call to Order

Chair Burley called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

Each individual present introduced themselves to the group.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Reports

CAOR-AAC-14-18 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Rob Hatten reported that Grey County's Multi-Year plan has lapsed and a new plan is required. He highlighted the changes made to the Draft Multi-Year Plan based on the Committee's previous comments, including adding a mission statement, the goal to make Grey Roots more accessible, to ensure digital media is fully accessible, to keep

Employment Standards and policies up-to-date, and to consider opportunities to make affordable and accessible transportation available in Grey County.

Discussion regarding the accessibility of the exterior of the Grey County building occurred, particularly regarding the parking lot. It was noted that the parking lot was designed well and that the ramps are helpful.

The Committee commented on the difficulty some people have with traditional accessible door opener buttons. Other options for making doors accessible were discussed, including large buttons that extend to the ground, automatic doors, and motion sensors.

AAC03-18 Moved by: David Mollison Seconded by: Christina Schnell

That report CAOR-AAC-14-18 be received and that the draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan: 2018-2022 be endorsed; and

That staff begin to implement the recommendations contained within the strategy.

Carried

St. Vincent Trail Update

Rob Hatten informed the Committee that the St. Vincent Trail is substantially complete. The project focused on improving the surface slope and surface materials. It was noted that the work this year was completed by a new contractor. Currently, there are only minor touch-ups required. Grey Sauble Conservation Authority is working to improve the entrance gate.

Mr. Hatten suggested that the Committee tour the trail at a future meeting.

Economic Development Website Review

Savanna Myers provided a preview of the economic development website, Made in Grey (www.madeingrey.ca). The goal of the website is to be a comprehensive site for economic development in the region. A soft launch of the website occurred recently. The official launch will be on September 5, 2018.

Ms. Myers noted that the people who are looking for development opportunities are just now discovering Canada, and the key industry information provides investors with information on what Grey County has to offer.

Rob Hatten provided a demonstration of the website. He noted the features to make the website accessible. The website design is engaging and easy to navigate for users. Mr. Hatten encouraged members to explore the website more and provide feedback to him

before the official launch date.

Ms. Myers noted that a business directory for all of Grey County is being completed and will be added to the website. The individual municipalities will have access to update the site. All municipalities will be encouraged to link the Made in Grey website on their municipal websites.

Ms. Myers left the meeting.

Mapping/GIS Website Review

Joel Meier reviewed the mapping/GIS website (maps.grey.ca). He noted the accessibility functions of the website, including the text, navigation, contrast, and search. He provided information on the different maps and applications available on the website. He noted the open data page and public images that can be downloaded. He highlighted the “About” page, “Contact” page, and “Help” page. Mr. Meier noted the new GIS newsletter.

Discussion occurred regarding the databases used to pull data for the maps. Some other mapping applications may have different data that they pull from. For example, the GIS site had streets included that are missing from google maps.

The Committee suggested having an accessibility map to show what locations in Grey County are accessible. Mr. Meier noted that there is a project to create a map of accessible trails, which is in the very early stages of development. Rob Hatten advised that the new tourism waterfall map notes the accessible waterfalls in Grey County.

Mr. Hatten encouraged the Committee to review and test the mapping/GIS website and provide any comments back to him.

Joel Meier left the meeting

Accessibility Grant Opportunity

Rob Hatten advised that the Enabling Accessibility Fund is currently taking grant applications, which are due on July 26th. He noted the need for an assisted listening system in Council Chambers and indicated that he will submit an application for one.

Margaret Wilton-Siegel advised that Meaford will also be submitting an application for a project. Meaford has received funding for the last four years.

Mr. Hatten noted that he will be seeking feedback from the senior management team on what accessibility projects may benefit the County. He intends to bring these options back to the Committee to decide what projects should be a priority.

Other Business

Margaret Wilton-Siegel advised that Meaford is in the process of developing a Specialized Transit Policy. She is seeking feedback from the Committee regarding eligibility and how to make the application easier for people, specifically relating to documentation. The Committee members are to send their feedback to Rob Hatten.

Mr. Hatten noted that the Committee term is coming to an end soon. He asked that any members who are interested in applying for the Committee again to email him.

Next Meeting Dates

To be determined at the call of the Chair.

On motion by David Mollison and Christina Schnell, the meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Dwight Burley, Chair