



TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 21, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

FreeSchools World Literacy Community Room and by Videoconference
Collingwood Public Library, First Floor, 55 Ste. Marie Street, Collingwood

Members Present: Heather Grasman
Kathryn Bloomfield
Gina Northcott
Leslie Bolt
Casey Morrison
Lana Roman

Members Absent: Hannah Keenie

Staff Present: Jenny Haines, Administrative Coordinator
Jennifer Parker, Manager of Culture and Events
Elaine Kelly, Coordinator, Community Engagement and Learning
Service
Sandy Falcon, Community Transportation Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Chair Bolt called the Accessibility Advisory Committee to order at 2:04 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

AAC-015-2024

Moved by: Lana Roman

Seconded by: Heather Grasman

THAT the content of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting agenda for November 21, 2024, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None.

4. Adoption of Minutes

AAC-016-2024

Moved by: Kathryn Bloomfield

Seconded by: Casey Morrison

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee held on October 17, 2024 be adopted as presented and forwarded to Council for receipt at its next regular meeting.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

Manager Parker updated the Committee on the status of the website feedback form update; the Town’s website refresh; and the status of obtaining rights to showcase the movie “Out of My Mind” in conjunction with National AccessAbility Week.

6. Deputations

None.

7. Reports

7.1 Centennial Aquatic Centre Pool Lift

Manager Parker provided the Committee with an update on the Pool Lift at Centennial Aquatic Centre and confirmed that the lift has been operational since August. Manager Parker noted that this was brought forward not only to provide the Committee with an update on a concern or a barrier experienced by a resident, but as a learning opportunity moving forward regarding the best way to ensure effective communication when something is not operational or a barrier is in place.

8. Other Business

8.1 Multi-Year Strategic Plan Areas of Focus

Transportation

Manager Parker briefed the Committee on a motion put forward by Councillor Potts at the November 4, 2024 Council meeting and recommendation that there be an increase in the hours of service for both conventional and specialized transit. Manager Parker confirmed that Council has directed Staff to include the increased transit hours in the 2025 budget.

Coordinator Falcon confirmed that although the 2025 budget has not yet been approved, she is taking the direction of Council to consider all options regarding the extension of operating hours for all transportation services the Town provides.

Coordinator Falcon then reviewed responses received from the Accessible Taxi Service Survey and answered questions from the Committee regarding how Staff will be communicating any updates or changes to transit services in Town.

Committee members discussed the services provided by Wasaga Beach City Taxi and Member Morrison confirmed that he would confirm if their services extend into Collingwood.

Manager Parker noted correspondence submitted to Council from Paul Ireland on behalf of the 'Advocate For Residents of Collingwood with Disabilities' community group. Reminding the Committee that they are guided by the AODA to make recommendations to Council as they relate to accessibility. The Committee concurred to have Paul Ireland attend an upcoming meeting and provide the Committee with a clear understanding of the groups concerns and requests as it relates to transportation. Member Morrison confirmed that he would coordinate the invitation for Mr. Ireland to attend an upcoming meeting.

Communication

Manager Parker confirmed that Staff members with permissions to create content on the Town's website attended a website training session focused on how best structure information on the website to minimize user frustration in website navigation; and how to organize webpages so that the format is consistent on every page.

Public Spaces

Manager Parker noted that Staff are transitioning over into winter maintenance and acknowledged that there can be barriers created when there is snow.

Multi-Year Strategic Plan (Review of Mission and Vision)

Manager Parker provided the Committee with a review of the 2020-2025 strategic multi-year accessibility plan commitment statement and asked the Committee members to think about Collingwood as a fully accessible community and what that would look and feel like. As a take away, Manager Parker asked members to consider two primary goals of the Committee that would assist in guiding the Plan forward. Committee members worked together and shared their thoughts and ideas. Manager Parker confirmed she would use the feedback received from the Committee to create a commitment statement for Committee to consider as part of the vision and mission for the new Plan.

8.2 Community Engagement / Awareness

Manager Parker noted that Tuesday, December 3, 2024 is International Day of Persons with Disabilities and looked to the Committee for their feedback on ways to bring awareness to the day. Manager Parker confirmed that she would create a media release to honour the day and that she would share with Committee for their consideration and approval.

8.3 Town Projects

Nil.

8.4 Collaboration & Partnerships

Manager Parker noted that the Children Treatment Network has released their holiday activity calendar.

8.5 Other Business

Manager Parker thanked Committee members who attended Coffee with Council on November 20th and noted that Council has considered the position of an Accessibility Coordinator in the first round of budget considerations.

9. Correspondence

Manager Parker confirmed that the letter to Council from Paul Ireland was discussed earlier on the agenda.

Manager Parker noted the 'Improving accessible customer service standards — 2024 initial recommendations report' and confirmed that the Ministry is updating different standards under the AODA and that she provided Committee with a link to the report in full for their information only.

10. Public Delegation(s) (Maximum 5 Minutes per Delegation)

None.

11. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Coordinator Haines thanked Chair Bolt and Vice-Chair Grasman for their efforts as Chair and Vice-Chair over the past year. Coordinator Haines reviewed the election process and called for nominations for the position of Chair. Nominations were brought forward for Lana Roman. Coordinator Haines called a second time for nominations for the position of Chair. There being no other nominations for the position of Chair, Coordinator Haines closed the election. Lana Roman accepted the nomination and was therefore acclaimed as Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Coordinator Haines called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Nominations were brought forward for Gina Northcott. Coordinator Haines called for nominations a second time. There being no other nominations for the position of Vice-Chair, Coordinator Haines closed the election. Gina Northcott accepted

the nomination and was therefore acclaimed as Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will take place on Thursday, January 23, 2025, commencing at 2:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment

Moved by: Member Grasman

THAT the meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be hereby adjourned at 3:38 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Chair