



TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 20, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

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

Members Present: Lana Roman, Chair
Heather Grasman
Kathryn Bloomfield
Leslie Bolt
Hannah Keenie
Casey Morrison

Members Absent: Gina Northcott, Vice-Chair

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Roman called the Accessibility Advisory Committee to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

AAC-004-2025

Moved by: Kathryn Bloomfield

Seconded by: Heather Grasman

THAT the content of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting agenda for Thursday, March 20, 2025, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Chair Roman noted that she will be presenting the deputation listed under agenda Item 6.1. and Member Bloomfield confirmed she would assume the role of Chair at that time.

4. Adoption of Minutes

AAC-005-2025

Moved by: Heather Grasman

Seconded by: Casey Morrison

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee held on February 20, 2025 be adopted as presented and forwarded to Council for receipt at its next regular meeting.

CARRIED**5. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting****5.1 Letter of Response - Transportation**

Manager Parker confirmed that the draft letter to Mr. Paul Ireland was provided to the Committee in advance of the meeting. Manager Parker looked to the Committee for endorsement of the letter as presented or for suggested updates as the Committee deem necessary.

AAC-006-2025

Moved by: Lana Roman

Seconded by: Leslie Bolt

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee endorse the letter addressed to Mr. Paul Ireland in response to his deputation at the January 23, 2025 Committee meeting as presented.

CARRIED**6. Deputations****6.1 Inclusive Recreation - Lana Roman**

Member Bloomfield assumed the role of Chair at this time.

Lana Roman and Sarah Hopkins provided the Committee with an overview of their Inclusive Recreation presentation noting the programs mission, their educational qualifications and a review of the significant barriers that children face when it comes to accessing recreational or sports programs.

Lana Roman noted the need for formal training and certification for Inclusive Recreation and outlined how the course will assist in addressing the current gaps and provide leaders the skills they need to create inclusive, supportive, and engaging environments for children of all abilities.

Lana Roman provided the Committee with an overview of the course noting the benefits of recreational programs, the importance of inclusion,

and potential barriers to participation. Lana Roman reviewed case studies which identify the importance of promoting participation, diversity and inclusion and concluded noting that by fostering a supportive and welcoming environment, every child, regardless of their abilities can benefit from recreational activities.

Lana Roman and Sarah Hopkins then looked to the Committee for their thoughts and feedback regarding the project and asked if Committee members see the merit or the value in a course of this nature.

Members of the Committee spoke noting that the quality of the presentation and value of the information provided. Members of the Committee shared their personal experience noting the limited options for recreational activities when they were younger and that they would have found this training beneficial growing up. Members noted the importance of inclusion and how children with disabilities can be overlooked or sidetracked when it comes to recreational activity options and that having well-run inclusive programs can take pressure off caregivers and parents.

Lana Roman thanked the Committee for their feedback and Sarah Hopkins noted the importance of having proper training as there are currently no certifications dedicated to running Inclusive Recreation programs.

Member of the Committee noted that Council should be made aware of this program and that Lana and Sarah should consider presenting this to the local YMCA.

Sarah Hopkins left the meeting at this time and Lana Roman resumed the role of Chair.

7. Reports

None.

8. Other Business

8.1 Update on Committee Recruitment

Coordinator Haines noted that at the last meeting of Council a by-law was passed welcoming Kelly Allen as the new member of the Committee. Coordinator Haines confirmed that committee member recruitment is still open and information on how to apply can be found on the Town's website.

Coordinator Haines noted that the membership terms for Member Bolt and Member Keenie have come to an end and that this was their last meeting. Manager Parker and members of the Committee thanked them both for their commitment and dedication over the years.

8.2 Multi-Year Strategic Plan Areas of Focus

Transportation - Coordinator Falcon update on TransitPLUS Data and application feedback

Coordinator Falcon provided the Committee with an update on TransitPLUS data noting the number of rides in 2024 was 12,900 rides and that 612 rides were rejected. Coordinator Falcon noted that rejected rides are rides that are booked and cancelled sharing that the data does not provide the reason why the ride was cancelled. Coordinator Falcon explained that she had spoken with the software developer and had asked if the reason rides were rejected could be obtained to better provide more accurate data for Staff to review.

Coordinator Falcon answered questions from the Committee regarding clarification on whether the software developer could assist in filtering out the reason rides were rejected; if Staff are considering the addition of another vehicle; if Staff feel the data provided in 2024 justifies the need to invest in a third vehicle; if the data depicts what time of day the rejected rides are highest; and if the Town borrowed an additional vehicle from the Town of Wasaga for the entire year of 2024?

The Committee discussed adding the data and statistics presented by Coordinator Falcon to the letter being sent to Mr. Paul Ireland. Manager Parker confirmed that she could update the letter adding the data prior to the concluding paragraph.

Coordinator Falcon provided the Committee with an update on the application that is currently required to register for TransitPLUS and confirmed that she is reviewing various applications from different regions to compare and ensure best practice taking into account concerns raised by the Committee.

Communication

There was no update provided at this time.

Public Spaces - Collingwood Museum Renovation

Manager Parker provided the Committee with an overview of the Collingwood Museum's Interior Renovation plan and design development noting that the goal is to create a quiet meeting space and three gender neutral washrooms with one being fully accessible.

Manager Parker looked to the Committee for their feedback and thoughts on the layout and design which could be shared with the architect and design team.

The Committee brought forward comments regarding:

- if the location of the adult change table is a permanent location
- if the washroom doors could be switched to open toward the sink

- that the design of all three washrooms was awkward with respect to the direction that the door opens
- if consideration has been made to use sliding doors
- importance that the change table is low enough that someone in a wheelchair could use/reach
- that the table in the resource room is accessible for people in mobility devices to use

Benches in Town

Manager Parker confirmed that a comment was brought forward regarding the need for more benches around the Town, specifically downtown and on the trails. Manager Parker noted that she could provided the Committee with an inventory of benches in the Town for review.

AAC-007-2025

Moved by: Kathryn Bloomfield

Seconded by: Heather Grasman

THAT Manager Parker update the letter endorsed by the Accessibility Advisory Committee addressed to Mr. Paul Ireland in response to his deputation at the January 23, 2025 meeting to include the statistics presented regarding the number of rejected rides in 2024.

CARRIED

8.3 Community Engagement / Awareness

Manager Parker briefed the Committee on the Simcoe County initiative #ITStarts noting that the Town raised a flag in support of the campaign and that members of Council shared their #ITStarts cards at the most recent Council meeting.

Coordinator Kelly noted that the Library partnered with E3 on a kind-word campaign having a tree in the art-walk area of the Library which people could decorate with kind words. Coordinator Kelly noted that the Library hosted a community event in support of #ITStarts where speakers shared individual stories on barriers to inclusivity that they have faced and that the Library will be hosting an inclusive story time tomorrow followed by a film.

Addition: Update on Movie Screening Event "Out Of My Mind"

Manager Parker confirmed that she was able to obtain licensing rights to screen the movie "Out Of My Mind" and looked to the Committee for their feedback on hosting two separate showings, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, at the Simcoe Street Theatre on May 28 which is in the middle of National AccessAbility Awareness Week.

Manager Parker noted that the fee would be \$425. Coordinator Kelly noted that she would see if the movie could be obtained through the Library's licensing.

The Committee discussed accessibility concerns with the Simcoe Street Theatre; the number of wheelchair spaces at the Theatre and if consideration could be made to use Community Rooms B & C. The Committee discussed having information booths at the entrance of the movie to welcome patrons and provide information. The Committee discussed the option to invite school groups for the daytime screening and approval to use the Committee's budget to screen the movie.

AAC-008-2025

Moved by: Lana Roman

Seconded by: Kathryn Bloomfield

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee direct Staff to use the Committee's budget in the amount of \$425 to use to obtain the rights to screen the movie "Out Of My Mind" during National AccessAbility Awareness Week 2025.

CARRIED

8.4 Town Projects

Manager Parker noted that an email was circulated with request for participants to join the Community Climate Action Plan.

8.5 Collaboration & Partnerships

None.

8.6 Other Business

None.

9. Correspondence

None.

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

None.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will take place on Thursday, April 17, 2025, commencing at 2:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

Moved by: Member Morrison

THAT the meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be hereby adjourned at 3:36 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Chair