



Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Friday, February 23, 2024

Time: 10:30 am

Location: Walkerton Fire Hall

510 Napier Street East, Walkerton, Ontario

Members Present Gregory J. McLean, Chairperson
Tom Wingfield
Suzanne Wingfield
Maryanne Buehlow
Tim Malo

Members Absent Marion Last
Joseph Martel

Staff Present Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer
Dalton Stone, Municipal Services Coordinator

Guests Present Wayne Poechman
Brian Folmer
Jeff Wilhelm
Mary Jane Bushell

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Call to Order and Acceptance of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chairperson McLean.

Motion:

Moved by: Maryanne Buehlow

Seconded by: Tom Wingfield

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee hereby approves the agenda for the meeting on February 23, 2024 as presented.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

4. Adoption of the Minutes

4.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes - November 24, 2023

Some members of the Committee did not approve of the language of item 6.2 of the previous minutes. The Committee members believed that the item should have been noted as an information item, and that the Committee did not take the item to a vote.

Motion:

Moved by: Tom Wingfield

Seconded by: Suzanne Wingfield

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee hereby approve the minutes from November 24, 2023 as presented.

Carried

5. Delegations

5.1 Wayne Poechman - Walkerton & District Optimist Club

Brian Folmer and Wayne Poechman, on behalf of the Walkerton & District Optimist Club, provided a brief overview of the second phase of the Optimist Park located at the Walkerton Arena. The speakers noted that the Municipality of Brockton was successful with an accessibility grant and the Optimist Club had allocated additional funds. Mr. Folmer and Mr. Poechman then thanked the Accessibility Committee for the work they have been doing.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

The Committee noted that the only business arriving from the previous minutes has already been addressed at item 3.1 of this agenda.

7. Correspondence

8. Old Business/Ongoing Projects

8.1 2024 Municipal Budget

The Committee once again noted that this item had already been addressed earlier in the meeting.

8.2 Downtown Business Thank-You Notes

The Committee was made aware that Chairperson McLean and Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services visited downtown businesses and provided them with thank you cards for their assistance with moving sidewalk signs and helping to create a more accessible downtown. Several members of the Committee noted that businesses were quick to resolve this issue and some businesses have asked Committee members if current signs were acceptable. Further discussion occurred with members of the public about the process of communicating issues with businesses and the importance of educating the public about accessibility.

8.3 Accessible Parking Space Update

After a brief update about the project was read to the Committee, the Committee asked what the final decision was regarding the parking configuration. Sonya Watson stated that she believed that the decision was to install the largest type of accessible parking space, directly in front of the post office doors, and it would be one parking space. Members of the public suggested that the Municipality of Brockton ensure that there is a strong social media message once this project is completed.

8.4 Enabling Accessibility Grant - Joint Proposal with West Grey for Improvements to the Elmwood Community Centre

Sonya Watson advised the Committee that the Municipality of West Grey was not prepared to partner with the Municipality of Brockton on an application for improvements to the Elmwood Community Centre. The Committee asked Sonya Watson if the Committee could send correspondence to the Municipality of West Grey regarding their decision on this matter. Sonya Watson confirmed that the Committee could send a letter if it wishes to do so.

Motion:

Moved by: Tim Malo

Seconded by: Maryanne Buehlow

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee send a letter to the Municipality of West Grey advocating the importance of accessibility, its disappointment in West Grey’s decision, and the Committee’s willingness to work with West Grey in the future.

Carried

8.5 Downtown Sidewalks

Sonya Watson stated that the grant application was submitted on February 20, 2024 and staff expect to hear the results in April of 2024.

9. New Business

9.1 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Achievements

Chairperson McLean read the background of the attached report to the Committee, and further stated that the Committee would play a strong role in this process. Sonya Watson noted that this would be a topic that will likely be a standing item on future agendas. Sonya Watson responded to an inquiry from the Committee on legal requirements to make buildings accessible, advising that all new builds and new renovations must be accessible.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for March 22, 2024 at the Municipal Office. The Committee discussed alternative meeting days of the week that may be preferable to Fridays. Some discussion continued about hosting future meetings on Tuesdays, but no formal decision was made by the Committee.

11. Adjournment

Motion:

Moved by: Tim Malo

Seconded by: Tom Wingfield

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee hereby adjourn at 11:23 a.m. to meet again on March 22, 2024 at the Municipal Office.

Carried