



Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Friday, October 25, 2024 at 10:00 am

Victoria Jubilee Hall, 111 Jackson Street South, Walkerton ON N0G 2V0

Members Present: Greg McLean, Chairperson
Maryanne Buehlow
Marion Last
Tim Malo
Joseph Martel
Suzanne Wingfield
Tom Wingfield

Staff Present: Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)

Guests Present: Carol Patterson

1. Call to Order and Acceptance of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Resolution:

Moved by: Marion Last

Seconded by: Tim Malo

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee hereby approve the agenda for the meeting on October 25, 2024 as presented.

Carried.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

3. Adoption of the Minutes

3.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - August 30 2024

The Committee confirmed support for putting the vision statement at the beginning of the Agenda every time.

Resolution:

Moved by: Maryanne Buehlow

Seconded by: Tim Malo

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee hereby approve the minutes from August 30, 2024 as presented.

Carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Accessibility Awareness Event with Julie Sawchuk Debrief

The Committee commented on how informative, engaging and inspiring the presentation by Julie Sawchuk was.

The Committee discussed access issues at the Walkerton Little Royal Fair and the Committee instructed Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) to send an email directly to Mike Dupuis as the representative from that organization.

Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) provided the Committee with an update on the actions that have already been taken to make the changes proposed by Julie Sawchuk to make the Walkerton Community Centre more accessible.

The Committee discussed the fact that there were no downtown business owners at the event and described strategies that could be used to increase accessibility awareness for business owners.

Action: The Committee directed Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) to organize more social media posts informing businesses to limit the number of signs and products displayed on the sidewalk through the winter months.

It was noted that businesses may be more receptive to making changes if there were financial incentives in the form of grant funding.

5. Correspondence

6. Old Business/Ongoing Projects

6.1 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

The Committee referred to the Vision Statement and discussed strategies to adopt in the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The Committee identified six broad categories or initiatives to include in the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

1. Education

The Committee discussed encouraging education and collaboration through improved funding and attention in the Community Improvement Plan, and focusing on training and education for downtown businesses.

2. Collaboration

The Committee emphasized increased collaboration with service clubs and volunteer groups, pointing to the success of the collaboration with the Optimist Club in developing the accessible playground at the Walkerton Community Centre.

3. Accessibility Ambassador Program

The Committee brainstormed a possible Accessibility Ambassador Program and how the Program could work to create greater accessibility awareness throughout the community.

4. Accessibility Event

The Committee expressed support for organizing some kind of accessibility event annually.

5. Access Now

The Committee referred to the Access Now website and supported including more information about Brockton sites. The greater visibility may help motivate Committee members to make accessibility improvement.

6. Stop Gap

It was noted that the adoption and promotion of the Stop Gap program would also help to improve accessibility throughout the downtown.

6.2 2025 Projects and Budgets

The Committee expressed support for adding information in the Access Now site as it could be a full committee effort.

The Committee directed Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) to provide the link to the Access Now site.

The Committee approved the recommended funding in the Council budget.

7. New Business

7.1 2025 Meeting Dates

Resolution:

Moved by: Tim Malo

Seconded by: Suzanne Wingfield

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee meet at 10:00 a.m. on the following dates during the 2025 calendar year:

- Friday, February 28, 2025
- Friday, March 28, 2025
- Friday, April 25, 2025
- Friday, May 30, 2025
- Friday, June 27, 2025
- Friday, August 29, 2025
- Friday, September 26, 2025
- Friday, October 24, 2025
- Friday, November 28, 2025

Carried.

7.2 Downtown Signage

The Committee discussed strategies to improve the use of signage downtown and debated which approach was most appropriate.

The Committee identified an area of the trail that required repair. The Committee also discussed possible additional accessible parking at the Sacred Heart Church along Jane Street.

The Committee directed Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) to advertise the additional spot in the Brockton Buzz for public feedback.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for November 29, 2024.

9. Adjournment

Resolution:

Moved by: Marion Last

Seconded by: Maryanne Buehlow

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee hereby adjourn at 11:30 p.m. to meet again on November 29, 2024.

Carried.