



## **Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 1:00 p.m.  
West Thunder Community Centre**

**1. Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting 06-2024**

Chair: Samantha Zrobin

**2. Members**

Nicole Arapov, Parent to a Child with a Disability  
Ken Bjorn, Visually Impaired or Blind Representative  
John Duck, Senior with a Disability Representative  
John Gobeil, Developmental Disability Representative  
Todd Kennedy, Service Agency Representative  
Tara Lennox, Learning Disability Representative  
Samantha Zrobin, Brain Injury Representative

**3. Officials**

Scott Garner, Municipal Accessibility Specialist  
Crystal DePeuter, Council & Committee Clerk  
Flo-Ann Track, Council & Committee Clerk

**4. Guests**

Robert Tinsley, Citizen

**5. Welcome and Introductions 1:07 p.m.**

Meeting called to order and a roundtable of introductions to follow.

Chair Samantha Zrobin called the meeting to order, and a roundtable of introductions followed.

**6. Communication Process**

Council & Committee Clerk Flo-Ann Track provided an overview of the Committee' s communication process.

Tara Lennox agreed to manage the speaker's list.

**7. Disclosures**

None.

**8. Agenda Approval**

WITH respect to the October 9, 2024 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, we recommend that the Agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, to be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Tara Lennox

SECONDED BY: Ken Bjorn

WITH RESPECT to the October 9, 2024 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, we recommend that the Agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business be confirmed.

CARRIED

**9. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of Meeting 05-2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on September 11, 2024 to be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Ken Bjorn

SECONDED BY: Nicole Arapov

THAT the Minutes of Meeting 05-2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on September 11, 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED

**10. 2024 - 2029 Multi Year Accessibility Plan**

Purpose: Follow Up

At the June 24, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting Report 231-2024-City Manager's Office-Office of the City Clerk was presented and Council passed a motion to adopt the 2024 - 2029 Multi Year Accessibility Plan, subsequently ratified by City Council on July 15, 2024.

Document entitled 2024 - 2029 Multi Year Accessibility Plan attached.

Municipal Accessibility Specialist Scott Garner provided a detailed overview of the 2024-2029 Multi Year Accessibility Plan.

Discussion related to the 2024-2029 Multi Year Accessibility Plan included:

- The contributions of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- Community interest at both Open House events held at Live on the Waterfront.
- Updates to the contact page:
  - moved to front of the document
  - QR codes added.
- Issues identified with squished text will be address for the next print run.
- graphic designs on the Mayor and Chair message pages are picked up by electronic readers.
  - Administration will address this with the Designer for the next print run.
- Identified a need to increase awareness of the availability of beach wheelchairs for public use.
- Suggested updates for the List of Accessible Facilities:
  - change Victoria Inn to Superior Inn; and
  - add Castlegreen Community Centre.
- Identified a need to provide descriptions for the accessible playground equipment on-site, on the website, or through QR codes.

Quorum was lost during the discussion of the above noted item. The meeting continued as an Information Session.

The meeting recessed at 2:05 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:21 p.m.

## 11. **Invisible Disabilities Awareness Week 2024**

Purpose: Follow Up

At the September 11, 2024 meeting of the AAC, Members discussed opportunities to help raise awareness about invisible, hidden disabilities during Invisible Disabilities Awareness Week, recognized October 20 - 26, 2024.

Municipal Accessibility Specialist Scott Garner confirmed a ceremonial puck drop at the October 25 Thunderwolves game to highlight Invisible Disabilities Awareness Week 2024.

Tara Lennox and Ken Bjorn volunteered to participate.

Discussion included:

- possible table at the event to promote Invisible Disabilities Awareness and the Multi Year Accessibility Plan.
- Administration is continuing to research availability of a flag for Hidden Disabilities.
- Advocate for the adoption of a hidden disabilities' identification tag airport program, similar to Toronto's Pearson International Airport's program, through discussion with Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee and Thunder Bay International Airport.
  - advocate to other large organizations to adopt similar program, for example: Thunder Bay Regional Hospital.

## 12. **Roundtable of Accessibility Issues**

Members to report on accessibility issues encountered in the community.

Members reported the following accessibility issues encountered in the community.

A Member advised of upcoming activities related to National Disability Employment Month including:

- a proclamation;
- the lighting of Boulevard Dam and City Hall Fountain in purple; and
- October 23 event for businesses to learn more about inclusion.

A Member raised that cars using the entrance and exit to Victoriaville Parkade are going too fast and there is an increased risk for pedestrians to be hit

especially after 4:30 p.m. when the only way to go up and down is via the ramps. Administration to follow up.

Municipal Accessibility Specialist Scott Garner advised there is a need for increased awareness of the availability of listening devices for attendees of City Council Meetings and provided two examples of new signage for the Members to review.

Members provided feedback.

### **13. Working Group Updates**

A Member of the Built Environment Working Group asked if feedback has been received since the group met with the Norwest Community Health Centre's Accessibility Coordinator.

- to-date there has been no further communications.

### **14. 2024 Meeting Schedule**

Meetings of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be scheduled from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the following dates:

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Council & Committee Clerk Flo-Ann Track advised that the 2025 Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings will be held at the 55 Plus Centre. Dates to be provided with the November 13 agenda.

### **15. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.