

St. Thomas Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

**MINUTES
April 25, 2019**

Location: Senior's Centre
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Present: Ken Lizotte, Tracey Tiersma, Ken Moser, Cathy Topping, Deborah Herridge-Walters, Don Shaw, Lisa Kelly
Regrets: Councillor Stephen Peters, Graham Dart, Heather Crockett

8:30 a.m. The meeting convened with Cathy Topping, Chair, presiding.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

MINUTES

Motion by Don Shaw – Ken Moser:

THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on February 28, 2019 be confirmed.

Carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

2019 Budget

The Chair reported that there is \$3000 in the budget for the year.

Ontario Business Improvement Area Association

Ms. Kelly stated there are currently no updates. The last meeting occurred in Guelph where there was discussion on The Business of Accessibility Handbook which will be sent to all municipalities and made available on-line. Additionally, webinars would be offered through the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act's website.

Special Events

Upcoming events include: Respect Life Walk-a-Thon (April 27th), Wellkin Run for Children's Mental Wellness (June 1st), St. Anne's Community Festival (June 5 –8th), Father's Day Car Show (June 16th), and Nostalgia Nights (July 6th).

Site Plan Control

The Chair reported that Condos are being developed on the city's south end off of Park Avenue. Each unit has 2 parking spaces and there is also visitor's parking. She requested that there be 2 handicapped parking spots added to this lot; one of which would have adequate space for a van. A storage unit would be coming into the area as well which will have to be reviewed. Rogers is taking over the Royal Legion and will remove part of the parking lot. The Secretary for the Site Plan Control Committee has requested a back-up presence for the Chair in the event she cannot attend a meeting. An alternate would be discussed at our next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Scholarship Discussion

Postponed to next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

MAAC meetings

There was consensus among committee members that the location of the meeting is good. Concerns were expressed that because some of our members arrive by parallel transit they would not be able to attend evening meetings. The Chair would call Ms. Crockett to see if she has flexibility to attend our morning meetings.

Motion by Lisa Kelly – Ken Moser:

THAT: The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings remain at the Senior's Centre commencing at 8:30am.

Carried.

Accessibility Facility Audit

Location of audits were postponed until the next meeting. Transportation for committee members would have to be coordinated through Councillor Peters. The Administrative Assistant for Environmental Services would coordinate lunch. The Director of Parks, Recreation & Property Management and the Supervisor of Parks and Forestry would be in attendance. Committee members are to refer to the Audit list that was sent to members in February.

Transit Strategic Plan

Postponed until the next meeting.

Companion/Therapy Animals

The Chair stated that according to the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario companion/therapy animals were allowed if permission was given from the doctor. Number of licenses were determined by the City.

September Accessibility Open House

Open House would be held on Thursday, September 26th from 12-4pm. Preliminary work that needs to be done: Ms. Kelly to contact radio station for advertising options and Mr. Moser to contact newspaper for advertising options. Free advertising can also be done in the City newsletter. The Administrative Assistant for Environmental Services would create flyers and parallel transit advertising posters. Ms. Kelly would schedule gym rental at Senior Centre for event. Possible vendors include: Yurek's Pharmacy, Thumbs Up, T-shirt Junction, Victorian Order of Nurses, Canadian National Institute of the Blind, March of Dimes, and Home Health Care.

Motion by Ken Lizotte – Don Shaw:

THAT: The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair request the assistance of Councillor Joan Rymal in planning our Open House.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Deborah Herridge-Walters – Don Shaw:

THAT: This meeting be closed to deal with a personal matter about an identifiable individual at 8:56 a.m.

Carried.

OPEN SESSION

Motion by Ken Moser – Lisa Kelly:

THAT: We do now rise from Closed Session at 8:57a.m.

Carried.

Accessibility Issues

Mr. Shaw stated that vehicles had been blocking the sidewalk in some areas and the company moved the vehicles at his request.

The Chair reminded members that when members encounter establishments with accessibility issues, they are free to address them. It was further suggested that change happens when complaints are made, especially by those that are most affected by the issues. The Chair requested yellow paint on crosswalk sections.

Orthokinetic Studies

The members discussed orthokinetic studies pertaining to cross walks and the height at which the button is located. Mention was made of challenges at the corner of Elgin and Talbot St. as there is not enough time to get up to push the button, get safely back to mobility device and cross the intersection in a safe manner. Mr. Shaw will send photo and issue a formal complaint to Customer Service at City Hall.

Winter Mobility

The members discussed mobility challenges during the winter months. Because sidewalks not always clear of snow, accessing cross walk buttons can be challenging with little time to cross. Mr. Shaw suggested having city staff ride around a scooter with him to see the challenges first hand. Yurek's would loan a scooter out for this purpose.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on May 23rd 2019, commencing at 8:30a.m. at St. Thomas Senior's Centre.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Deborah Herridge-Walters – Don Shaw:

THAT: The committee adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Carried.


Signed, Chair, Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee


Date

