

St. Thomas Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

**MINUTES
June 27, 2019**

Location: Senior's Centre

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Present: Ken Lizotte, Tracey Tiersma, Cathy Topping, Deborah Herridge-Walters, Sheila Rodaway, Leslie McClure, Councillor Joan Rymal, Councillor Steve Peters, Matt Vriens – Manager of Roads & Transportation, Environmental Services.

Regrets: Lisa Kelly, Graham Dart, Ken Moser, Don Shaw

10:32 a.m. The meeting convened with Cathy Topping, Chair, presiding.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS

New members Sheila Rodaway and Leslie McClure were introduced and welcomed to the committee

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on April 25, 2019 have not been received.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

2019 Budget

Mrs. Topping requested that members accessing Parallel Transit services be paid an honorarium or compensated for bus rides to the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings and will write a letter of request to Council.

Paratransit passes for the Accessibility Site Audit have been approved to come out of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee budget at no expense to the committee members using the service.

Special Events

Upcoming events include:

Nostalgia Nights, Downtown Development Board – July 6, 2019

Senior's Picnic in the Park – July 10, 2019

75th Normandy Anniversary - July 21, 2019

Iron Horse Festival – August 15-18, 2019

St. Thomas Trails Open – September 14, 2019

Site Plan Control

Mrs. Topping reported site plans for Elgin Centre have not been received. The Back Alley site plan did not show accessible parking. With respect to the Flora Street parking lot there has been a request for 1 van and 1 accessible parking spots.

Bump outs for the outside patios on Talbot Street include the removal of one on-street parking spot. Councillor Rymal to reach out to the Director of Environmental Services to request MAAC have input into this Downtown Development Board initiative.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2019 City of St. Thomas Accessibility Plan

Motion by K. Moser – D. Herridge-Walters:

THAT: The 2019 Accessibility Plan to be approved by the committee

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Accessibility Facility Audit

The Annual Site Audit reports will be compiled and attached to a report to council.

Transit Strategic Plan

The Manager of Roads and Transportation shared background information of the Transit Strategic Plan and requested that any Ideas and suggestions be submitted for the City to provide to the project consultant.

Mrs. McClure provided written feedback. Mrs. Herridge-Walters explained the challenges of the required notice to book parallel transit which does not allow ease of use, nor is it inclusive. Mrs. Rodaway stated there are too many standing orders in comparison with the number of buses that are on the road which presents scheduling challenges. Suggestion made for an extra bus on Saturday. Members also commented that many times, the bus isn't full, but rides are not available.

The members discussed the routes and if they are organized in an efficient manner. The loop system was originally in place but is not conducive to the current grid of the city taking into consideration the City's growth and expansion. In particular, the infrastructure isn't in place for all new subdivisions.

The Manager of Roads and Transportation stated that the hub location was being discussed and the location of the transfer point. Additionally, the viability of purchasing a software application for the optimization of routes is being considered.

The members discussed a joint agreement between the City and Elgin County, particularly the surrounding area of Central Elgin. Elgin Manor was highlighted as a location requiring transit options. The Manager of Roads and Transportation did state that discussions were being planned with Central Elgin.

Members stated that the current cancellation policy is too stringent. Councillor Peters read the current cancellation policy, stating that it is quite lenient. Councillor Rymal suggested the consideration of a cancellation fee to deter frequent cancellations.

Councillor Peters commended the yellow paint at the transit stops and requested that sidewalk cuts be painted to enhance visibility. Mrs. McClure stated that some bus shelters are not accessible with a notation of the shelter at Holland and Elm Street. The members requested that curb cuts be at all bus shelter.

Councillor Rymal encouraged members to contact customer service to log specific sidewalk, crossing and road concerns

Accessibility Open House September 26th, 2019; 1-3pm

The member's discussed priorities and duties for the event:

- Notice to Senior Centre for set-up required 1 week prior to the event – Mrs. Topping to do

- Door prizes - Walmart, Shoppers Drug Mart, Yurek's Pharmacy, Giant Tiger and Superstore and submit receipts. Councillor Rymal to do
- Set-up of vendors: Yurek's Pharmacy, March of Dimes, Thumbs-Up, Health Unit VON and Red Cross contacted by various members. Secretary to inquire about a display by City of St. Thomas.
- Advertising complete. Councillor Rymal to request inclusion in Council Corner report, City website and Facebook page and ads for the St. Thomas Times Journal. Mr. Moser was taking care of media advertising in Coffee Chat and Senior's Centre newsletter) Mrs. Kelly had previously contacted MyFM.
- Committee requested secretary to create new flyers and print copies for distribution to members to post. Secretary will inquire about posters in the bus shelters.
- Mrs. Topping to provide Councillor Peters with a list of vendors in order to facilitate the set-up of the vendors.
- Secretary to get name tags from City Clerk.
- Councillor Rymal to check number of tickets for draw that are available.
- Mrs. Rodaway assist with door prizes.
- Various Members to greet those attending at the door.

Motion by D. Herridge-Walters – S. Rodaway:

THAT: The committee purchase gift certificates for door prizes

Carried.

NEXT MEETING

The open house will be held on September 26th, 2019 from 1-3 p.m. Members are to arrive at 12:00p.m.

The next meeting will be held on November 28th, 2019 commencing at 8:30a.m. at St. Thomas Senior's Centre.


ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councillor Peters – D. Herridge-Walters:

THAT: The committee adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Carried.


 Signed, Chair, Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee



Date