

# **St. Thomas Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting**

## **MINUTES May 28, 2015**

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**Location:** St. Thomas Seniors' Centre

**Time:** 9am

**Present:** Ed McLachlan, Councillor Joan Rymal, Ginny Chapman, Bernard Clarke, Cathy Topping, Dave White, David McNea

**Regrets:** Brent Rowden, Don Shaw, Lesley Buchanan

Meeting was called to order at 9 a.m.

### **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Motion by Cathy Topping, to adopt the minutes from the March 26, 2015, meeting, seconded by Joan Rymal. All in favour, CARRIED.

### **UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS**

1. City grant for usage of purchasing items throughout the year to assist accessibility within the City. The Committee received a copy of a letter received from the Treasury Department acknowledging the MAAC Committee has been accepted to receive a grant in the amount of \$3,000. There was some discussion as to what could be purchased but no decisions as of yet. The Committee did review a couple of pictures of accessible picnic tables and Ed was going to give copies to Ross Tucker for his input.
2. Audits for 2015. There was discussion on distributing the list of properties to be audited. Joan and Cathy chose their sites and Ed and Bernie were going to get together to arrange audits for the remaining sites.

### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

None

### **MUNICIPAL ACCESSIBILITY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

No report

### **ACCESSIBILITY PLAN**

Nothing New

### **SITE PLAN COMMITTEE**

### **SITE AUDIT REPORTS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Special Events  
Signage for accessible washrooms – Ed brought up the subject that during special events the placement/location of accessible washrooms is not clear to the public. It appears that individuals are having difficulty finding out where these washrooms are located. He has suggested that the Site Plan Committee ask for a "plan" to be posted for people to see where the washrooms are located.

Accessible parking – it was discussed that specialized events, Iron Horse, Ribfest etc. must have accessible parking. It was noted that Pinafore park has 30 accessible parking spots, however, only 20 of these spots have signs. Ed was going to speak to Ross Tucker.

2. Review of By-laws and regulations regarding Accessible parking – The Committee received an email from Ross Patrick outlining the guidelines and legislation for Accessible parking. They acknowledged this was very helpful information and would be reviewing it for future reference. Ed stated that he had contacted the City Police and was told that unless there is a by-law number stated right on the sign, the police could not ticket someone for parking illegally in an accessible parking spot. Dave White stated that the By-law number is printed right on their tickets and all they have to do is check it off. Joan Rymal was going to talk to Council and ask if the Police can do a blitz. It was also discussed that the existing by-law does not encompass private property. If this could be changed to include private property then Police would then have the authority to ticket.
3. Specialized Transit – Cathy Topping requested this addition to the Agenda. There have been some concerns expressed to her that residents are having difficulty getting rides booked. Cathy stated that in the past, there was a backup bus for the busy times and this appears to no longer be available. Dave White commented that this was stopped in 2011 by Council. Cathy had some written complaints from riders who were either having trouble getting through on the phone or could not get a booking because it was already full up. There was one case where the individual booked and the booking got lost. It was mentioned that if an individual has a problem, they could call to City Hall and speak to Ginny when it happens as it is easier to investigate at the time of the incident. There was also discussion about the fact that all City buses are now fully accessible. It was suggested that if someone has difficulty getting a booking with specialized transit, they could try to take the City bus. Cathy was going to encourage this.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 9 a.m

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Cathy Topping made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m., seconded by David McNea. Carried.

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Signed, Chair, Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

Date