
ATTENDING

- Chair, Councillor Jennifer Ingham
- Mayor Wendy Donovan
- Birgit Ellsner
- Alex Leblanc
- Elizabeth Ann Mills

ALSO ATTENDING:

- Barb Shaw, Communications & Special Projects Specialist
- Laura Morrison, Recording Secretary
- Interested members of the community

REGRETS:

- Meghan Swanburg

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Councillor Jen Ingham called the meeting to order at 4:36pm.

- 1. Approval of Agenda** **MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.**
CARRIED

No Acadia update.

- 2. Approval of the Minutes** **MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17, 2023, ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE BE APPROVED.**

CARRIED

One abstention – quorum achieved.

- MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 29, 2023, ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE BE APPROVED.**

CARRIED

3. Public Input

- Clayton Dauphinee, parents were wheelchair users. Proposed standards – need a focus on education, code and enforcement. Plain language needs to be used. Accessible and barrier free are not the same thing. Town Hall is not barrier free on first floor. Noted 31 concerns related to building code which was passed to the committee for review. Accessible parking by permit – who is checking the permit to see it is still valid, could be out of date. Different signage is required.

4. Comments from the Chair

- Councillor Ingham advised there was a Recreation Conference some of Town staff attended. Will request feedback from staff on the conference to share with the committee.
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion initiatives for the Town that could help overlap into this committee.
- Parks Engagement session 6pm this evening and Thursday evening.

5. Mobility Matters Proposal

- Discussion around some ideas on how best to raise awareness to able bodied persons on the challenges faced everyday by people with various disabilities.
- Consider having mobility devices available for people to experience.
- Invite those with lived experience to attend and share their experiences.
- Open to public
- Previously Councillors did a walk about but felt it was not enough.

- Sidewalks impassable by wheelchair. Difficult to access Highland or Gaspereau and navigate a joystick in streets where the paving is broken up.
- Goal is to raise awareness and avoid tokenism.
- Aim is to have something ready for the National Accessibility week May 25-June 1, 2024.

- **Action Item: Barb Shaw will take all the feedback discussed and come back to the committee with a plan.**

6. New (proposed) Built Environment Accessibility Standards Feedback

- Committee members were encouraged if not done so already to submit their own feedback on the proposed standards.
- Some members have done so already.
- Members agreed a committee submission should be made in the form of an overarching statement.
- Members shared some of the points they submitted and were asked to email the Clerk with points they wanted to include in the committee submission.
- Some of the key topics noted were:
 - Maintaining accessible sidewalks/temporary ground cover versus permanent ground cover.
 - Building Code should be plain language.
 - Changes to turning space for mobility devices.
 - 1st draft well done.
 - Duty to accommodate for landlords/avoid temporary housing.
 - Fell short on visual and hearing disabilities more of a focus on mobility.
 - Parking permits.
 - More thought should be given to more invisible disabilities.

Action Item: Members to email Town Clerk with their feedback for the standards. Special Projects Coordinator will review all the feedback and create a submission on behalf of the Committee.

7. Round Table

- Now have interpreters on speed dial who are ASL (American Sign Language) trained. Continue to work on braille business cards.
- A language app exists for tablets which can be used for ASL also.
- Access by Design plan (2nd version) was submitted to Council.
- Concrete landings for park benches not all level.

8. Next Meeting

- TBD – A date will be looked at once the action items have been addressed.

9. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 5:32pm.

**Approved at the February 2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting.
As recorded by Laura Morrison, Town Clerk.**