



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Meeting No. 22 Held Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.
Held at South Georgian Bay Community Health Centre Board Room,
45th Street & Ramblewood, Wasaga Beach**

ATTENDANCE: John Robbins, Vice Chair
Ruth Angel
Kim Lattimore
Frank Nunnaro
Mark Ruttan
Sandra Schwartz
Councillor Morley Bercovitch
Gerry Reinders, Manager, Facilities, Parks &
Recreation
Twyla Nicholson, Clerk

**REGRETS/
TELECONFERENCE:** Fred Heyduk, Chair
Michelle Heyduk, Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair, John Robbins, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST - None

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – October 24, 2013

Moved by M. Bercovitch, Seconded by F. Nunnaro
THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of October 24, 2013
be accepted, as presented.
CARRIED

Business Arising:

John reviewed a couple of items from the October 24th meeting:

- IAS Training – John and other members commented that the session went well; it was a great workshop; lots of good information

- Lion's Club Meeting – Alf Spencer, Accessibility Directorate of Ontario – quite engaging; however, it would have been good to see a daytime session with more opportunity for questions
- Accessible Chest Press: Gerry advised that the equipment has just been ordered; expect it to be installed in four to six weeks

4. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Kevin Lalonde, Director Public Works & Gerald Rue, Project Coordinator re Draft Bus Stop & Shelter Design Guidelines

As part of the Integrated Accessibility Standards, municipalities that provide transportation services shall consult with the Accessibility Advisory Committee in the development of accessible design criteria to be considered in the construction, renovation or replacement of bus stops and shelters.

Kevin provided background information on the transit system advising that in July 2008, the Town implemented the transit system as a pilot project. The transit system has been successful with currently 76,000 passengers per year.

The overall responsibility for the transit system has been transferred to Kevin at Public Works; Gerald looks after the day to day operations.

Staff is always looking at opportunities for improvement. The Design Guidelines provides a consistent approach to having bus stops created with accessibility in mind to eliminate barriers. The purpose of the guidelines is to provide staff with a set of suggested design criteria that should be considered when placing stops and shelters in the field in order to meet the accessibility requirements and meet the needs of the community.

Ruth asked if there was a way to make for a more comfortable ride for those people with a disability, specifically those in a wheelchair. Although busses are built with a standard suspension system, Kevin will review it to see if there are options to provide for a more comfortable ride.

In answer to a question from Fred, Kevin advised that they are looking into specialized transit similar to the Red Cross.

Fred questioned if there will be a transit link between Wasaga Beach and Barrie. Kevin advised that a Barrie link may be part of the bigger regional perspective.

Fred commented that as a resident of Wasaga Beach, he's happy with the service provided by the transit system.

Morley questioned if Kevin and his staff meet with the drivers. Kevin advised that the staff ride the buses and get feedback from the riders and talk with the drivers.

Kevin reviewed the future initiatives, to include the AODA review, services and technical requirements, route mapping optimization, GIS updating, transit stops and trails mapping, new shelters, enhancing the four and ten year forecast, additional fleet, joining professional associations, GPS tracking, signs, updating the website etc.

Frank suggested that the bus stops be located at the intersections, instead of mid-block stops, and ensure that there are curb cuts by the stops for easier access.

In answer to a question from Frank, Kevin advised that wheelchairs are strapped down in the buses; there are approximately 10 wheelchair riders a month.

Twyla asked Kevin for an update regarding the concern from staff at Waterside, on behalf of a resident that uses a wheelchair and rides the bus daily, indicating that there are no bus stops at the Collingwood hospital for the link bus, making it very difficult to get from the bus stop to the hospital. Kevin indicated that the Town of Collingwood is discussing options with the hospital.

John asked about landing pads; suggesting that they be in place at the stops. Kevin indicated that they are looking at having landing pads in place at all new stops, when the budget permits. John suggested that the back door of the bus should line up with the stops.

The group discussed the need for on-demand taxis in the future. Twyla suggested keeping the Sr. MLEO involved with discussions regarding on-demand taxis as the By-Law and Licensing Department deals with licensing buses and taxis. Kevin indicated they are looking at options.

Gerry thanked the staff at Public Works for its active transportation initiatives.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

6. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) Staff/Council Update

Twyla Nicholson, Clerk:

- Reviewed the Integrated Accessibility Standards (IAS) requirements for 2013; the Town is in compliance as of January 1st; the new website should be live by June
- Annual Progress Report has been submitted to Council

- IAS training was Nov 23rd and December 5th; the training went well; approximately 80% of the Town staff and volunteers have been trained. When new staff are hired/new volunteers will be provided with the Reference Manual to read and sign; all those provided manuals that did not take the training will be given another opportunity in 2015
- Working on 2014 Elections – will be completely accessible using internet/phone voting
- Kevin updated the Committee on the audible lights indicating that there are approximately four or five intersections still to be done; Shopper's Drug Mart intersections have had pedestrian heads installed
- Kevin advised that any accessibility concerns can be brought to his attention through Twyla

Gerry Reinders, Manager of Parks, Facilities and Recreation:

- Considering hiring a contract person for a five to six months to review trails for an e-map to be available; working with Public Works to align trails with transit stops
- Monitors installed at RecPlex and Arenas

Council Representative - Councillor Morley Bercovitch

- Wi-Fi hotspots available at Oakview Woods, Chamber of Commerce
- Short Film Festival at RecPlex
- Special Events Coordinator being replaced for maternity leave
- Building permits
- Snowman Mania
- Looking for volunteers for polar plunge
- Sledfest was very well organized and attended; Frank commented that he wanted to attend the event; however, there were too many barriers for wheelchairs so he wasn't able to attend; eliminating these barriers need to be considered at future events

b) Outreach Program to Primary Schools in Wasaga Beach

Kim and Sandra provided an update on the outreach program to the primary schools.

- They have contacted all schools in the area; schools are excited about the initiative and suggested grade 2 classes be involved; it is also a community component to the curriculum; spring session/April
- The program will start out talking about accessibility; ask Fred to attend with Trump, do sensitivity training with the kids; have the kids as questions

- Will contact Breaking Down Barriers (Catherine) for ideas for the sensitivity training
- Contact the Student Council
- Ruth and Michelle will assist
- Ask the AODA for giveaways
- Do a coloring contest; Fred will contact the Hearing Society for coloring books

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Regional Accessibility Fair - The Clerk will keep the Committee updated on any upcoming activities.
- Outreach Program (sensitivity awareness, service dogs, etc) to Primary Schools in Wasaga Beach

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Both the Chair and Vice Chair will be absent. The Committee agreed to cancel the February meeting.

The next meeting is March 27, 2014.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.