

## Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 6, 2022 @ 2:30 PM

Zoom online

# Minutes

### Present:

Councillor Vicki Amirault, Chair  
Wayne Huskins,  
Tyler Roy,  
Mackenzie Colp,  
Janine Stewart,  
Kelly Oxner,  
Elise Johnston, Accessibility Coordinator, Region of Queens,  
Serri Naugle, ASL interpreter from Society for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

**Regrets:** Councillor Ralph Gidney, Mike MacLeod

Preliminary chat: Elise asked Wayne what he thought about a new and growing practice of describing visuals during digital meeting platforms for people who couldn't see. While some tv shows and movies have 'Described Video', it is supporting the story, whereas on a zoom call for example, does it matter what somebody looks like? Wayne confirmed that in fact, no, if it doesn't add to the content of the discussion, he really doesn't need extra information.

**1.0 Call to Order** 2:33 pm

**2.0 Changes/Approval Of Agenda**

**It was moved by Wayne and seconded by Tyler that the Agenda be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**3.0 Approval Of Minutes** of October 14, 2021

**It was moved by Vicki and seconded by Janine that the Minutes be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**4.0 Presentations:** None

**5.0 Planning:**

5.1 How to offer more to the public as a resource in all categories?

- Built Environment – catch people through Development & Building permits, Contractors, Home Support and Pharmacies.

The municipal Development Officer and the Building Inspectors will encourage residents to contact the Accessibility Coordinator for information. As listed in the Municipal Accessibility Plan, applications with accessibility issues (ramps or washroom renovations for example) will be counted as an item on the monthly reporting. A list of things to consider for 'aging in place' or adaptable housing has been created and could become a flyer that is distributed to the public, at least those undertaking construction and renovations and through supports as noted above.

- Employment – advise on the potential of diversity in the workplace, connect to support programs.

A first presentation was made by Elise to the Chamber of Commerce. It will be offered again (and again as necessary). She offers to help connect Employers to supports and even some job coach training when requested and feasible. Kelly suggests that offering to help Employers with grant writing could be useful as well. Meanwhile, RQM has been updating their policies including accommodations procedures and budget allocations, as listed in the Plan.

**6.0 REPORTS/UPDATES**

6.1 Tender bids have been received for Liverpool's Universally Designed Playpark. Summaries and recommendations will be made to Council on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

6.2 Recap of grants and project budgets:

- Last year's Provincial Community AccessAbility grant of \$20,000 – about \$12,000 spent at Beach Meadows. With RQM's contribution, \$17,500 were to be spent on a stage lift and assistive devices. The lift has increased to

\$20,870 and the movie devices were \$7,700 last year, so total a little more than in the remaining budget.

- Federal Communities Revitalization Fund c/o ACOA – over \$150,000 requested for Town Hall, Beach Meadows and Queens Place. The announcement for grant distribution were delayed months ago due to the election, and at this point we do not expect a positive answer.
- Recently, an application to the Provincial Rink Revitalization program was approved for \$9,850 as 1/3 contribution towards power openers to the upper doors at QPEC and handrails to some of the bleachers. The RQM contribution was to be filled mostly by the above CRF-ACOA grant that did not come through, so we could ask Council to consider diverting some Astor allocated budget to this while we have some matching funds.
- The Federal Enabling Access Fund was denied, related to not supporting employment as much as they'd have liked to see. It was for a minimum of \$350,000 and very competitive.
- Continuing the last Community Health Board Wellness Grant: with more than half spent, the remainder is to be completed by end of Feb. Wayne suggests asking for an extension and Kelly talked about online social and games sessions that Penny Lane had been doing. Vicki suggested distributing materials kits. Elise says yes to all, and that some transportation budget could be used delivering materials instead of people.

The next CHB Wellness grant for the small pedaling equipment has not been determined yet.

- Community AccessAbility Grant 2021/2022 offers up to \$50,000 as 2/3 of eligible costs for the built environment (although keeping in mind the last set was capped at \$20,000 flat amounts to many municipalities). Focus to be discussed according to how the above ones are allocated.

Feedback from the committee was as follows. Wayne feels that the rink would impact the most people. Kelly would

love to see more social inclusion and felt that the elevator had heavy insurance and maintenance costs for the sake of not many people. That being said, spending funds on expensive items like the stage lift, even if only for a few users, could be immeasurably impactful on someone's life. Mackenzie said the handrails at QPEC rink would be at the top of her list. Janine agrees with Kelly about the Astor's stage lift but added that personally, the door operators at QPEC would have helped her when hands full with a cane and other items. Tyler certainly would've used the power door operators by now and discussion on touchless sensors followed. Bridgewater Glass has submitted a quote for sensor operators. Janine remarked that faucets should have touchless sensors as well, at the Astor and frankly any facility, for both dexterity challenges and hygiene purposes. Vicki reminded the committee that with the provincial goal of Access 2030, we should not remove the elevator from the To-Do list. She too would have appreciated the power door openers at QPEC. She has heard so much good feedback about Beach Meadows and asked about change/wash rooms. Elise said while that is still on the list, in the plan, the likelihood of piped water was not great. Meanwhile things can still improve. Kelly too had heard from very happy people who had been missing the beach.

- 6.3 Elise asked members for any other business, concerns, and priorities.

Kelly would love to see a 'Champion', if not the municipality, a local business. We will certainly work towards supporting venues and businesses towards improved accessibility, for public engagement, access to services and employment.

- 7.0** **Adjournment** at 3:33 pm with the next meeting set for February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2:30 on zoom.