



MINUTES (Draft)
West Grey Local Accessibility Advisory Committee
October 7, 2020, 7:00pm
Online (Zoom)

Present: Todd Stodard (co-chair), Cheryl Lindsay (co-chair), Jennifer Lang, Doug Townsend, Councillor Geoffrey Shea (secretary), Pam Michels, Andrew McLean

Guests: Jonathan Zettel (Office of the CAO)

Call to Order: Cheryl called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Approval of Agenda: Moved: Jennifer, Second: Doug, passed.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest (direct or indirect): N/A

Approval of Sept. 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes: Moved: Todd, Second: Jen, passed.

Approval of March 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes: Moved: Todd, Second: Doug, passed.

Delegations: N/A

Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

Jen advised that there did not appear to be accessible parking near the new regional transit bus stops. She recommended that the Municipality ensure that there is.

Cheryl is continuing to investigate small ramp solutions.

Cheryl suggested that community members continue to document accessibility and inaccessibility venues within West Grey on the app AccessNow. She mentioned that Google had a comparable app.

Jonathan advised that Grey County was developing an accessible venue layer to their existing mapping. He supported the idea of cross pollinating and would mention to the County accessibility committee that they could collect data from the AccessNow platform.

(2) October 7, 2020

Geoffrey advised that the Municipality contributed \$10,000 in 2019 to a reserve fund to renovate the washrooms at the Durham Town Hall to make a single, accessible washroom, to upgrade the ramp and the enlarge the doors, but that council did not approve a further contribution in 2020, so this work would likely not be undertaken until 2021.

Jen suggested that revenue from upcoming elections could be used as a contribution to the renovations, since elections can only take place in accessible venues.

Jonathan asked for input to the WG multi-year accessibility plan. The committee members raised several concerns:

- The visual depiction of braille on the cover cannot be seen or felt by visually impaired readers, so questioning its relevance and whether visually impaired residents were consulted?
- By identifying the range of possible disabilities, the document might open readers' perception of what a disability is, e.g.:
 - Physical Disabilities
 - Visual Disabilities
 - Hearing Disabilities
 - Mental Health Disabilities
 - Learning Disabilities
 - Intellectual Disabilities
 - Age Related
- How do we proactively encourage people with disabilities to ask for assistance? E.g. who does a teenager with a developmental disability reach out to, to discuss participating in a summer camp program? How do they know who?
- Why are delegations in the council chambers expected to stand, with an exception made for people who cannot? Why not let all delegations be seated?
- The ongoing identification of barriers within WG was identified as a key role of this committee.

Jonathan thanked the committee for their comments on this draft plan and encouraged anyone else to email him further comments.

Ongoing Business

New Business

Todd prepared and presented a preliminary PowerPoint presentation that could be delivered to groups like the Chamber of Commerce or West Grey Council explaining and furthering the goals of this committee. He is seeking biographical input from members of the committee: what is your link to the committee; why did you join?

Andrew raised the issue of people with invisible disabilities and that a presentation to council might encourage more participation from them.

Correspondence

Articles of Interest

(3) October 7, 2020

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020, 7:00pm

Adjournment: Moved: Todd, Second: Jen, passed.

Co-Chair

Secretary