



Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

3:00 pm

**Essex County Civic Centre, Room E
360 Fairview Avenue West, Upper Floor
Essex Ontario N8M3G4**

Committee Members: Brad Frenette
Diana Kirkbride
Therese Lecuyer
Gord Queen (Vice Chair)
Fern Walsh

Administration: Renée Trombley

1. Call to Order

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. Recording of Attendance

It was noted that Ms. Alexander and Ms. Easterbrook were away.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

4. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

The vice chair noted that the committee will soon receive a draft letter to the County of Essex in regards to family washrooms for review.

6-2019

Moved By Therese Lecuyer

Seconded By Fern Walsh

That the minutes of the March 11, 2019 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as presented.

Carried

4.1 March 11, 2019 ECAAC Meeting Minutes

5. Delegations and Presentations

6. Communications

The committee discussed communication items.

Ms. Walsh mentioned the difficulty many face in finding any government programs (or other) for financial support in order to make their homes accessible and that only tax rebates are provided.

Ms. Kirkbride discussed the March of Dimes Canada and their 'home and vehicle modification' program.

Ms. Walsh provided her comments in regards to the "GoHere" application. It has potential to be very useful for those with disabilities, yet it appears to be lacking information and may still be in its infancy.

Mr. Frenette noted that the touch-screens for self-serve ordering at fast food restaurants (McDonald's) are not accessible and should have voice activated capability.

7-2019

Moved By Therese Lecuyer

Seconded By Diana Kirkbride

That the communications for the April 9, 2019 meeting be received.

Carried

6.1 AODA Toolbox

March 2019

6.2 The Ottawa Citizen

Breaking Barriers: accessibility at home a costly process

6.3 Global News

Toronto's only operating cannabis retail store not wheelchair accessible on opening day.

6.4 The Guardian

Don't dwell on what you can't do: traveling with disabilities

6.5 Global News

Ford government plan would make student fees to support accessibility on some campuses optional

6.6 CBC.ca

Ontario nowhere near goal of full accessibility by 2025, review finds

6.7 AODA

David Onley report blasts poor government implementation and enforcement of Ontario's 2005 Disabilities Act and calls for major reforms

7. Unfinished Business

7.1 Access Awareness Week

7.1.1 County Council Delegation

June 5, 2019

The committee discussed their appearance at the June 5, 2019 County Council meeting.

7.1.2 Heroes Basketball

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 - 6:30 pm

The committee discussed attending a Heroes basketball game in support of access awareness week. A date to attend has yet to be decided.

7.2 Facebook

The vice chair reminded the committee to be active with Facebook by providing the chair with suggestions for posts, sharing the page, etc.

Ms. Walsh suggested polling page followers to determine what information they feel would be useful for them and what information they would like to see shared from the committee.

7.3 ECAAC 2019 Initiatives

The committee discussed potential plans for 2019 initiatives such as:

- An 'Access Awareness Walk'
- Accessibility Awards
- Creating accessibility videos to demonstrate barriers and accessibility concerns in the community
- Inviting David Lepofsky to speak to Council/AACs
- Speaker Mike Mulligan

8-2019

Moved By Therese Lecuyer

Seconded By Fern Walsh

That administration review opportunities and costs for both the Accessibility Awareness Walk and inviting Mr. Lepofsky to speak to local councils/AACs.

Carried

8. Reports and Questions

9. New Business

9.1 University of Windsor Accessibility Awareness Day - Debrief

Ms. Trombley provided the committee with a debrief of the University of Windsor's Accessibility Awareness Day that was attended by both Ms. Easterbrook and Ms. Trombley.

9.2 Abilities Expo - Debrief

The Vice Chair provided a debrief of Ms. Easterbrook's experiences in attending the Abilities Expo in Mississauga.

9.3 Service Dog Certification

Ms. Walsh initiated a discussion around service animal certification in Ontario. The Vice Chair recommended reviewing the Health Unit's guidelines. Ms. Trombley indicated that the Chair has familiarity with this and could speak to it at the next meeting.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the ECAAC is scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 2019, 3:00 PM.

11. Adjournment

9-2019

Moved By Therese Lecuyer

Seconded By Brad Frenette

That the April 9, 2019 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned at 4:08 PM.

Carried