



Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 29, 2017

3:00 pm

Essex County Civic Centre - Room D

360 Fairview Avenue West

Second Floor

Essex Ontario N8M 1Y6

Committee Members: Christine Easterbrook, Chair
Gord Queen, Vice Chair
Debbie Alexander
Rosemary Cobby

Absent: Therese Lecuyer
John Boyko
Charles Wimperis

Administration: Renée Trombley
Katherine Hebert

1. Recording of Attendance

It was noted that Ms. Lecuyer, Mr. Wimperis and Mr. Boyko were not in attendance.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

3. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

18-2017

Moved By Mr. Queen

Seconded By Ms. Alexander

That the minutes of the May 11, 2017 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as presented.

Carried

4. Delegations and Presentations

5. Communications

5.1 Correspondence

19-2017

Moved By Ms. Alexander

Seconded By Mr. Queen

That the correspondence for the June 29, 2017 meeting be received.

Carried

5.1.1 AODA Toolbox

May 2017

5.1.2 CBC News

Diverse Abilities Celebrated in BC's First Ever Disability Pride March

5.1.3 NBC Portland

Floating Wheelchair Helps People With Disabilities Enjoy Maine's Beaches

The Chair noted that the Essex-Windsor area has installed some accessible mats at local beaches.

Ms. Cobby indicated that there is a mat and floating chairs available during scheduled hours at Sandpoint Beach in Windsor. She noted that she would share this information on Facebook.

Ms. Trombley also noted that the Town of Lakeshore is installing this matting at one of their municipal beaches in Belle River.

5.1.4 The Mighty

I Am The Face of Disability, Even if I Don't 'Look' Disabled

5.1.5 Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services

News Release - Improving Access to Services for People with Developmental Disabilities

5.1.6 University of New South Wales - Sydney Australia

New Disability Innovation Institute Will Transform Lives

5.1.7 CBC News

Ontario Moves to Tackle High Unemployment for People with Disabilities

5.1.8 The Guardian

People with Autism and Learning Disabilities Excel in Creative Thinking, Study Shows

5.1.9 Pos'ability Magazine

Website

Facebook

5.1.10 Accessibility News International

The Federal Government Releases Report of its Public Consultation on the Promised 'Canadians with Disabilities Act'.

The Chair led a discussion regarding the enforcement of the new legislation. She indicated that the enforcement issue is recognized in the legislation and provisions for the enforcement have yet to be established.

Discussion took place with regard to the newly opened Pedestrian Crossover on Walker Rd. at the trail between Highway #3 and South Talbot Rd.

The Committee viewed the City of Hamilton's video online that explained the procedure to use to utilize the crossing. It was noted that this is the first of its type in our region and more may be installed at the request and partnership of local municipalities.

5.1.11 Disability Horizons

Top 10 Tips for Accessible Travel

5.1.12 User 1st - Your Web for Everyone

Web Accessibility Spotlight Interview - Judith Heumann

5.1.13 Mashable

This is the World's First Fully Accessible Water Park - and It's the Coolest Thing Ever

6. Unfinished Business

6.1 Facebook

The Chair noted that there are some new followers on the Facebook page.

The Committee discussed the presence and reach of the page and possibilities for increasing both. It was also noted that the Accessibility Workshop can be added as an 'Event' which may also impact the visibility of the page. Discussion regarding using some of the Workshop advertising budget for Facebook boosts.

The Chair raised the issue of adding periodic 'Questions or Polls' to the page to attract more interest. It was discussed that the first simple question would be 'Does your community have adequate accessible parking spaces?'. It was also noted that the questions for future polls should relate to each accessibility standard (transportation - customer service - education etc.)

6.2 Accessibility Workshop

6.2.1 Heritage Park Alliance Church - Room Rental Agreement

Ms. Trombley advised that she has been coordinating with the location and noted that an agreement for the facility rental will be forthcoming. It is likely that the cost of the rental will be reduced due to the reduced usage of their spaces. Most of the day will be limited to 'The Centre' space and main lobby.

6.2.2 Keynote Speaker Costs - Tracey Schmidt

Ms. Trombley discussed the expenses relating to the keynote speaker Tracey Schmidt. The cost is estimated at \$2,500 which will include the speaking fees and travel costs.

6.2.3 Session Speakers - Progress Report

Discussion took place with regard the structure of the day. It was noted that a shorter overall day would be better than the historical length, considering the revised format. It was agreed that the day should begin with registration and networking at 9:30 AM with the keynote speaker at 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. There would be an hour scheduled for lunch and the afternoon sessions (yet to be determined) would take place until approximately 2:30PM.

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Ms. Trombley advised of the following actions regarding the coordinating of the afternoon sessions:

- Recognised the issue of private companies sitting on the panel. It could be viewed as an endorsement by the committee. Discussion with all group panelists would have to instruct that any of their advise or discussion would be limited to the level of care and not to endorse or promote their own programs.
- Contacted the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario to discuss legislation interpretation for the panel.
- Reached out to Accessible Canada to recruit for the panel.
- Reached out to Barrier Free Canada to recruit for the panel.
- Reached out to Sense Ability to recruit for the panel. This is a non-profit that focuses on employment for people with disabilities.
- Have reached out to other sources as well but continue to await responses and expressions of interest.
- Researched and need to consider the group AMI Accessible Media as a potential speaker.

Mr. Queen discussed the speakers at the AMO conference which were very good, but very likely out of financial reach for the committee.

Discussion took place with regard to the speakers from previous years workshops. It was noted that repetition of speakers is not ideal.

It was noted that members would be kept abreast of speaker developments by email.

6.2.4 Catering

Ms. Trombely discussed budget and catering options. It was noted that options for a cold lunch would be gathered and presented to the committee. It was discussed that wraps were preferred with a salad option and light dessert.

It was also noted that the refreshments for the morning networking and in between sessions be limited to coffee, tea and water with some modest confections to keep costs low.

6.2.5 Other - Marketing, Promotion, details etc.

Ms. Trombley discussed the successful use of Eventbrite for the previous workshop and suggested its use again. She noted that the registration period should be ended longer before the event as well to ensure that any accommodation that might be needed can be made available. It was decided that the note-takers and ASL interpreters would only be made available upon request. Further, that any attendants or other accommodation would have to be coordinated in advance of the event. This will reduce the unnecessary expenses incurred in previous years for services that were not utilized at all.

Ms. Trombley suggested that the wording from some other accessibility conferences regarding accommodation would be used to convey their message of willingness to accommodate the needs of registered participants on an as needed/requested basis.

7. Reports and Questions

8. New Business

8.1 Accessibility Standards for Transportation

Opportunity to provide feedback

The Chair discussed the options for the committee to submit feedback as requested.

Discussion took place with regard to whether it would be more appropriate to submit individual responses considering that each person's needs may be different.

It was noted that the link to the feedback site would be added to the Facebook page.

8.2 Access Awareness Week and Council Delegation

Feedback and Committee Discussion

Discussion took place with regard to the success of the Community Living basketball game. It was noted that the visibility of the ECAAC members at the event was noticed and that conversations about the committee took place afterward.

The Chair noted that the County Council delegation went well and that thoughts regarding the autumn delegation would be discussed at a later meeting.

8.3 Jeff Preston - Leamington Accessibility Workshop

Mr. Queen indicated that he attended the Accessibility Seminar that took place at the Sun Parlor Home hosted by the Leamington Accessibility Committee. The session was well attended and the keynote speaker Jeff Preston was excellent.

8.4 Service Animals

Ms. Cobby raised the issue of service animals and the legitimacy of certain claims. The issue arose when certain individuals have brought with them an animal that is not identified as a service animal into private businesses and public places. Where is the burden of proof?

There was recently an incident at a Dollarama where a suspected non-service animal caused a mess in the store and the owner could not prove their animal was legitimate.

The Chair noted that the operator has the right to request proof of papers for service animals. The burden of proof lies with the person who has the animal.

8.5 Windsor Essex Therapeutic Riding Association

Mr. Queen discussed an invitation he received to attend a session at the Therapeutic Riding Association. He attended the event and learned that the program is a phenomenal success.

Ms. Alexandre agreed that the program is a great success but that there is a barrier for those who could benefit from the program but cannot justify or afford the expense. It is a costly, thus exclusive program.

9. Next Meeting Date

Thursday, August 10, 2017

Next meeting will be at Sun Parlor Home - with a tour of the facility.

10. Adjournment

20-2017

Moved By Ms. Alexander

Seconded By Ms. Cobby

That the June 29, 2017 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Carried