



Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, August 9, 2018
3:00 pm
Essex County Civic Centre, Room E
360 Fairview Avenue West, Upper Floor
Essex Ontario N8M3G4**

Committee Members: Christine Easterbrook, Chair
Gord Queen, Vice Chair
Rosemary Cobby
Therese Lecuyer
Charles Wimperis
Absent: Debbie Alexander
John Boyko
Administration: Renée Trombley
Katherine Hebert

1. Call to Order

2. Recording of Attendance

The Chair noted that Mr. Boyko and Ms. Alexander were away.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

4. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2018 ECAAC Meeting Minutes

23-2018

Moved By Mr. Queen

Seconded By Ms. Lecuyer

That the minutes of the July 12, 2018 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Delegations and Presentations

6. Communications

Discussion took place with regard to the coverage of the Celebrating Our Abilities - Awareness Walk. Positive experiences and feedback was received. It was noted that there was much positive coverage from the media that is still circulating online.

Committee members discussed the new provincial government and the designation of a Minister of Accessibility and Seniors Issues.

Discussion took place regarding the Canadian Disability Tax Credit and the process of application.

24-2018

Moved By Mr. Wimperis

Seconded By Mr. Queen

That the correspondence for the August 9, 2018 meeting be received.

Carried

6.1 Digital Trends

6 Amazing Examples of Game-changing Technology for the Blind Community

6.2 The Toronto Star

Advocates Welcome Ontario Minister Responsible for Accessibility

6.3 iDrop News

Apple Invents Clothing Technology to Assist the Blind, Visually Impaired

6.4 CTV News Windsor

Celebrating Abilities (Video)

6.5 The Huffington Post

Left in the Dark: Canadians with Disabilities Deserve Better from CRA

6.6 CBC News

Halifax Pride Parade adds Low Sensory Zone and Described Viewing Area

6.7 CBC News

"I'm Just Amazed": Inverness Beach Becomes Accessibility Leader

6.8 CBC News

Iqaluit Teen with Terminal Illness Can't Enjoy Public Pool - Just 1 of City's Many Accessibility Woes

6.9 The Windsor Star

Long Wait for Accessible Taxi that Never Arrived Shocks Visitor to Windsor

6.10 The Chronicle Herald

Opinion: New Age Dawning in Canada for Persons with Disabilities

6.11 The Windsor Star

"We Belong" - LaSalle Hosts Abilities Awareness Walk

6.12 Catapult

What the World Gets Wrong About My Quadriplegic Husband and Me

7. Unfinished Business

7.1 Facebook

The Chair indicated that Facebook posts are coming along nicely and noted that Mr. Queen's biography will be the next one posted.

Ms. Cobby indicated that it is her intention to use photos of the Accessibility Walk signs as future Facebook posts.

7.2 Celebrate our Abilities Walk - Debrief

Mr. Queen expressed that the media coverage of the event was great and that the event itself went well.

Ms. Cobby agreed and noted that the attendance was low, but this can be so with the first year of any new event. She noted that the ECAAC can discuss ways that to reach more people for next time.

Discussion took place with regard to participation at the ECAAC walk and potential groups who may be interested in the next event.

Ms. Trombley advised that the budget for the event was re-worked to include some additional advertising for the date change and a small increase in the food provisions due to the rescheduled date.

Discussion took place with regard to the participation, organization and event itself. It was noted that the only issue was with the attendance and that future events might need more notice and direct invitations to members of local AACs. It was generally thought that the event was a success.

7.3 2018 Committee Activities

7.3.1 ERCA Trail Tour

Ms. Trombley advised that the tentative date for the Committee to tour the ERCA trails is Thursday September 13, 2018, which is the usual meeting date. She noted that the Committee may have to have an earlier start time to accommodate the tour. She further noted that Kevin Money, who is the ERCA liaison on this item is currently out of the office, returning in the coming weeks. Arrangements will be communicated to the ECAAC prior to the date. If the ERCA tour does not take place, the Committee will meet for their regular meeting at the regular time.

7.3.2 Film Festival - Screening/Outing

Ms. Trombley discussed the options available for a Windsor International Film Festival outing for the ECAAC members. It was noted that there is the potential for the Committee to have a presentation with the film festival members as well as tickets to a relevant pre-selected film of your choice. The ECAAC budget has funds available for this type of event, and when we have more details the Committee can discuss the option further. There is also the potential to have a meal following the screening, as part of the wrap-up for the Committee.

A private screening is probably out of reach financially and operationally for 2018, but that can be considered for 2019 if the Committee desires to pursue that.

Ms. Trombley will report back to the ECAAC members with options to consider at the September meeting.

7.3.3 Other

Ms. Cobby questioned whether the ECAAC was able to consider partnering with other organizations as an alternative to committee activities. For example, there has been some news about some AACs partnering with community groups to purchase accessible Mobi Mats or accessible playground equipment for instance. Would that be something that the ECAAC could do locally?

Ms. Trombley indicated that the ECAAC may not donate money or raise funds as part of the function of the committee. The mandate is to bring awareness about disabilities and promote accessibility within the community. There may be opportunities to partner with a regional organization, such as ERCA, for something like improving access within the trail system of the region. She noted that certainly more discussion can be had regarding this subject.

Ms. Trombley also raised the issue of a previously discussed, regional meeting of all of the lower tier and the County Accessibility Advisory Committees.

Mr. Queen suggested that although it is a great idea, it would probably be best if that sort of meet and greet be done at the beginning of the new term of the committees rather than at the end initially.

7.4 Committee Composition

Ms. Trombley brought forward the issue of the second delegation presentation for 2018 at County Council. She noted that the last meeting of Council for this term is scheduled for November 7, 2018.

Mr. Queen indicated that it would be a good idea to present before the end of this term, to ensure that the ECAAC communicates their activities with the outgoing members who have supported the ECAAC throughout their term.

Ms. Cobby questioned when the process of applying to be on the ECAAC would start?

Ms. Trombley advised that at the time of the municipal elections on October 22, 2018 advertising for all the committees would

take place. This is known as the 'invitation for applications'. The new County Council would appoint a striking committee and from there, that committee would decide on the ECAAC appointments based on the applications received.

7.5 Suicide Prevention Month

Suicide prevention month is September and the walk is scheduled for the ninth.

8. Reports and Questions

9. New Business

9.1 Review Drawings for Courtyard Rehabilitation at the Sun Parlor Home for Comment

Concrete courtyard improvements.

Ms. Trombley advised the ECAAC that the contract for the work at the Sun Parlor Home has been awarded and the design was selected as part of a competition among St. Clair College horticulture students. The design addresses the concerns that the ECAAC raised following the site visit.

Discussion took place regarding another site visit once the work is complete.

10. Next Meeting Date

September 13, 2018

11. Adjournment

25-2018

Moved By Ms. Lecuyer

Seconded By Ms. Cobby

That the August 9, 2018 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Carried