



## **PETAWAWA ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**June 21, 2023 - 1:00 P.M.**

**Municipal Office – Council Chambers**

PRESENT: Sheila Clarke, Lynn Davenport, Karen Donovan, Leah Cuffe

REGRETS: Athena Tefoglou, Kate Bennett

### **Welcome/Call to Order**

S. Clarke called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by L. Cuffe, seconded by K. Donovan that the June 21, 2023, Petawawa Accessibility Advisory Committee agenda be approved with the addition of “Visibility of the PAAC”.

### ***MOTION CARRIED.***

### **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

None.

### **Adoption of previous minutes of May 4, 2023.**

Item deferred.

### **Presentation**

#### A Parent’s Perspective on Accessibility – Councillor James Carmody

Councillor James Carmody attended the committee meeting as a special guest. Discussion surrounded providing an awareness of challenges for families with exceptional children/adults, as well as ability to access services and support.

Specifically looking at the implementation of the Sensory Friendly Santa event that the Committee is hoping to introduce this coming December. Councillor Carmody recommended

that parents be asked to provide information to the organizers of the event the best course of action for each individual participant. It is important to determine requirements for costuming, lights, and amount of interaction for each participant.

Councillor Carmody highlighted the fact that there is no centralized spot for families to access comprehensive information on what is available in terms of resources. There are bits of info in different places; how do families get all the info. A repository with sources/info for introduction to situations and conditions, sources of financial support, respite care through agencies, general information to help with the learning curve. Accessibility can mean access to employment and meaningful work for individuals with extenuating requirements.

The Chair thanks Councillor Carmody for his insights and his time to meet with us today.

## **Old Business**

### Workplan Review

Item deferred.

### Treat Accessibly

The committee reviewed take aways from the 2022 Event, which include: Advertise earlier for participation. Draft poster earlier in the fall. Promote and include sign up sheets through the website and special event listings through local media. Further planning will be an agenda item for September.

### Sensory Santa Event

Councillor Donovan confirmed the booking of two rooms at the South Side Community Center for 02 & 03 December for the event. Ideas for implementation of the event include: low music in room, quiet area for waiting, parental input thru registration, set the tone for the event, handout for families at schools, Autism Society, day care centers, through Garrison Family Resource Center. The committee will further plan at the September 2023 meeting.

### Inclusive Community Grants

Item deferred.

## **New Business:**

### Rotary Club Presentation Photo

Rotary Club Presentation Photo, 20 June 2023 at the Civic Centre Park to support the addition of a new play structure with accessible features. The equipment lets a child choose activity by pointing to icons. The committee is grateful for this addition to the park.

### PAAC Banner/Flag for National Accessibility Week

With the change in policy for the flying of flags, the committee will look into having a flag made up. Quotes for having one made up will need to be solicited. Tabled for the September meeting.

### Visibility of the PAAC – Karen Donovan

Opportunities for increasing the community's awareness of the PAAC were discussed. K. Donovan offered to look at setting up a golf tournament, hosted by the PAAC, with proceeds going toward purchasing additional accessibility recreation devices, potentially skating assistance devices. Participants would receive information about the committee and its goals.

PAAC Chair determined hosting such event was not within the parameters of the committee nor the corporation of the Town of Petawawa.

## **Correspondence:**

No items of correspondence.

## **Member Input:**

### L. Cuffe:

- L. Cuffe provided information around '101 Training for Accessibility', an online training opportunity for the PAAC members. The completion of the training will be an agenda item for our September meeting.

### L. Davenport:

- L. Davenport summarized some information she was able to find on accessible outdoors:
  - Private Facebook Group January 18, 2023  
Wheelchair Hikers Supporters.  
As seen on CTV News-June 12<sup>th</sup>.

You can join this group if you use a wheelchair and are looking for people to support you on hikes. Or-you want to help wheelchair hikers get to cool nature places in Ontario.

- Alltrails App  
Hike Bike Run  
Will also let you know if the trail is wheelchair accessible.  
Petawawa Terrace is noted as “wheelchair friendly”.  
Friendly does not mean the trail is certified to be compliant with all country-specific accessibility legal standards. Trail conditions can vary depending on time, weather or other events.
- Ontario TrailsNaturally  
Wheelchair Accessible Trails
- Accessible Ontario  
The Province’s Top 10 Best Accessible Parks  
#1. Bonnechere Provincial Park  
#2. Algonquin Provincial Park (a series of wheelchair accessible and barrier free facilities)

**Next Meeting Date:** September 28, 2023 at 1:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 pm.