



Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes - June 9, 2009

GODERICH, ONTARIO



HURON ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HAAC)

Goderich, Ontario.
June 8th, 2009.

Chair D. Kelly to call the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

MOTION:

Moved by: Glen McLachlan and Seconded by: Bob Fisher:

THAT:

The minutes of the March 9th, 2009 Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

Delegation:

Mike Pullen a member of Colborne School's Community Playground Committee attended the HAAC meeting to present to the members of HAAC the installation of the new playground equipment at the Colborne Public School that is accessible. Mr. Pullen and his Committee realized in the early stages of the planning for new playground equipment that it would be a first in this area if the equipment was accessible. There was funding from an Ontario Trillium Grant, Ronald McDonald House, Hydro One, Wal-Mart, Goderich RONA, Goderich Kinsmen and Goderich Lions Club. The Playground Committee and the students of the school did fundraising to cover the deficit not provided in the grants and funding. The installation of the equipment will be held on Saturday June 13th and a formal dedication ceremony will be held on Wednesday September 23rd. Mike Pullen encouraged all members of HAAC to attend this dedication ceremony.

The members of the Committee were given an opportunity to ask questions. A copy of the News Release is attached to these minutes as Schedule A.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Strategy Session:

The Committee was instructed to bring comments, feedback and recommendations back to Committee. It was discussed that the Committee has not received a copy of the Strategy Session. As the former Accessibility Co-ordinator had recently left the position; there is a breakdown in some of the duties being fulfilled.

Huron Accessibility Advisory Committee
June 8th, 2009
Page 2 of 5

Darcy Michaud will review the Strategic Plan and provide comments for the Committee. It was brought to the attention of the Committee to get involved with the Board of Education. Hopefully there can be a delegation to the September Board of Education from this Committee. It is important for the young minds to be educated in terms of accessibility.

After a great deal of discussion regarding the Strategic Plan, the mandate and the priorities for the Committee to consider the following Motion was put forth.

MOTION:

Moved by: Maureen McCauley and Seconded by: Lisa Harper:

THAT:

The discussion on the Strategy Session be deferred until the next meeting with direction to staff to prepare comments on the Strategic Plan.

CARRIED

Larry Adams arrived at 10:10 a.m.

There was a request from some of the members to meet prior to the September meeting to move ahead with some of the items that have not been completed yet. Darcy Michaud will contact the members of the Committee once he had a chance to prepare the necessary information; possibly a meeting in July or August.

Accessible Customer Service Training program:

Human Recourse Director Darcy Michaud advised the members of the Committee the training pretty much done at the County. Every person employed by the County will receive some form of training that will meet their needs in terms of their position. Volunteers for the County will also be trained in awareness; thus meeting the regulations. In many cases the training for staff and volunteers is going over and above what is required in the Customer Service Policy for the County of Huron. All devices have been identified that require assistance in different departments. There is a Customer Service Training disc available to all contractors that are to work on site for the County. The contractors will be able to view the disc and sign off on the appropriate form thus being in compliance with the County's Policy on Customer Service.

Huron Accessibility Advisory Committee
June 8th, 2009
Page 3 of 5

Members of the Committee requested Director Michaud to forward a copy of the Customer Service Policy that was passed by County Council in November, 2008. Another request was to possibly prepare a press release making the public aware of the County's commitment to accessibility.

Another request from a Committee member was to make the training disc available to the members of this Committee.

New Business:

a) Darcy Michaud, Director of Human Resources will present a report for the information of Committee and Council. A recommendation to Huron County Council may be considered to hire a full-time Accessibility Coordinator.

There was a great deal of discussion surrounding the Accessibility Co-ordinator position. It was earlier discussed this position may be a full-time position; however the Clerk's Department has offered to take on the clerical duties of this position and it may now be a .6 position, not a 1.0. This will allow more time for the Accessibility Co-ordinator to do more of the "hands on" duties that are necessary obligations of the Committee.

Director Michaud advised the position is going to be posted within the next couple of weeks. An Accessibility Co-ordinator should be on board by the September meeting. Members of the Committee were encouraged to keep in mind some of the jobs the Co-ordinator will be required to assist the County with to become in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA). There was a concern about hiring a person with all the necessary experience and skills as a part-time position. Director Michaud advised that the posting may say words to the effect, "with the potential to become a full-time position".

The job qualifications for the position were discussed. Director Michaud advised that possibly a two year college diploma would be required. The Human Resources Department will dedicate time to work with the Accessibility Co-ordinator to educate them in the County's mandate to be in compliance with the AODA, 2005.

The question of reviewing plans was brought up. The former Accessibility Co-ordinator and members of the Committee were doing the review of the plans from the lower tier Building Departments to suggest or recommend

more accessible buildings within the County. A process needs to be put in place for the lower tiers to follow. A suggestion was put forth to place all the policies for the HAAC into a Policy Manual.

b) Accessibility Advisory Committees Regional Forum in London on Friday May 29th. Clerk Wilson will present a report for the information of Committee and Council.

The Committee discussed the Forum. There was some disappointment in terms of the Forum dealing more for larger municipalities and not really addressing the needs of small groups from smaller communities.

The overall consensus was that there was a lot of positive information for those in attendance. There was concern about the private sector getting the information about the Customer Service portion of the AODA, 2005 for compliance by January 1st, 2012. Possibly some members of the Committee can work with the private sector to help them or at least assist in getting the message to them about their obligations for compliance.

The Summary Report is attached as Schedule B to these minutes.

Other Business:

Glen McLachlan requested a letter be sent to MPP Carol Mitchell for following up with the suggestion from this Committee to make her constituency office wheel chair accessible.

MOTION:

Moved by: Glen McLachlan and Seconded by: Joe Austin:

THAT:

A letter be sent from HAAC to MPP Carol Mitchell congratulating her for following up with the suggestion from this Committee to make her constituency office wheel chair accessible.

CARRIED

The lack of information flow to the members of the Committee was commented on. There is concern about how the Committee must move forward. The Strategic Session participants need to be engaged and include them in so they feel they are part of the process.

Huron Accessibility Advisory Committee
June 8th, 2009
Page 5 of 5

A suggestion from a member was for the new Accessibility Co-ordinator to contact the Municipality of North Huron about the Main Street in Wingham and if there has been anything considered to make the streets accessible.

Another suggestion was for all the plans reviewed by the sub-committee be included in a scrap book. Claire Dodds advised that a copy of all the plans reviewed by the sub-committee will be accessible.

The opening of the Gorrie Swimming Pool will be held soon and Chair Kelly will advise the members of the Committee of the details.

MOTION:

Moved by Maureen McCauley and Seconded by: Joe Austin:

THAT:

Glen McLachlan be directed to contact the Town of Frankenmuth, Michigan to discuss and bring back information to the Committee on accessibility from a tourism perspective.

CARRIED

There was a concern raised about the private sector and their preparations for 2012 in terms of the AODA 2005, customer service regulations. Claire Dodds confirmed that all building inspectors in the lower tier and all planners in the Planning and Development department at the County of Huron are continually informing the private sector of the upcoming changes to buildings as it relates to the AODA, 2005.

Next Meeting:

Monday September 14th, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. unless we hear from Director Michaud.

MOTION:

Moved by: Bob Fisher and Seconded by Ed Bezaire:

THAT:

The meeting do now adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

CARRIED