



## **Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee**

<b>Date and Time:</b>	Tuesday, November 19, 2019 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
<b>Location:</b>	Studio One, Cultural Centre
<b>Present:</b>	Mike Gerard, Mickey Puddicomb, Rick LaMarsh, Sara Ebare, Ralph Roels, Brett Bartlett, Eileen Travis Hamilton, Jerry Meriano, Brian Bird, Sheila Clements; Bruce Thompson
<b>Absent:</b>	Clare Latimer
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Annette Bourdeau, Jane McGee, Jan Metcalfe, Allain Sasseville, Shelley Charbonneau,
<b>Council Rep:</b>	Clare Latimer

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### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

### **2. Review of Minutes from October 15, 2019**

Motion of Approval: Bruce  
Seconded: Brett  
Carried.

### **3. Update: FM/Bluetooth Hearing System**

Quotes were sought from various vendors for the FM assistive hearing system and quotes were received from The Canadian Hearing Society and Children's Treatment Centre.

Both devices have Bluetooth technology and operate using a directional microphone with the user wearing a receiver around their neck.

The Children's Treatment Centre Phonak system package is customizable i.e. could reduce the number of receivers. This would be the recommended device due to:

- reliability
- support after purchase
- allows for service of the device in Chatham-Kent if needed

The devices would work in Council Chambers as well as other locations.

Motion to proceed with purchasing the recommended device from Children's treatment Centre – Ralph  
Seconded: Bruce

Carried

#### **4. CK Health Alliance Update**

The Accessibility Council at the Health Alliance is in search of a new Chair.

The Emergency Department is working on:

- Signage and notifications for individuals with visual and hearing impairments
- Finding an accessible area for wheelchairs and walkers.
- Patient info pamphlet with info re flu etc. will be available in the New Year. On request, French and braille versions will be available. Working on getting the pamphlet in large print also. Pamphlets will be brought to an AAC meeting once they're available.

#### **5. Update/Visit from Mayor Caniff**

Mayor Caniff recognized the importance of the AAC, thanked the volunteers and encouraged the committee on their work in creating awareness of accessibility in the municipality.

The following items were discussed:

- Mayor Caniff participate in activities creating awareness of accessibility i.e. blindfold activities, wear earplugs for a day.
- Mayor Caniff be an advocate for accessible Council meetings.
- An app that allows for mapping of accessible sidewalks.
- On demand accessible transit after hours.
- A corporate challenge inviting companies to join in a day of activities to include wheelchair, visual and hearing challenges.

#### **6. Library Accessibility Tour**

A tour will be organized for some of the committee members to do a walk through the Chatham Library to assess accessibility.

The back parking lot at the library is currently under construction. The tour will be arranged to take place after the construction is complete.

Will look at the possibility of having the January meeting at the library in Chatham.

#### **7. Award Nominations**

The following nominees were suggested for the business award:

- Casino in Chatham - someone to visit
- Tilbury Family Health Team

It was noted that awards should be presented to businesses that go above and beyond. Looking at awarding businesses that educate their staff about accessible needs.

Four individuals were also nominated.

## 8. Updates, Media and Next Meeting Items

Snow Angel Program – This program is still available. Volunteers are needed.

Snow Removal Levels for Scooters – Scooters and wheelchairs will get stuck in 1.5 inches depending on the consistency. More compact snow or ice conditions is more difficult. Terrain is also a factor.

Roller Coaster Sidewalks – Questions raised why the sidewalk was constructed over the driveways. It was noted that it's easier to navigate if the sidewalk goes straight through.

Meeting adjourned: 3:20 pm

Next Official Meeting Date: **Tuesday, January 21, 2020**

Location: Studio One, Cultural Centre

Time: 1:30 p.m.