



Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee

Date and Time:	Tuesday, September 17, 2019 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Location:	Blue Line Room, Thames Campus Arena
Present:	Ralph Roels, Sara Ebare, Rick LaMarsh, Brian Bird, Jerry Meriano, Bruce Thompson, Mike Gerard, Kiara McGivern
Absent:	Shelley Charbonneau, Eileen Travis, Brett Bartlett, Alain Sasseville, Annette Bourdeau, Lindsey Vinckier, Sheila Clements
Staff Present:	Jan Metcalfe, Jane McGee
Council Rep:	Clare Latimer
Guests:	Ian Clark

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:34.

Round table introductions followed.

2. Review of Minutes from May 21, 2019

Motion of Approval: Clare

Seconded: Bruce

Carried.

3. Chatham-Kent Health Alliance Update

The September meeting was cancelled, therefore no report. The next meeting will be in October.

Mickey substituted her update with two educational pieces:

- Service Ontario – Your guide to an Accessible Parking Permit
If a vehicle sign is required there are new updates, can't be laminated, full 8.5 X 11 size instead of 8.5 X 4, good for 5 years
- CNIB – position on the Ministry of Educations' ban on cellphones in Ontario Schools
CNIB and other disability stakeholder groups stress the importance of allowing students to use their phone during call time for accessibility reasons.

4. Transit Services Update

Ian Clark provide information to the group on the transit strategy under review at this time and sought feedback from Committee members. Ian shared that the strategy was launched

a couple of months ago, it is anticipated to commence in June 2021 and reform transit services for the next 5 – 10 years. A new fleet composition will be required to meet provincial legislated requirements.

Discussion items included:

- How this will be implemented
- Fleet requirements
- Ridership exploding
- Will calls – should have designated bus for Dr. Appt, hospital visits/surgeries not for groceries or personal visits
- Bus demo planned – suggested participants to invite – Community Living, Brain Injuries, Children’s Treatment Centre
- Drivers require training
- On demand transit is being investigated – Belleville example features a call or request via mobile device.
- Locking system
- No existing service between 7 pm and 7 am
- Hours of Service
- Ramp width – appropriate to accommodate larger the 24” chairs.
- Innisfield used a subsidized Ubar system
- Advantage system run by Family Services Kent – partnership idea – to provide subsidized fares
- Keep the curb to curb accessible service
- Interurban – adopt an on demand so not tied to fixed route – lots of time the bus would go to another community without a single rider
- Fees – free to anyone with a CNIB card on conventional service has been something that has been grandfathered from the past and passed on but there is nothing formal or written in a by-law. Something that should be reviewed, AAC view is “same access not special access”.
- Community Living use their fleet of vehicles rather than relying on Municipal transit. This item will be added to the October agenda for further committee discussion.

5. Updates, Media and Next Meeting Items

Facebook – lots of posts. Presently there are 4 administrators however 2 are not on the committee any longer. Mike G volunteered to be added as an administrator.

Webinar – AAC Committee accomplishments, September 25 from 2 – 3:30. If interested please let Annette know.

Mayor’s attendance at the October meeting? – Annette to check

Meeting adjourned: 2:41 PM

Next Official Meeting Date: **Tuesday, October 15, 2019**

Location: Studio One, Cultural Centre

Time: 1:30 p.m.