

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 1, 2023 – 4:15 PM

Location: Video Conference

Present: Warden Amanda Mombourquette, Councilor Mike Diggdon, Allison Martell, Meghan Hayter, Shannon Mury, Kelly Hibbert, Esther McDonnell, Ashley Lavandier, and Chantal Boudreau.

Absent: Natalie Groom, Jessica MacDougall, and Shelly Dorey

Quorum Present – Yes

Warden Amanda Mombourquette called the meeting to order at 4:21 pm

Items Added to the Agenda (Approval of Agenda):

- No Items added to June 1, 2023 Agenda

Moved by Kelly Hibbert, seconded by Esther McDonnell, that the agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes Re: May 4, 2023 meeting:

(Two items to be noted, Jessica MacDougall was listed as absent for May 4, 2023 meeting but was in fact present at the meeting, and spelling of councillor noted for future minutes. Changes made to May 4 2023 minutes to reflect this).

Moved by Ashley Lavandier, seconded by Kelly Hibbert that the edited minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Accessibility Week Debrief

- A great deal of this meeting was dedicated to discussing our Accessibility Week events that had taken place from May 25 to June 3, 2023.
- The award presentation ceremony went very well. We discussed that it would be nice to host it every year. It has potential to grow. Kelly Hibbert suggested perhaps holding it later in the evening. Esther McDonnell asked Shannon Mury, how did we end up with the ceremony? Shannon replied that she worked with Kelly Wales previously, and through this connection, Shannon was put in touch with Jacqueline Burneau.
- We discussed advertising for our events in the future, the consensus was that we should incorporate some traditional advertising i.e., posters in local businesses into our advertising as well as the social media campaign. Shannon did mention that there had been a delay in getting the information. Meghan Hayter suggested that we should invite a reporter for The Reporter to cover the events.
- Shannon Mury suggested that maybe we could make the town halls more interactive.
- Warden Amanda Mombourquette received a call from a county resident that expressed concerns that it was a “walk event” rather than a place to voice concerns.

- We discussed having extra flags on our walks that we could carry to get more people to notice.
- It was suggested that we might consider doing a presentation to the businesses prior to Accessibility Week to get them engaged. Esther McDonnell asked Warden Mombourquette if the businesses have been approached. Warden Mombourquette replied that the businesses had been previously contacted by the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce, but nothing formal has been done from the County. Discussion about how to engage the business community followed.
 - Maybe start in September to reach out to the business community to discuss what they feel might be their accessibility needs.
 - Making the businesses aware of funding programs in an advocacy
 - Warden Mombourquette will connect with the new Executive Director of the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce to see if they are interested in doing more roadshows and community sessions.
- It was suggested that we could investigate smaller flags that participants could carry during the Move It events.
- We did send packages to the school, but we had been late in receiving the packages so there was a delay in getting them out to the schools. Discussion on reaching out to schools was held, it was suggested that next year we will be better equipped to reach out earlier.

Acting on the Priorities of Plan – Next Steps

1. Business engagement as per the previous discussion earlier in the meeting

Committee Membership – Standing Item

1. Warden Mombourquette did ask the resident who reached out with concerns about the Accessibility week Activities if she would be interested in joining the Accessibility Advisory Committee. She is not interested in joining the committee but did say we could touch base with her in the future with information.

Committee Meetings during the summer

1. Some discussion was held on whether we would continue to hold meetings during the summer months. The consensus was that we will continue with virtual meetings throughout the summer, as we do have items that we are working on for the Fall. We did discuss the benefits of having in-person meetings. The committee will start having some in-person meetings in the Fall.

Updates on Action Items (Standing Item):

Action Item tracker was discussed, there will be 3 categories: General, Accessibility Week & Accessibility Plan.

Next meeting:

Thursday July 6, 2023 at 4:15 pm via video conference.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm.