

## **ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 12, 2023 – 4:15 PM**

**Location:** In Person – Richmond Arena Hospitality/Board Room

**Present:** Warden Amanda Mombourquette, Allison Martell, Shannon Mury, Kelly Hibbert, Ashley Lavandier, Shelly Dorey, Chantal Boudreau, Councillor Michael Diggdon and Danielle Martell

**Absent:** Meghan Hayter, Esther McDonnell, Jessica MacDougall, and Natalie Groom

**Quorum Present** – Yes

Warden Amanda Mombourquette called the meeting to order at 4:25 pm

### **Items Added to the Agenda (Approval of Agenda):**

- Introduction of Danielle Martell
- Discussion of Built Environment information

*Moved by Ashley Lavandier, seconded by Kelly Hibbert, that the agenda with additions be approved. Motion carried.*

### **Review of Minutes Re: September 7, 2023 :**

No errors or omissions noted for the September 7, 2023 Minutes.

*Moved by Shelly Dorey, seconded by Michael Diggdon that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.*

Daneille Martell was introduced at this time, she will be working for the county for the next couple of years, as a Community Development and Special Projects officer.

### **Acting Priorities on Plan**

- The municipality continues to work towards their Rick Hansen certification goals. December 31, 2023 had been the initial date for completion, but it was decided to wait until the new year to maximize the accessible upgrade opportunities. There will be no major impact on waiting until the New Year. Funding allocated by the County is still in place. It is the hope of the municipality that they will be able to get a Gold Standard certification for at least the municipal administration building in Arichat.
- Village – haven't started working on their buildings as of yet, but once they start, they will be focusing on the main office building and the community hub.

### **Accessibility Week Discussion**

- Discussion on possible events for 2024 Accessibility Week.
- The committee would definitely like to be able to host the award ceremony for Accessibility Week.
- Time of day for the award celebration was discussed, we may have to consider looking at a different day of the week and different time of day.

### **Community Outreach Discussion**

- Discussion was held on how we reach people.
- We discussed the possibility of ‘Pop Up Tables’ at various community events throughout the county.
- Our ultimate goal is getting the word out about the work we are doing as well as attracting people.
- Warden Mombourquette mentioned that there would be a Volunteer Fair held at the St. Peter’s Lions Hall on October 19, 2023, maybe we could set up a table.

### **Accessible Swimming Discussion**

- Councillor Diggdon mentioned that he had been approached by a community member about accessible swimming programs that school aged children could have access to. Discussion that there is some programming through the schools for children with autism. Danielle suggested that community health boards might be a venue that could assist with programming and funding sources.

### **Accessibility Plans**

- Still working on the priorities of the Accessibility Plans.

### **Chamber Workshops**

- Discussion on the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce holding workshops in the early Winter/Spring of 2024.
- These workshops would be an asset in getting the word about accessibility.
- Discussion on business surveys to see what the businesses need accessibility wise.
- Discussion was held on the community halls throughout the County, several halls were discussed as having accessibility issues. It was suggested that when we are planning with the workshops that we may to have an extra hour for community halls to discuss their specific accessibility questions and potential accessibility needs.

### **Update on Action Items list**

- Municipal Website Revamp has been completed, and the AAC Action Items tracker was updated to reflect this.
- Discussion on Business Survey, we would like this to be actioned in early 2024. It should encompass which businesses are accessible, as well as how to generate interest and how the education component is a key part of the business survey.
- Contact Telile about Interviews – Committee agreed that this is still important, we just need to figure out how to go about conducting the interviews.
- Reach out to DCBA to discuss a “Trip Advisor” type of certification, we still keep this as a goal, but have moved it to 2024.

### **Committee Memberships**

- Ongoing discussion on how to attract memberships.
- Discussion that there could possibly be other volunteer fairs held throughout the county, and if so, the committee should consider participating as it could be a method to attract members.

### **General Points of Discussion prior to adjournment**

- Allison Martell mentioned that she had attended an information session earlier in the day – Accessibility in the Built Environment. The importance of inclusive language was discussed. Built environment could be as simple as a larger space or making a current space more adaptable. It is important when we are renovating or newly constructing buildings that we are not building additional barriers. It is the goal to bring organizations into compliance initially rather than having penalty-based enforcement.
- Allison Martell and Danielle Martell agreed to go to the Volunteer Fair in St. Peter's on October 19 2023 to represent the Accessibility Committee.

### **Next meeting**

- Our next meeting will be a virtual meeting on Thursday November 2, 2023 at 4:15 PM

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm, by Warden Amanda Mombourquette.