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**AGENDA**

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**Disclosure of Interest**

**Approval of the Agenda**

*THAT the Agenda for the May 27, 2014 meeting of Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.*

**Chair's Remarks**

**Adoption of the Minutes**

3 - 5

*THAT the minutes of the Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated March 25, 2014 be adopted as circulated.*

**New Business Arising from the Minutes**

**Delegations/Presentations**

Nil.

**Correspondence & Communications**

Nil.

**Staff Reports**

Nil.

**Capital Budget - Review**

Nil.

**Sub-Committee and Member Reports/Project Updates**

1      Tourism Office

**New Business**

1      Accessible Tourism

- 6 - 7            2        Bethune Street construction
- 3        Need to do list: accessible tables, Crow's Nest patio

**Adjournment**

*THAT the BMAAC meeting be adjourned until its next regular meeting scheduled for June 24, 2014.*

## **Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee**

Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 1:00 p.m.  
City Hall, Boardroom

### ***Committee Minutes***

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#### **ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Ryan Billing, Chair  
Ms. Janet Jones, Vice Chair  
Mr. Joseph Boisvenue  
Ms. Mary Ann Greenwood  
Mr. Doug Hone  
Ms. Shannon Stilnovich

#### **ABSENT:**

Mr. Ryan Annable  
Mr. Mel Watson  
Councillor M.J. McFall

#### **STAFF:**

Ms. Lynn Murray, Deputy City Clerk (Recording Secretary)

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The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

#### **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Nil.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by: Mary Ann  
Seconded by: Shannon

THAT the Agenda for the March 25, 2014 meeting of Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved as amended.

CARRIED

#### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Ryan introduced Joseph Boisvenue the newest member appointed to the committee.

Ryan asked if there was anything new on an accessible taxi? Lynn said she hasn't heard anything new.

### **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Moved by: Shannon  
Seconded by: Janet

THAT the minutes of the Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated February 25, 2014 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

### **NEW BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Ryan said he had been speaking to Grey Healy at the fire department regarding circulating the material on the Sightline for Safety. Greg will make sure the pamphlets are circulated to various City buildings. Lynn will follow up with Greg to see if this job has been completed yet.

Regarding the St. Lawrence College Pre-construction program Ryan updated the committee. He has spoken to Glenna Schaillee and they are having trouble with Service Canada. They have been pre-approved but if they don't hear soon regarding their success the funding may fall through.

### **DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

### **CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS**

Nil.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Nil.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Community Involvement Forum**

Joseph explained that this was an opportunity to engage the public, discuss and break down stigmas associated with having disabilities. They also assessed current state of community and areas where there can be improvements. He added that attendance was good, approx.. 60 participants in each session, community leaders (Mayor, Councillor Bursey) were in attendance. Joseph explained that the feedback and opportunities to comment will be done through People First's chapter in

Brockville.

2. Audible Signal Update - Parkedale

Ryan informed the committee that the audible signals at Parkedale Avenue in the area of Millwood have been repaired and are in working order.

3. Proposed Revised Customer Service Standard

Ryan had circulated the revised Customer Service Standard for the committee's review. Ryan highlighted the proposed changes for the committee, explaining that it is mostly just wording and making this document match other accessibility standards.

**CAPITAL BUDGET - REVIEW**

1. March 2014

The committee noticed that the Memorial Centre Stage is still on the expenditures but it was removed and never done. Therefore they would like it removed from the listing.

**SUB-COMMITTEE AND MEMBER REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES**

Nil.

**ADJOURNMENT**

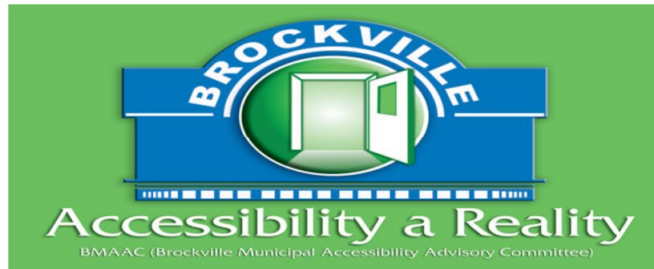
Moved by: Mary Ann

Seconded by: Doug

THAT the BMAAC meeting be adjourned until its next regular meeting scheduled for April 22, 2014.

CARRIED

*The meeting adjourned at 2:36 pm.*



On behalf of the entire Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee (BMAAC) I am writing this letter to provide our feedback in relation to the project currently in process on Bethune St. and what our committee sees as some possible solutions to maintain the accessibility of the street for the citizens of Brockville. I would also like to take the opportunity to state our general view of how the city should address similar situations in the future.

It is important that the city continue to embrace the legislation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and its goal to make our province accessible by 2025. It is the objective of our committee to use this historic piece of legislation as a benchmark for examining the services and facilities that our city operates. We believe this will ensure that our city continues to move forward and maintains a progressive approach to making accessibility a reality. It is important to note that BMAAC had not seen previously any plans or been consulted in the planning stage for the Bethune St. construction. We believe going forward that being involved in this stage of the process will benefit the city in making informed decisions as it relates to accessibility. Our role is to advocate and support city staff in relation to accessibility and being involved earlier in the process would have been beneficial for all parties.

As previously stated, it was brought to BMAAC's attention recently that renovations were occurring to Bethune St. that would affect the configuration of sidewalks on the street. Currently, two sidewalks are in place with a width of 4 feet. Taking into account proposed building standards as part of the AODA building standard the requirements for new installations after 2016 will be to have sidewalks with a width of 5 feet. The city thus proposed to install only one sidewalk with a width of 5 feet to adhere to the future standards, which is a practise that we believe, makes sense for accessibility, good practices, and cost effectiveness. The city's plan also calls for the sidewalk to be located on the west side of the street with a width of 5 feet. Installing two sidewalks at 5 feet isn't possible based on the configuration of the street and the limitations within the budget for other alternatives. BMAAC is advocating for two accessible sidewalks that meet the future AODA standards. The possible solutions that best fit are:

#### Preference #1

- bury hydro cables and remove the necessary trees to allow two, five foot sidewalks to be installed using the added space(city easement) on both the east and west sides

#### Preference #2

- removal of street parking on Bethune St. to be able to accommodate the sidewalks with the space regained from the removal of parking

BMAAC understands that both of these options come with significant financial implications and with the project already commenced the possibility for these options to be implemented are not likely. We believe it is important to state the solutions that best meet in making the street accessible and going forward in similar situations would like these or any other possible alternatives to maintain and/or increase accessibility. With that said we have been asked by the city to offer our input on the decision to install one five foot sidewalk vs. installing the existing two, four foot sidewalks. There is not an option that fully meets the committee's objectives thus making our stance a difficult one. By installing new sidewalks with the existing dimensions we are not fulfilling our role in promoting and adhering to the AODA standards that we know are coming to the city in 2016 for compliance. We believe the city should in all endeavours promote and practise the standards even if they are not currently in the compliance phase as it makes sense, financially and ethically. On the other hand installing one sidewalk for this street in fact creates inaccessibility, something this committee is not comfortable with and works to eliminate. When weighing the options and discussing the pedestrian practises of this street (volume of pedestrian traffic, demographic of users etc.) the committee felt it was more important to maintain two sidewalks that allow for pedestrian travel especially on the east side of the street rather than only have one, west side sidewalk. BMAAC does stress that this would be specific input related to this street and current situation and taking into account all of the factors. BMAAC would not want this to be a practise going forward in future projects.

BMAAC believes it is important to outline some general guidelines for future projects as listed below:

- maintain current sidewalks and enhance with added accessible sidewalks in the future to streets with a limited number. (If a street has two sidewalks the city ensure that two sidewalks remain and examine increased pedestrian routes in projects as well)
- adhere to the building standards and install new sidewalks with a minimum width of 5 feet going forward

I do want to reiterate the fact that BMAAC would like to be involved earlier in the planning stages to assist staff in making the best possible accessibility related solutions. It is our hope that going through this process will enhance our communication with city staff and better respond to the needs of the citizens of Brockville. Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me to discuss.

Sincerely,

Ryan Billing

Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory (BMAAC) Chair