

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Ryan Billing, Chair
Ms. Janet Jones, Vice Chair
Ms. Mary Ann Greenwood
Ms. Shannon Stilnovich
Mr. Mel Watson

ABSENT:

Mr. Ryan Annable
Mr. Doug Hone
Councillor M.J. McFall

STAFF:

Ms. Lynn Murray, Deputy City Clerk (Recording Secretary)
Mr. Greg Healey, Chief Fire Prevention Officer
Ms. Sandi Seale, City Clerk

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Mary Ann
Seconded by: Shannon

THAT the Agenda for the January 28, 2014 meeting of Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved as amended.

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Ryan explained that because there is an interpreter present the meeting will follow certain guidelines. Ryan welcomed Ms. Strati-Morrison and Greg Healy to the meeting.

Sandi suggested since there are guests in attendance that it would be a good idea to go around the table and have everyone introduce themselves.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Moved by: Janet

Seconded by: Mary Ann

THAT the minutes of the Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated November 26, 2013 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

- 1 Canadian Hearing Society
(Anna Strati-Morrison, Regional Program Manager)

Ms. Strati-Morrison explained that visual alarms for deaf people are very expensive, and depending on the layout of one's home you may need several. She added that Randy Burke the previous Chief Fire Prevention Officer had worked with the CHS on this project. Ms. Strati-Morrison stated that they have welcomed other partners and have promoted this education in fire prevention, detection and escape planning for the hearing impaired.

- 2 City of Brockville Fire Department
(Mr. Greg Healy, Chief Fire Prevention Officer)

Greg circulated a pamphlet titled "Sightline to Safety". He explained that this project has two components, the 911 registration and the home inspection. By registering with the emergency services dispatch their home is flagged, so if a call comes from that home the emergency response team will be aware of their special needs. Greg added that the home inspection portion educates the resident on fire prevention, detection and escape.

Ryan asked to have the pamphlets circulated to as many places as possible. As well there was a discussion on getting the word out. The committee would like to see the program advertised on the City's website and wondered if an advertisement could be run in the local EMC Newspaper.

Ryan asked Greg what the requirements are in public city buildings regarding visual alarms under the Fire Code. Greg responded that this legislation is contained in the Building Code; the Fire Code pertains to the maintenance of the building.

Janet asked how we would go about getting visual alarms in the City's public buildings. Greg responded that at this time there is no requirement for existing

buildings but any new buildings would be required to have visual alarms.

Ryan thanked Anna and Greg for attending the meeting and sharing the great work they are doing.

Moved by: Mary Ann

Seconded by: Janet

THAT BMAAC request a costing on visual alarm systems for the Brockville Memorial Centre, Museum and the Library. That three quotes be obtained in order to meet the requirements of the City Purchasing By-law.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

Nil.

STAFF REPORTS

1 Update on Museum Accessibility Issues – Lynn

Lynn offered an update of the issues at the Museum.

- Railing Main Entrance: due to the width and slope of the entrance it is felt that this is more of a path. Staff will have engineering check the slope and if it is less than 5% incline a railing is not required.
- Accessible Parking: staff will need to take a report to Council because right now there is no accessible parking on Henry Street designated in the By-law.
- Old Entrance on Main Building: Sandi spoke with Natalie, according to her only staff occasionally use this entrance due to the location of the alarm keypad. Staff will see about having the alarm keypad moved and discontinue use of this entrance.
- Bathroom fixes: Measurements of counter heights were taken and they meet the requirements. The paper towel dispensers will be lowered.
- Sound System: Sandi is in discussions with Natalie regarding the current system and its FM capabilities.

CAPITAL BUDGET - REVIEW

Nil.

SUB-COMMITTEE AND MEMBER REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES

1 Review of meeting with Steve Weir – Ryan

Mel explained that Ryan and he had met informally with Steve Weir, Manager of Tourism, to discuss the development of accessible tourism and how it could be of benefit to Brockville.

They discussed the broad background to accessible tourism recognizing that the demographic which is defined as having some form of disability is 15% to 18% of the population. Reference was made to several websites which identify the worldwide development of accessible tourism and indicate that it is a well-defined component of tourism and growing in significance.

Brockville's location, facilities and topography were discussed and recognized having a unique potential as a defined accessible tourist destination.

There was a discussion regarding the lack of an accessible tourist office identifying that the current "temporary" building has for several years been a negative advertisement for our accessibility. Mel and Ryan requested that at the very least a call/intercom device be provided so that a wheelchair user could ask for assistance. Steve confirmed that future locations will of course be fully accessible.

They discussed the Aquatarium and how it will provide an accessible tourist attraction for all ages. In addition how this could be marketed in conjunction with the riverside Hardy Park as a fully accessible environment. They hoped to link this core accessible area to the Downtown and Blockhouse Island. They discussed an accessibility map which would identify the key functional features such as parking and washrooms, as well as the best routes to link them.

Mel added that Steve was enthusiastic about the discussion and noted that he could introduce the accessible tourism issues to groups like the DBIA and the Aquatarium. They will plan another meeting with Steve and representatives of these Groups to support the integration of accessibility into the development of tourism.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Mary Ann

Seconded by: Mel

THAT the BMAAC meeting be adjourned until its next regular meeting scheduled for February 25, 2014.

CARRIED