



Minutes

Municipality of Thames Centre

Accessibility & Inclusivity Advisory Committee

August 30, 2023, 1:00 P.M.

Electronic Meeting

Members Present: Michelle Smibert, Chair/Council Representative
Shauna Rae, Community Representative
Jesse Farquharson, Community Representative

Members Absent: Michelle Coghlin, Vice Chair/Community Representative
Thomas Heeman, Council Representative

Staff Present: Steve MacDonald
Jana Nethercott, Recording Secretary

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest

No pecuniary interests were disclosed

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Moved by: S. Rae

Seconded by: J. Farquharson

THAT the minutes of the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee meeting held on June 21, 2023, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

4. Presentations/Delegations

None.

5. Reports of Staff

None

6. Committee Business

6.1 2023 Pride Celebration

Recap of the 2023 Celebration

S. Rae reported that she was pleased with the celebrations. Sponsors were generous and overall an amazing day. She also reported that she would prefer more time in 2024 for planning along with a flag raising if that is a possibility for next year. Ms. Rae reported that on Facebook she saw positive comments about it happening in Thorndale and state her thanks to Municipal Staff for their support. Next year the event will be in Dorchester.

Councillor M. Smibert thanked S. Rea for all her hard work in such a short turn around.

Discussion was held around setting a date for the even in 2024. Community Member S. Rae will be reaching out to Rainbow Optimist to assist with choosing a date.

Director of Community Services and Facilities S. MacDonald also thanked all the work Shauna did and reported the following numbers for sponsorship –

- 10 donations or grants - \$3150
- \$196 from 2022
- \$1000 from Municipality
- Spent to date: \$2862
- outstanding invoice for approx. \$75

- leaves \$1400 for 2024

Director of Community Services and Facilities reported that construction may still be ongoing at the FlightExec Centre - most likely perimeter fencing will be removed anyway by June. No issues are foreseen to have it in the park.

6.2 2024 Budget

Verbal update on the 2024 Budget and discussion.

Director of Community Services and Facilities S. MacDonald reported that the budget schedule has been made earlier this year and at this point the budget for this committee the budget has been maintained at status quo of \$1000. In order to increase the budget we would need to have a sound reasoning and case for the increase.

Community Member S. Rae inquired if this committee should work with the TCSEC to hold more events, such as a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Commemoration.

Director of Community Services and Facilities S. MacDonald stated that there is a possibility of a subcommittee that crosses between the two to assist with lessening the burden. The one consideration is that the TCSEC is tight for budget. Discussion was had and this was put on hold while more thought was to be put into this.

6.3 Enabling Accessibility Fund Grant

Discussion of possible projects to apply for via grant opportunity

Director of Community Services and Facilities S. MacDonald stated that this grant application is due in October. Used this funding in 2022 for the way finding app (Blind Square App) to Dorchester Park and reported the details of the grant and what qualifies.

Committee discussion lead to allowing Staff to move forward with improvements washrooms at Dorchester Field House and sliding doors at Thorndale Lions Community Centre.

7. Correspondence

Nothing

8. Unfinished Business

None.

9. New Business

Includes other business items requiring direction.

9.1 Awareness Training

Committee Member, S. Rae.

S. Rae sent an email to committee that she believes that its important that everyone has basic awareness training.

Moved by: S. Rae

Seconded by: M. Smibert

The Thames Centre Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee recommends to Council that Staff, Council and Committees receive Safe Space Training;

And that staff be directed to work with the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee to develop a training program for Staff and Council.

Carried.

9.2 2024 Pride Celebrations

Committee Member S. Rae reported a lot going on across the country and community and is asking Council for some support publicly and she would love to see the leadership of Council take this step.

Councillor M Smibert stated that while we can always do more, what do you believe we can do to assist.

10. Scheduling of Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled to be held September 18, 2023 at 1:00pm

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss it was:

Moved by: S. Rae

Seconded by: J. Farquharson

RESOLVED THAT the meeting adjourn at 1:51 p.m.

Carried.