

MINUTES
ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, MAY 24, 2023 – 1:00 P.M.
ELECTRONIC ZOOM MEETING

PRESENT: Michelle Smibert, Chair/Council Representative
Michelle Coghlin, Vice Chair/Community Representative
Shauna Rae, Community Representative
Jesse Farquharson, Community Representative
Steve MacDonald, Director of Community Services & Facilities/Staff Representative
Jana Nethercott, Recording Secretary

ALSO
PRESENT: Nadine Devin, Middlesex County Library Services
Lindsay Brock, Middlesex County Library Services
Sarah Savoie, Middlesex County Accessibility Coordinator

ABSENT: Tom Heeman, Council Representative

Chair M. Smibert called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

1. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

No pecuniary interests were disclosed

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) May 3, 2023

Moved by: S. Rae
Seconded by: M. Coghlin
(Resolution # AIAC-003-2023)

THAT the minutes of the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee meeting held on May 3, 2023 be adopted as presented.

Carried.

3. PRESENTATIONS

(a) Sarah Savoie, Middlesex County Accessibility Coordinator

a. Accessibility Considerations of Lower-Tier Municipalities

S. Savoie provided an introduction to herself and overview of her role with the County. Ms. Savoie is the main point of contact for accessibility questions and standards.

Ms. Savoie stated there is a potential of hosting a joint meeting with the Middlesex County Accessibility Committee in the future with regards to accessibility projects.

(b) Lindsay Brock & Nadine Devin, Middlesex County Library

a. Drag Storytime

Lindsay Brock provided an overview of Drag Storytime and a brief history of the project. Middlesex County Library partners with Rainbow Optimist Club and Strathroy Pride. Drag Storytime was last held in Dorchester in 2022 and are planning on hosting in Thorndale as part of the PRIDE celebrations in 2023.

Committee held a discussion around Drag Storytime across the County.

b. Tales and Trails

Nadine Devin provided an overview of the Tales and Trails program in Middlesex County. Signs were installed in Dorchester Park the week of May 15-19, 2023 and the first month's story will be installed May 29.

Committee held a discussion around the program.

4. REPORTS OF STAFF

(a) Budget Update

The Director of Community Services and Facilities provided an update that the Budget for 2023 is \$1,000 to be split between the Accessibility and Inclusivity Committee and the Local School Advisory Committee. The Director of Community Services and Facilities indicated that the Local School Advisory Committee had advised they would not be using the budgeted amount and therefore the full \$1,000 is available to this committee for use, along with \$196 left in reserves from the 2022 PRIDE celebration.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

(a) Review of Subcommittees

The Director of Community Services and Facilities provided an overview of Sub Committees from the previous term of Council. There was some discussion around the sub committees.

Moved by: M. Coghlin
Seconded by: J. Farquharson
(Resolution # AIAC-004-2023)

THAT Shauna Rae be appointed as chair of the Social Inclusion and Diversity Subcommittee.

Carried.

Moved by: M. Coghlin
Seconded by: J. Farquharson
(Resolution # AIAC-005-2023)

THAT the Accessible Playground Pilot Project and the Healthy Mobility Options Subcommittees be disbanded.

Carried.

(b) Pride Celebration

Steve MacDonald, Director of Community Services and Facilities provided an overview of 2022 PRIDE Celebrations and provided availability and dates for the suggested location of Thorndale Park. There was some discussion and the committee decided on July 9 for the Celebration from noon to 4 pm at Thorndale Park.

Moved by: M. Coghlin
Seconded by: J. Farquharson
(Resolution # AIAC-006-2023)

THAT the Social Inclusion and Diversity Subcommittee be granted \$1,000, along with the \$196 surplus funds for the 2023 PRIDE Celebration on July 9, 2023 to be held at the Thorndale Park.

Carried.

(c) Indigenous Land Acknowledgements

The Director of Community Services and Facilities provided the background from the previous Committee meetings including the

resolution from Council requesting the Director of Community Services and Facilities work with the AIAC to provide suggested wording for land acknowledgement signs. There was some discussion and Chair M. Smibert and Community Representative S. Rae stated they would undertake research and report back at a future meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE – None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

The Director of Community Services and Facilities requested that the Committee start contemplating the 2024 budget requests to be discussed at a future meeting, as the budget requests are due in October.

The Director of Community Services and Facilities reported that the Playground Experiment was approved at the May 8, 2023 Council meeting to promote inclusive play for all ages. The first events are scheduled for Friday May 26, 2023.

Community Representative S. Rae inquired if the Municipality has contemplated including prayer or quiet rooms in their facilities and would like this to be included on a future agenda in order to develop a recommendation to Council.

10. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS

(a) Schedule Remaining 2023 Meeting Dates

Moved by: J. Farquharson
Seconded by: M. Coghlin
(Resolution # AIAC-007-2023)

RESOLVED THAT the following meeting schedule for 2023 be approved:

- **June 21, 2023 at 1 pm**
- **August 23, 2023 at 1 pm**

Noting that such dates and times may be subject to change and that all meetings will be held electronically.

Carried.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, it was:

Moved by: M. Coghlin

Seconded by: S. Rae

(Resolution # AIAC-008-2023)

THAT the meeting adjourn at 2:55 p.m.

Carried.