



AGENDA
ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022 3:00 P.M.
ONLINE MEETING (ZOOM)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87229080148?pwd=RII2NWITeVRpc1R5ZGMzSnZnRDZBdz09>

1. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF
2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
 - A) February 7, 2022
3. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS
4. REPORTS OF STAFF
 - A) Inclusive Park Update (per S. MacDonald)
Verbal Report
 - Subcommittee update from the contractor
 - Recommendations from subcommittee for donor/sponsor recognition
 - B) BlindSquare Project Update (per S. MacDonald)
Verbal Report
5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS
 - A) Pride Celebrations (per K. Elliot)
Memo Attached
 - B) Painted Crosswalk (per K. Elliott)
Memo Attached
 - C) Indigenous Land Acknowledgements (per K. Elliott)
Memo Attached
 - D) Fireworks By-Law (per K. Elliott)
Memo Attached
6. CORRESPONDENCE
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
8. NEW BUSINESS
9. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS
 - July 22, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.
10. ADJOURNMENT

MEMO

To: Accessibility and Inclusivity Committee

From: Deputy Mayor Kelly Elliott, Chair, Accessibility and Inclusivity Committee

Date: April 21, 2022

Regarding: Pride Celebrations

BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

I was approached by a resident, Amanda Saunders, who was interested in having a Pride event here in Thames Centre as a way to show support and acceptance for LGBTQ2S+ marginalized voices. She shared personal stories from both herself, as well as other community members including youth, who do not feel welcome in our community identifying as LGBTQ2S+.

I thought this would be a perfect opportunity to start out small in 2022 and gradually build on this event. I will also be bringing this to the Special Events Committee for their consideration to support to help organize and volunteer at the event.

Initial discussions between Amanda and I included:

- Possible date: Saturday July 9th from 1-3pm
- Possible location: Pavilion in Dorchester Park
- Live music with the event stage - lgbtq2s+ local bands?
- Hand out small pride flags (eg. <https://www.amazon.ca/Rainbow-Pride-Sticks-Decorations-Supplies/dp/B07DRC46M5>)
- Daniel - face painting, balloon animals?
- Popcorn machine?
- Bouncy castles?

AIAC does have a small budget in which with the Committee's blessing could also go towards this event. As mentioned, I would be also bringing to the Special Events Committee on Thursday April 28th at 10:00am if they are also willing to financially support this endeavor.

MEMO

To: Accessibility and Inclusivity Committee

From: Deputy Mayor Kelly Elliott, Chair, Accessibility and Inclusivity Committee

Date: April 21, 2022

Regarding: Painted Crosswalks

BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

At the April 26th, 2022 Middlesex County Council meeting, Councillor Kurtis Smith has presented the following Notice of Motion for Council's consideration:

THAT the County Engineer prepare a draft Crosswalk Art Policy for Council's consideration and approval at the May 10, 2022 meeting of Council that supports the Strategic Focus of Cultivating Community Vitality to advance a diverse, healthy, and engaging community across Middlesex County.

Currently, County of Middlesex does not permit painted crosswalks on County designated roads and Thames Centre currently does not have any processes for painted crosswalks. Thames Centre does have 4 designated crosswalks, 3 of which are on County roads.

Painted crosswalks are one way to show support and showcase inclusivity and acceptance within a community. I would like the Committee to consider the following motion:

WHEREAS, painted crosswalks are one way to show support and showcase inclusivity and acceptance in a community;

AND WHEREAS, the County of Middlesex Council will be deliberating adding the use of painted crosswalks into the County of Middlesex's Crosswalk Policy;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Chair of Thames Centre's Accessibility and Inclusivity Committee be directed to write a letter to the Warden of Middlesex County and the Middlesex County Engineer in support of adding the use of painted crosswalks to the County of Middlesex's Crosswalk Policy on behalf of the Committee;

AND THAT, the Accessibility and Inclusivity Committee provides a recommendation to Thames Centre Council to support the use of painted crosswalks to acknowledge both Indigenous and LGBTQ2S+ communities throughout the municipality when possible.

MEMO

To: Accessibility and Inclusivity Committee

From: Deputy Mayor Kelly Elliott, Chair, Accessibility and Inclusivity Committee

Date: April 21, 2022

Regarding: Indigenous Land Acknowledgements

BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

A land acknowledgement is a single act of reconciliation. Land acknowledgement statements are to acknowledge and establish and maintain relationships with our Indigenous community members. Land acknowledgements can also be used as an education piece to teach residents about the history of Indigenous communities in Thames Centre.

One way that Thames Centre could consider using land acknowledgements and educate the public is through signage in our local parks to acknowledge the lands in which we gather. One of the discussions within the Accessibility Park subcommittee is how to make the park inclusive and welcoming to all, is to include this type of signage. Should AIAC agree, it is an item that AIAC could recommend for all park spaces across the municipality. I would like the Committee to consider the following motion:

WHEREAS, public acknowledgement of the traditional territories upon which we gather is an important step towards reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's final report calls for 94 actions toward restoring a balanced relationship between Indigenous peoples and settler communities in this country;

AND WHEREAS, education and awareness is one of the key avenues in which to begin acting on these 94 actions;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Accessibility and Inclusivity Committee recommend to Thames Centre Council the installation of signage for municipal park spaces acknowledging the traditional Indigenous lands throughout Thames Centre.

MEMO

To: Accessibility and Inclusivity Committee

From: Deputy Mayor Kelly Elliott, Chair, Accessibility and Inclusivity Committee

Date: April 21, 2022

Regarding: Fireworks By-Law

BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

Thames Centre's Fireworks By-Law (70-2021) currently only allows the discharge of fireworks on July 1st and the day that the 24th day of May holiday is celebrated. However, being an inclusive and diverse community means supporting other holidays that use fireworks as a traditional celebration.

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is a major festival celebrated by Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs. The festival usually is held between mid-October and mid-November and lasts five days. Diwali symbolizes the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance". The third day of these celebrations are known as Lakshmi Puja and often families and friends gather for fireworks, which signify a way to chase away evil spirits.

Adding Diwali to the Fireworks By-Law is a way to build an inclusive community that welcomes all celebrations. I would like the Committee to consider the following motion:

WHEREAS, the current Thames Centre Fireworks By-Law (By-Law 70-2021) currently only allows the discharge of fireworks on Canada Day and the 24th day of May holiday is celebrated;

AND WHEREAS, being an inclusive and diverse community means supporting other holidays in which the use of fireworks is a traditional celebration;

AND WHEREAS, Diwali is a festival of lights and one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs in which fireworks is a common observance for the holiday;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Accessibility and Inclusivity Committee recommended to Thames Centre Council that By-Law 70-2021 be amended to include the third day of Diwali celebrations as an approved holiday for the discharge of fireworks.