



ARNPRIOR

Minutes of the Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee Meeting

June 5th, 2024

6:30 PM

Caruso Park / Arnprior Public Library / Downtown Arnprior

Committee and Staff Attendance

Committee Members Present:

Lynn Cloutier, Vice Chair
Tom Burnette, Councillor
Amanda Deschamps, Committee Member
Dave Furgoch, Committee Member
Sarah Tait, Committee Member

Committee Members Absent:

Tina MacLaren, Chair
Amanda Harris, Committee Member

Town Staff Present:

Oliver Jacob, Deputy Clerk
Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation

Others Present:

Karen DeLuca, Chief Librarian for the
Arnprior Public Library

1. Call to Order

Lynn Cloutier, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM and welcomed those present.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called, with all Members of the Committee being present except Tina MacLaren and Amanda Harris.

3. Land Acknowledgment

Vice Chair Lynn Cloutier asked everyone to take a moment to acknowledge and show respect for the Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land we operate on, by stating:

“I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we work and gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinaabe People. This Algonquin Nation have lived on this land for thousands of years, long before the arrival of the European settlers, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.”

4. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution Number 011-24
Moved by Dave Furgoch
Seconded by Sarah Tait

Be It Resolved That the agenda for the Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee Meeting dated Wednesday, June 5th, 2024 be adopted.

Resolution Carried

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

6. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Resolution Number 012-24
Moved by Tom Burnette
Seconded by Sarah Tait

Be It Resolved That the minutes for the May 1st, 2024 Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

Resolution Carried

7. Presentations/ Delegations

None

8. Matters Tabled/ Deferred/ Unfinished Business

None

9. Staff Reports

None

10. New Business

a) Accessibility Tours

Committee Members met on site to perform tours of Town facilities to provide feedback on accessibility of the facilities and amenities within them. The following facilities were toured this evening, with a summary of the suggestions from Committee Members noted.

i. Caruso Park

- The temporary bench along the entrance pathway from Caruso Street should be replaced with a permanent bench that meets accessibility standards.

- The installation of engineered wood fibre (EWF) base under the swings will increase the accessibility of this amenity and complement the maintenance of the one (1) accessible swing at the site.
- The sensory elements on the new play structure are an accessibility improvement that was highlighted as a key addition that makes this park more conducive to those with sensory processing challenges.

ii. Arnprior Public Library

- The Chief Librarian reviewed the accessibility policies that have been implemented at the Arnprior Public Library for their program and service offerings. In particular, committee members noted that the inclusivity language of the Summer Reading Program (“for all abilities”) was a best practice that should be praised alongside the work that they have done to implement one-on-one support for those with accessibility needs (where possible).
- The ground threshold between the basement café area and the elevator area was identified as being too high and the Chief Librarian noted that this is already being actioned by Town staff.

Tom Burnette left the meeting at 7:24 PM.

iii. Downtown Arnprior

- Private signage in front of Downtown businesses should be alongside their properties and/or within patios (where they exist) to ensure that there is a clear path of travel for all users, particularly those with visual impairments.
- The placement of waste receptacles should be reviewed to ensure that they are not placed alongside accessible parking stalls to allow for accessible ramps to be extended onto the sidewalk from the passenger side of parked vehicles.
- Education materials should be developed to advise Downtown businesses, residents and collection companies that they should ensure that recycling bins and garbage cans are carefully returned to the sidewalk without blocking the main path of travel and any accessible parking stalls, particularly to preserve the rear half of the stalls for side entry vehicles with accessible ramps.
- The pedestrian crossover (PXO) activation button should be moved closer to the travelled sidewalk due to the presence of a garden and curb under the button extending around one (1) foot out from the

button's current location. Adding an extension arm would ensure that it could be accessed more easily by those with mobility aids.

- Town signage for special events (i.e. A-Frame signs) should also be placed outside of the main path of travel.

b) Roundtable Discussion

Lynn Cloutier, Vice Chair, shared that this item is an opportunity to share any questions, comments, thoughts and perspectives, with the following being a summary of the discussion topics that took place:

- Due to safety concerns, the appropriate use of mobility scooters should be considered as a public education priority to ensure that mobility scooter users understand where they should be driven, and drivers understand how to interact with them.
 - Suggestions included:
 - Installing signage on arterial roads (like Madawaska Boulevard and Daniel Street) similar to the ATV-related signage;
 - Creating public education materials to be distributed at multi-residential buildings where mobility scooters are more likely to be used (i.e. retirement homes, senior apartment buildings, Renfrew County Housing Corporation buildings, etc.);
 - Working with the Ontario Provincial Police on education and enforcement strategies to ensure public safety.
- Additional suggestions were made with regard to various accessibility programs that exist in other organizations and that could be implemented at the Town. It was recommended that any committee member with topic suggestions should forward them to Town staff and they can be included on a future agenda for committee discussion.

11. Adjournment

Resolution Number 013-24

Moved by Sarah Tait

Seconded by Amanda Deschamps

That the Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee adjourn at 7:59 PM.

Resolution Carried