

Municipality of Lakeshore

Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda



Thursday, March 23, 2023, 1:30 PM
Council Chambers, 419 Notre Dame Street, Belle River

	Pages
1. Call to Order	
2. Land Acknowledgement	
3. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest	
4. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair	
5. Delegations	2
1. Team Leader - Park and Trails - Accessibility Plan Projects	
6. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	
1. September 29, 2022 - Meeting Minutes	21
Recommendation: Approve minutes of the previous meeting as listed on the agenda.	
7. Completion of Unfinished Business	
8. New Business	
1. 2023 Workplan	24
2. Lakeshore Sensory Friendly Skates	25
9. Adjournment	
Recommendation: Adjourn the meeting at ____ PM.	

The Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore



Municipal Accessibility Plan 2023-27





**The Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore
419 Notre Dame
Belle River, Ontario
N0R 1A0**

**Accessibility Advisory Committee
Municipal Contact**

Division Leader Building Services- Morris Harding

The Town of Lakeshore is a vibrant municipality of over 34,546 residents located in South Western Ontario. Lakeshore is one of seven lower tier municipalities in the restructured County of Essex, which also includes the single tier City of Windsor.

Lakeshore is comprised of 52,850 hectares of land having approximately 500 kilometers of roads and streets within its boundaries servicing both our urban and rural residents.

The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore is committed to:

- The continual improvement of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services for all those with disabilities.
- The provision of quality services to all members of the community with disabilities.

Town of Lakeshore Accessibility Advisory Committee

Ontario currently has two active accessibility acts – the **Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001** (ODA) and the **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005** (AODA).

In 2008 the Customer Service Standard was the first accessibility standard under the AODA to become law. Designated public sector organizations were required to comply by January 1, 2010.

The Integrated Accessibility Standard (Ontario Regulation 191/11), which regulates Information and Communications, Employment and Transportation, came into effect on July 1, 2011 and is now law. Requirements under this standard will be phased in over time (2011-2021).

The purpose of the ODA is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities in Ontario by identifying, preventing and removing physical and other barriers that may limit opportunities for people with disabilities to fully participate in society.

Under the AODA, private, public and non-profit organizations are required to identify, remove and prevent barriers in order to make the province accessible for all people with disabilities by 2025. Through the AODA, the provincial government has identified key areas for the development of “common” accessibility standards intended to set requirements across all organizations and sectors:

Accessible Customer Service – January 1, 2012

- Addresses how organizations are required to provide their goods and services in an accessible manner – influencing attitudes and behaviour. Accessible customer service addresses any barriers in the delivery of accessible goods and services to customers. Continue to deliver Accessible Customer Service training to all new employees and volunteers which includes the Accessible Customer Service Policy, process and guidelines.
- Ensuring accessible goods, services and facilities are purchased when available.

Information and Communication – January 1, 2015

- Outlines how organizations are required to create, provide and receive information and communications in ways that are accessible for people with disabilities.
- Barriers addressed to providing information and communication in accessible formats to customers. Train employees on the Information and Communication policy including requirements of the Information and Communication standard including the use of accessible formats or communication supports. Modified the Municipal Website to conform with the World Wide Consortium Web Content Accessibility Guidelines WCAG 2.0 at Level A.
- Ensure Emergency procedures or public safety information is accessible to people with disabilities, upon request.

Employment – January 1, 2012

- Builds upon the existing requirements under the Ontario Human Rights Code in relation to how to accommodate individuals with disabilities throughout the recruitment process and employment relationship.
- Provide individualized emergency response information when necessary.
- Practices and procedures to notify internal and external job applicants that accommodations for disabilities will be provided upon request. Practices and procedures for notifying successful applicants of the policy for accommodating employees with disabilities when offering employment. Existing return to work

policies reviewed to determine if additional practices and procedures are required regarding documentation of supporting employees who return to work after being absent for reasons related to their disability. Accessibility needs of employees with disabilities are taken into consideration if they are redeployed to another position. Performance management processes review to ensure that accessibility needs of employees with disabilities are taken into account. Career development and advancement practices and procedures reviewed to ensure that such opportunities, when available, take into account the accessibility needs of employees with disabilities.

Design of Public Spaces – January 1, 2015

- Intended to address access to and within buildings and outdoor spaces. The standards for public spaces will **only** apply to new construction and planned redevelopment. Enhancements to accessibility in buildings will happen at a later date through Ontario's Building Code, which governs new construction and renovations in buildings.
- The Town of Lakeshore will meet Accessibility Standards for the design of public spaces when building or making major modifications to public spaces according to legislation. Public spaces include:
 - Recreational trails/beach access routes
 - Outdoor public eating areas like picnic areas
 - Outdoor play spaces, like playgrounds
 - Outdoor paths of travel, like sidewalks, ramps, stairs, curb ramps, rest areas and accessible pedestrian signals.
 - Accessible off street parking
 - Service related elements like service counters, fixed queuing lines and waiting areas

Transportation – January 1, 2013

- Intended to prevent and remove barriers in transportation, making it easier for everyone to travel in Ontario including people with disabilities, older Ontarians and families traveling with children in strollers. Includes conventional and specialized transportation, license of taxicabs.

About Lakeshore's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Under the AODA, accessibility planning requirements have been broadened from requiring annual Accessibility Plans to now requiring Multi-Year Accessibility Plans. This Multi-Year Plan outlines The Town of Lakeshore's strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet the requirements under the AODA, Accessible Customer Service Standard (Ontario Regulation 429/07) and Integrated Accessibility Standards (Ontario

Regulation 191/11, as amended.) The Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore continues to identify new accessibility initiatives which have been incorporated in this Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the period 2015 to 2019.

This Plan was prepared by the Town of Lakeshore Accessibility Advisory Committee and approved by the Town of Lakeshore Council.

Statement of Commitment to Accessibility Planning

Town of Lakeshore Council recognizes that improving accessibility is important to all residents. Approximately 15.5% or 1.85 million people in Ontario have a disability – that's one in seven. That number is expected to grow significantly in the next 20 years as the population ages.

The Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore is committed to meeting the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities in a respectful, equitable and timely manner and will do so by preventing and removing barriers to accessibility and meeting accessibility requirements under the AODA.

Ontarians With Disabilities Act

Duties of Municipalities

Municipal Accessibility Plans

Council of every municipality will prepare and review an accessibility plan; and get advice from its Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Contents

The accessibility plan will consider barriers to people with disabilities and ways to remove and prevent them. These barriers can include the municipality's by-laws and its policies, programs, practices and services.

The accessibility plan must include:

- a. A report on the steps the municipality has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities;
- b. How the municipality intends to identify, remove and prevent barriers in the coming year;
 - a. Provide multi-year accessible recommendations; and
 - b. All other information required by the regulations.

Municipalities will make the accessibility plans available to the public.

Duty of Committees

The Accessibility Advisory Committees will advise the Council about preparing an accessibility plan, how it will work, or is working, and if it achieves its goals. Specific duties, as per the legislation is included in the Accessibility Advisory Committees Terms of Reference attached at the end of this document.

Duty of Council

The Council will get advice from the Committee on the accessibility of buildings, structures or premises that:

- The Council purchases, builds or significantly renovates;
- The Council leases; or
- A person makes available as a municipal building (for example, an arena).

Supplying Site Plans – Municipal

Administration will supply site plans to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for review without delay prior to council voting.

Municipal Goods and Services

The Council of every municipality will take into account how accessible any equipment, supplies or services to be bought by the municipality, for use by itself, its employees or the public, is to people with disabilities.

Communication of Plan

- Municipal Web Site.
- Copies available through Administration.
- Report made public through Council meeting.

Consultation Activities

In the preparation of this accessibility plan the municipality has consulted with people with disabilities who reside in the municipality. Their comments and ideas are incorporated into this report.

2023-2027 Community Members of Committee

Chantelle Linton Jayson Mercier Thomas Jaeger

Joe Matz Michelle Sprague-Keane

Staff Member of Committee (Non-voting)

Morris Harding- Division Leader-Building Services

Members of Council

Councillor – Kelsey Santarossa

Disability: The AODA Definition

The AODA draws on the broad definition for disability that appears in the Ontario Human Rights Code. “Disability” is:

- a. Any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device.
- b. A condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability.
- c. A learning disability or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language.
- d. A mental disorder.
- e. An injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997.

Disability Barriers

People with disabilities face unnecessary barriers almost everywhere: at home, at work, at school, in parks, in recreational facilities, in the streets, in theatres, in stores and in restaurants – and even in municipalities.

A “barrier” means anything that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in all aspects of society because of his or her disability, including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an informational or communications barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy or a practice. Barriers can prevent people with disabilities from going to school and to work.

Types of Barriers

Barrier Type	Example
Physical	A doorknob that cannot be operated by a person with limited upper-body mobility and strength. A medical condition that requires access to services within a limited time frame.
Architectural	A hallway or door that is too narrow for a wheelchair or scooter.
Informational	Typefaces that is too small to be read by a person with low vision.
Communicational	A professor who talks loudly when addressing a deaf student.
Attitudinal	A recreation swimming program which discourages people with developmental disabilities from participating.
Technological	Information on a municipal Web site, which cannot be accessed by a person who is blind who has reading software for a computer.
Policy/Practice	A practice of announcing important messages over an intercom that people with hearing impairments cannot hear clearly.

The Planning Act and Accessibility

Accessibility is a provincial interest.

1. Section 2(h.1) of the Planning Act, requires decision makers under the Act to have a regard to accessibility for persons with disabilities to all facilities, services and matters to which the Act applies.
2. Paragraph 1 of subsection 41(4), subparagraph 2(f) of subsection 41(4) and paragraph 4.1 of clause 41(7) (a) of the Planning Act makes provisions for accessibility for persons with disabilities as part of the site plan process.
3. Subclause 41(8) (a) (v) of the Planning Act provides for a possible requirement under site plan approval of facilities that are designed to have regard for accessibility for persons with disabilities where the land abuts a highway under the jurisdiction of the upper-tier municipality.
4. Subsection 51(24) of the Planning Act requires that, in considering a draft plan of subdivision, regard shall be had to accessibility for persons with disabilities.

5. Subsection 53(12) of the Planning Act requires that in reviewing applications for consent to sever property, regard shall be had to accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The Provincial Policy Statement, 2005 (PPS, 2005) and Accessibility Section 1.0 Building Strong Communities sets out the policies relating to efficient land use and development patterns. The statement provides policies regarding:

Improving accessibility for persons with disabilities and the elderly by removing and/or preventing land use barriers which restrict their full participation in society (1.1.1(f)); and Permitting and facilitating all forms of housing to meet the social, health and well – being requirements of current and future residents, including those with special needs (1.4.2(b)) example – entrance barriers and ramps.

The definition of “Special Needs” in the PPS, 2005 provides examples of “special needs” including, but not limited to, housing for persons with disabilities such as physical, sensory or mental health disabilities, and housing for the elderly.

Multi-Year Barrier Removal Initiatives

This chart represents Committee priority initiatives completed and for the Town to undertake between 2014 and 2019. It is recognized that due to budget constraints, some initiatives may not be completed within the timeframe. The Town of Lakeshore strives to continue to move toward a fully accessible Municipality.

Barrier Removal and Repair		
ITEM	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
1	Accessible Signs	Graffiti Proof Signs with fines and time limit. Completed 2014
2	Lakeview Beach	Accessible washrooms; unlocked & opened Completed 2014
3	Stoney Point Park	Automatic Door Opener on washroom doors Completed 2014
4	Comber	Play area-safer and more accessible Completed 2015
5	Comber	Outdoor accessible washroom Ongoing
6	Park Washrooms	Grab bars for urinals Completed 2014
7	Belle River	More sidewalks added/repaired Ongoing
8	Lakeshore Parks	Accessible updating Ongoing
9	Canada Day & Sunsplash	Accessible celebrations Completed
10	Accessible Port-A-Potties	Accessible Port-a-Potties added to Lakeshore Parks Completed 2014
11	Lakeshore Washrooms – Parks	Updating Lakeshore washrooms to be more accessible Completed 2014
12	Yak Newsletter	Annual update for County from Chair Completed 2014
13	Accessible swings	More accessible swings in Lakeshore parks Ongoing
14	Workshops	LAAC Member to attend workshops to learn & Share accessibility – Annual
15	Accessible Lakeshore Businesses	Continue working with Lakeshore businesses to become more accessible Ongoing
16	General Training & Conferences	LAAC Members only 2014 Annual

Website

The Municipal website will conform to the World Wide Consortium Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) initially at level A and increasing to level AA according to the following schedule:

January 1, 2014 – New Internet sites and their web content must conform with Level A.
January 1, 2021 - All Internet sites and web content must conform with level AA, not live captions and pre-recorded audio description.

Community and Development Services

In 2014 there were many changes that were completed within our Lakeshore Parks, Roads, and other areas to ensure that Lakeshore continues to move towards a fully accessible Municipality.

Plans for the Towns Atlas Tube Centre and the new Libro Community Centre were reviewed by the committee and suggestions provided to Administration.

The Town of Lakeshore will meet the Accessibility Standards for the Design of Public Spaces when building new or making major modifications to public spaces. In the event of a service disruption, we will notify the public of the service disruption and alternatives available.

Zoning By-law

- The Municipality's Zoning By-law has been drafted and passed.
- The LAAC thoroughly studied and advised on accessible matters within the Zoning By-law.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL 2023/27

It is the recommendation of the Lakeshore Accessibility Advisory Committee that:

1. Council adopt the 2023/27 Accessibility Plan and make it available to the public.
2. Continue improvements to municipal facilities, parks and washrooms throughout Lakeshore in 2015 as recommended by the Accessibility Committee and in cooperation with the Community and Development and Engineering and Infrastructure Departments.
3. Continue to increase the quantity of accessible picnic tables provided in all parks throughout Lakeshore.

2023/27 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN APPENDIX “A”

FACILITIES & EVENTS			
ITEM	FACILITY & EVENTS	DESCRIPTION	COST ESTIMATE
1	General Training & Conferences	Committee Members Only	\$2,500
2			
3			
4			
5	Park	Accessible Needs	
6	YAK Newsletter	Point form year update for County from Chair	N/A
Total			\$15,000.00

Overall Recommendations

Recommendations provided with consideration to the AODA Accessible legislation, where conflicts arise the applicable legislation shall prevail.

1. All parking lots have wide well marked handicapped parking spaces
2. Accessible picnic tables and/or benches in all parks and parkettes
3. Ground under playground equipment clean and accessible
4. Appropriate Signage
5. Signage to show where washrooms are
6. Push buttons to open washrooms and facility doors. **Completed 2014**
7. Washrooms required year round for accessibility needs. Washrooms open from at least May 1st through October 24.
8. Portable toilets must be accessible style or at least one in each park.
9. Safety bar a must in all accessible washrooms beside and behind the toilets and a minimum of one urinal per male washroom – **Completed in Parks 2014**
10. All doorways must be 36 inches wide and level door lip
11. Accessible washroom stall door must open outwards not inwards
12. All buildings at parks have an accessible hydro plug to recharge accessible needs equipment
13. Washroom soap, hand towels and mirrors – lowered to accessible height

Public Works Projects Completed

1. Notre Dame Street redesign, including wider sidewalks, textured ramps and accessible parking. Phase 1 **Completed** 2013. Phase 2 – **Completed** 2014.
2. Sidewalks within school boundary areas.- **Completed 2014**
3. Accessible path in Stoney Point. Phase 1 **Completed** 2013. Phase 2 – **Completed** 2014, phase 3 – 2015.

Multi-Year LAAC Recommendations for Municipal Parks

The following list identifies parks within Lakeshore and committee recommended accessible revisions. The list also identifies accomplishments from prior years.

Lakeview Park, West Beach area & Marina

1. Marina washrooms are not accessible - Revisioning 2023
2. Restaurant is not accessible - Revisioning 2023
3. Marina speed bumps are too high - Revisioning 2023
4. Amphitheatre – recommend a path to go up the hill to join both pathways allowing people walking & wheelchairs to get to a place to hear and see entertainment.
5. Add a large family accessible pavilion.
6. Auto buttons on washroom doors would be ideal for accessibility. **Auto Door Openers Installed 2013 & 2014.**
7. Make beach accessible. Recommend a portable roll up boardwalk, 4 – 6 feet wide or a permanent boardwalk, eg. Mobi-mat. Complete?
8. Enlarge handicap parking spots in small east parking lot.

Lakeview Drive Parkette

1. Needs sign
2. One picnic table

Terra Lou Park

Removed in 2014

Duck Creek Park

1. Needs accessible Porta-potty
2. Needs a trail, benches and two tables. **Has a trail.**

Helena Park

1. Needs one table and one bench – **Has Bench 2014**
2. Needs one accessible swing

Ladouceur Lions Park

1. Entrances worn down need leveling
2. Entrances need to be open for accessibility – **Completed 2014**
3. Two picnic tables are needed in play area
4. Accessible swing recommended
5. Accessible washroom greatly needed **Installed 2013**
6. Diamonds need accessible opening – **Completed 2014**

Johnson Riverview Park

1. Needs walkway
2. One picnic table - **Completed**

Optimist Park

1. Accessible washrooms required
2. Better lighting around pathway
3. Blue rubber path needs trimming on both sides – over grown – **Completed 2012**
4. More accessible tables + benches around walkway
5. Accessible Porta Potty at both ends of the park
6. Benches needed at skate park
7. One bench needed at dog park and path if possible to centre – **Has picnic table.**

Maidstone Park

1. Washroom needed when arena closes – **Has accessible washrooms with auto door openers.**
2. Needs an accessible Swing

Girard – Grandview Subdivision Park

1. Curb cut – **Completed 2012.**
2. Need pathway – **Granular path.**
3. One table and one bench – **To be installed 2013.**
4. Garbage can – **Installed 2012.**

Legion Park

1. Need pathway – **Done 2012.**
2. Two benches and one table
3. Garbage container and lights – **Has garbage container.**
4. Accessible swing - **Not enough room.**

Atlas Tube Centre

1. Benches – **Installed 2015**
2. Pathways – **to be built 2016**
3. Committee commented on MURF plans 2012 **Completed**

4. Multi-use Recreation facility built to accessible standards opened **September 2014.**

River Ridge Park

1. Accessible parking space needed in parking lot **Completed**
2. Width of ramp – **There is a ramp.**
3. Accessibility for park area and equipment **Accessible equipment 2013**

Oakwood Park

1. Accessible swing recommended
2. Pathway needed
3. One bench and a garbage container **Has a benches and garbage container**

Centennial Park

1. Lower handles on washroom doors– **Auto door openers installed.**
2. Men's urinal needs a bar for safety and accessibility - **Completed 2014**

Russell Woods Parkette

1. There is no accessible pathway from back street entrance

Leffler Peace Park

1. Needs four tables under pavilion
2. Drainage between parking lot and washrooms
3. Washroom entrance lips are too high **Will check. Auto door openers installed.**
4. Men's urinal needs safety bar - **Completed 2014**

St. Clair Shores Park

1. Signage needed
2. Two tables
3. One accessible swing – **No swings in park.**
4. Pathway around play equipment –**Has a trail. Cannot put path next to play equipment due to safety requirements.**

Pleasant Park

1. Need washroom signs
2. Door signs at Fire Hall
3. Men's urinal needs a safety bar –**Completed 2014**
4. Washroom entrance lips are too high – **Will check.**
5. Sidewalk to washrooms needs to be repaired
6. Two tables under the pavilion – **Completed 2012.**

Woodslee Memorial Park

1. Needs to be accessible
2. Poles need to be removed from blocked entrances to washrooms
3. Sidewalk to play area and washroom
4. One or Two tables under pavilion
5. Garbage container

Libro Community Centre

1. Needs accessible parking signs –**Completed 2014.**
2. Accessible Porta Potty at play area & Baseball diamonds – **Completed.**
3. Sidewalk or pathway needed from Belle River Rd/Highway #27 to Millen Centre
4. Cement under pavilion at Concession stand – **New building 2014**
5. Trail through park –**Completed 2014**

Staples Community Park

1. Pathway needed
2. Accessible Porta Potty needed
3. Garbage container in parking lot
4. One table

Comber Fairgrounds Park

1. Need new sidewalk – **Trail installed 2013.**
2. Accessible parking spaces
3. Accessible park washrooms by Ball Diamond.
4. Accessible / family outside washrooms – Comber Agricultural Society
5. Signs needed at entrance
6. Children's slide too close to railway ties – railway ties not accessible – **Railway ties removed 2012.**

Tilbury North Park – Stoney Point Park

1. Accessible Porta Potty
2. Railway ties block entrance to play equipment & Accessible swing - **Removed**
3. Men's urinal needs a safety bar – **Completed 2014**
4. Men's bathroom door opens in and blocks the toilet - \$1,500 to change.
5. Extend sidewalk to meet with parking lot
6. Automatic door openers on washroom doors – **Completed 2014**

Lighthouse Cove Lions Park

1. Ramps at boat docks questionable safety – **Not under Town control.**

Gerilyn Tellier - Perdu Memorial Park

1. Needs accessible parking signs by entrances – **Completed 2012.**
2. Washrooms lip needs to be adjusted – **Will check. Automatic door openers installed.**
3. Fence entrances need leveling **Completed**
4. More benches needed – **To be completed 2013.**
5. Path to play area and opening in play area – **Fence removed 2012.**
6. One accessible swing recommended - **Installed**
7. Pea stone too thick under play equipment, not accessible – **Cannot change due to safety regulations.**
8. Men's urinal needs a safety bar –**Completed 2014**

Parkettes – New 2013

Ten waterfront parkettes were rehabilitated in 2013. Some required extensive revisions while others required only minor enhancements. All have paths, benches, garbage containers, signage and parking. The following list identifies the locations of each of the parkettes.

- **Wallace Line**
- **Puce Road**
- **Renaud Line**
- **Rourke Line**
- **Stuart**
- **Ross Beach**
- **Golfview**
- **St. Clair**
- **Stoney Point**
- **Gracey**

Facilities Owned by the Town of Lakeshore

Some municipal facilities are not public properties but are listed for information purposes.

- Town Hall
- Lakeshore Arena –**Closed**
- Comber Hall
- Libro Community Centre – new building 2014
- Atlas Tube Centre – new building 2014
- Public Works Yard – Puce
- Public Works Yard – Rochester
- Fire Stations
 - Station 1
 - Station 2
 - Station 3
 - Station 4
 - Station 5
- Lakeshore Dog Pound (Leased)

Review and Monitoring the Plan

The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan will be updated at least once every five years. The Accessibility Committee will review the progress of the initiatives on an on-going basis. Progress on the initiatives will be reported to the Town of Lakeshore Council via their Committee minutes.

Feedback

The Town of Lakeshore welcomes public feedback on accessibility initiatives within the Town. Feedback helps identify areas where changes need to be considered and ways we can improve facilities, goods and services. Should a member of the public wish to provide general feedback, comments or suggestions on how to improve accessibility on our facilities, goods or services, there are a number of methods. You may contact the municipality through our Customer Services Feedback/Comment process, via our Website or via telephone to the Manager of Special Projects.

Municipality of Lakeshore

Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 29, 2022, 10:00 AM

Members Present: Chair Rolf Keller, Member Joe Matz, Member Carol Pavlov, Mayor Tom Bain, Deputy Mayor Tracey Bailey, Councillor Kirk Walstedt

Members Absent: Member Lydia Williams

Staff Present: Division Leader - Building Services Morris Harding
Administrative Assistant – Stephanie Grondin

1. Call to Order

Chair Keller called the meeting to order at 10:09AM.

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

4. Delegations

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

1. June 9, 2022 - Meeting Minutes

Moved By Kirk Walstedt

Seconded By Tom Bain

Approve minutes of the previous meeting as listed on the agenda.

Carried Unanimously

6. Completion of Unfinished Business

1. Second EVAC Chair

- In budget for 2023, awaiting budget deliberations for confirmation.
- Waiting for Facilities to move chair to other side of Council Chambers

2. Term of Committee

- Final meeting of term.
- Volunteers need to resubmit letter of intent after the election is over and the Mayor chooses members of next committee.
- Interested candidates can apply right after the election, however a date will be provided when submissions are required.
- Email submissions for interested will be confirmed by Morris after speaking to Brianna.

7. New Business

1. Accessibility at the Marina Restaurant

- Action item for development of next committee.
- Run a contest to reinvent the space to enhance the accessibility of this building.
- Railing giving splinters and stability is a concern.
- Morris advised this has been sent to Facilities to address.

2. Accessibility Parking for Elections

- Carol brought forward an issue from the advance election yesterday in Comber, that there were several disabled people that could not park at the front because there were only a few disabled spots. They had to go all the way from the back.
- In the future, advance voting will have many disabled people and spots should be available.
- Morris will follow up with Cindy regarding accessible parking in the front of facility.
- Rolf – Comber parking lot is okay with regulations, but we can pass along to Elections Committee to add extra spots next time.
- Morris recommended blocking off from for accessible parking.

8. Adjournment

Moved By Tracey Bailey

Seconded By Kirk Walstedt

Adjourn the meeting at 10:21 AM.

Carried

Rolf Keller

Chair

Morris Harding

Municipal Liaison

Accessibility Plan Process

First meeting – Discuss previous plan accomplishments.

Discuss possible updates to new plan

Discuss open house dates for Public input

Discuss upcoming in-house training for each department regarding AODA internal/external document compliance.

Press Release

Lakeshore to Host Sensory Friendly Skates

Making skating more inclusive

March 16, 2023 – Thanks to the Belle River District Minor Hockey Association, sensory friendly skate dates are coming to Lakeshore’s Atlas Tube Recreation Centre (ATRC) starting in April.

According to Frank Jeney, Division Leader – Community Services, the inspiration for the sensory friendly programming came from Shari Fallon, Director of Events for the minor hockey club.

As the mother of a neurodivergent child and a child with an intellectual disability, Fallon is attuned to recognizing specific types of challenges.

“I have experienced inclusion gaps due to sensory processing challenges and ability to participate,” she says. “At a recent board meeting of the Belle River District Minor Hockey Association, there was a conversation about inclusion gaps and how as a hockey association we can help close those gaps.”

The decision to offer ice time to individuals with intellectual, emotional, or development disabilities is one way to address the inclusion gap.

“Skating rinks can be overwhelming places for people with sensory sensitivities because of the loud noises and bright lights. When Shari approached us with this idea, we were very excited to participate,” says Jeney. “We are always looking for ways to expand recreational opportunities in our community and Shari’s idea allows us to provide rink programming for people who may not have participated in the past.”

Small changes can make a difference for those with sensory sensitivities. During the sensory-friendly skate, the Atlas Tube Recreation Centre plans to dim its lights and reduce noise by asking skaters to speak softly. There will be fewer people in the rink and regular maintenance will be suspended during the skate.

“The goal is to welcome individuals of all ages who are interested in fun and physical activity, while also giving them the opportunity to forge new friendships,” says Jeney.

The first sensory friendly skates are free of charge. Participants must pre-register by calling 519-727-0470. Skate dates have been scheduled at the ATRC as follows:

Mondays from April 3 to May 29 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Fridays from April 21 to August 18 from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM (except May 5)

Mondays from July 3 to August 14 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM