

UNITED COUNTIES OF LEEDS AND GRENVILLE

LEEDS AND GRENVILLE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

10:00 a.m.

The Bill Thake Board Room, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
Administration Building – 25 Central Avenue West, Brockville

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met on May 13, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Bill Thake Board Room at the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Administration Building – 25 Central Avenue West Brockville.

Members Present: Bob Greene, Chair, Keith Moyer, Vice-Chair, Elfriede Dohle, John McClintock, Elaine McClintock, Evelyn Pott, Calvin Turner, Bill Thake, John Conley

Staff Present: Allan Brown, Kevin Spencer, Lisa Severson

1.0 Call Meeting To Order/Introductions

Mr. Greene welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Mr. Spencer, the Counties Health and Safety, Emergency Management and Accessibility Coordinator were introduced to the Committee. Mr. Spencer will be available to Committee members to answer questions related to accessibility and he will be working closely with Counties and local municipal staff to ensure compliance to the new regulations being introduced by the Accessibility Directorate beginning in 2010 with the Customer Service Regulations. Mr. Spencer looks forward to working with the Committee.

2.0 Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Thake has a video he would like the group to see related to the amazing abilities individuals have when faced with physical challenges under Item 7.0 Other Business.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – March 11, 2009

Motion

Moved by Mr. Thake and seconded by Mrs. McClintock

THAT the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on March 11, 2009 be approved as circulated. Carried.

4.0 Correspondence, Communications and Petitions

4.0.1 From The Honourable Madeline Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services (19-Mar-09)

Re: Employment Accessibility Public Review Period

This item was received and filed.

4.0.2 From the Accessibility Directorate to the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (17-Apr-09)

Re: AACs Regional Forum – Supporting Accessible Municipalities in Ontario

Mr. Greene, Mr. McClintock, Mrs. McClintock and Mr. Spencer will attend the AACs Regional Forum – Supporting Accessible Municipalities in Ontario in Ottawa on June 5, 2009.

4.0.3 From Robert Greene, Chair, Leeds and Grenville Accessibility Advisory Committee to HRDSC (05-May-09)

Re: Letter of Support for UCLG Application for Funding – Audio, Visual Upgrading for Council Chambers

Mr. Greene reviewed the letter he had signed on behalf of the Committee to support the Counties application to the federal government for funding under the Small Projects Enabling Accessibility. The Counties are seeking funding to improve the audio/visual component of their Council Chambers to enable individuals with visual and audio challenges to better participate in the political process. Also incorporated into the plan is the availability to tape the meetings to allow individuals who do not have the ability to attend the meetings access via the recorded sessions. Mr. Spencer provided an overview of the application to the Committee.

Mr. Thake raised the issue of the very short time frame that the federal government set in regards to the application process; with only a fourteen day turn around from issuance of the funding application to its due date. Many of the small municipalities have already begun construction in the early spring in relation to ensuring their buildings meet the criteria for

accessibility. The funding is of little use to them as any work completed prior to a specified date by the federal government is not eligible. MP Brown has been made aware of the issue.

5.0 Business Arising from the March 11, 2009 Meeting

5.0.1 2008 Accessibility Advisory Plan 2008 Submission

Ms. Severson advised that the 2008 Accessibility Advisory Plan had been forwarded to the May 7th Governance and Finance Committee for review and approval.

6.0 New Business

6.0.1 Emergency Preparedness Week – K. Spencer

Mr. Spencer provided an overview of the Counties Emergency Preparedness Week which occurred from May 2 to May 9, 2009. This year the focus was on pet safety during an emergency situation. The EMO website is an excellent site to review as they have tips and tools to assist families and individuals to plan for an emergency. Mr. Spencer provided the members with a copy of the Emergency Preparedness Guide for People with Disabilities and Special Needs. It was suggested that County Council be provided with a copy of the guide. The Committee also agreed that a letter should be sent with copies of the guide to MP Brown and MPP Runciman as well as to the Electorate Official. Ms. Severson will draft a letter on behalf of the Chair on this matter.

7.0 Other Business

7.0.1 Video

The Committee reviewed Mr. Thake's video. It was an excellent depiction of how an individual with a physical disability was able to lead a normal life. Mr. Thake will provide the video clip to the Counties' Clerk.

Motion

Moved by Mrs. McClintock and seconded by Mr. Moyer recommends that the video clip on Overcoming Disability should be presented at the June Joint Services Meeting to make them aware of the abilities of all people. Carried.

7.0.2 Civic Award

Mr. Moyer circulated the Civic Award which was presented to him from the Municipality of North Grenville for his tireless efforts and support of individuals with disabilities. Mr. Moyer also informed the Committee that he will be moving to Elliott Lake in the near future. Mr. Greene, on behalf of the Committee extended thanks and appreciation to Mr. Moyer for his hard work and dedication that he has provided to the Committee. The need for new members will be discussed in greater detail in the Fall of 2009.

Motion

**Moved by Mr. Thake and seconded by Mr. Turner
THAT Staff be directed to contact community agencies in regards to potential membership appointments to the Counties Accessibility Advisory Committee. Carried.**

7.0.3 Promotion of Committee

The Committee feels that it is important to start preparing promotional material on who the Accessibility Advisory Committee is and what services are available in our communities. It was agreed that members will bring ideas forward in June and September of 2009 to assist in preparation of a budget request for promotion through Mr. Spencer's budget for 2010.

The discussion of having Committee Members and Counties staff attend and man a booth at local festivals and events to assist in promoting who the Committee is was highly received by the Committee members. Mr. Conley suggested that the Committee work with both the Counties Economic Development Division and the Emergency Medical Services Division on coordination at such events.

8.0 Unfinished Business – No Report

9.0 Standing Items

9.0.1 Customer Service Standards

**9.0.1.1 Update on United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
Customer Service Standards**

Mr. Spencer provided the Committee with an overview of the upcoming training the Counties will be providing to both Counties staff and to the local municipal clerks.

9.0.1.2 Review of Draft Customer Services Policy

A copy of the draft Customer Service Policy was provided to the members. It was suggested that the training component and policies created by the Counties be included in the Accessibility Plan for 2009.

9.0.1.3 Meeting Schedule for Summer Months

Motion

**Moved by Mrs. Pott and seconded by Mr. Thake
THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee will not hold
their regular scheduled meetings in the months of July and
August 2009. Carried.**

10 Next Meeting

June 10, 2009

11 Adjournment

Motion

**Moved by Mr. Thake and seconded by Mrs. Pott that the Accessibility
Advisory Committee adjourn. Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.