



## **Minutes**

### **Municipality of Thames Centre**

### **Accessibility & Inclusivity Advisory Committee**

**March 3, 2025, 12:30 P.M.**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**Attendance both virtual and in person**

**In Person attendance at Municipal Office**

**4305 Hamilton Road, Dorchester**

Members Present: Michelle Smibert, Chair/Council Representative  
Danielle Lockie, Council Representative  
Shauna Rae, Community Representative

Members Absent: Michelle Coghlin, Vice Chair/Community Representative  
Jesse Farquharson, Community Representative

Staff Present: Steve MacDonald, Director of Community Services &  
Facilities/Staff Representative  
Jana Nethercott, Recording Secretary

Others Present D. Barrick, CAO  
M. Ramnanan, Communications Manager

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#### **1. Call To Order**

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Resolution: AIAC- 008-2025**

**Moved by:** D. Lockie

**Seconded by:** S. Rae

**THAT** the March 3, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee **BE APPROVED** as presented.

**Carried.**

**3. Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**4. Previous Minutes**

**Resolution: AIAC- 009-2025**

**Moved by:** S. Rae

**Seconded by:** D. Lockie

**THAT** the minutes of the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee Regular Meeting held on January 7, 2025 **BE RECEIVED.**

**Carried.**

**5. Committee Business**

**5.1 Results of Survey**

M. Ramnanan, Manager of Communications, reported that at this time there have been 45 responses to the survey. The main themes reported were the accessibility of buildings, parks and trails and accessible standards are a high priority, with a large number reporting that someone in their house is affected by accessibility or inclusion.

There was some discussion around leveraging Disability Awareness week at the end of May to garner more responses, along with developing a QR code.

**6. New Business**

Includes other business items requiring direction.

**6.1 National Accessibility Awareness Week May 25-31, 2025**

D. Lockie provided information on National Accessibility Awareness Week and inquired about having a Wear Red Shirt Day on May 26th and inviting Kalin Glue, a resident who is active in promoting accessibility awareness.

Direction was provided to include a link on the municipal website to Easter Seals Canada's information on National Accessibility Awareness Week and how to purchase a Red Shirt from them.

## **6.2 Update on 2025 Pride Celebration**

S. Rae reported that she had met with the Gay-Straight Alliance at Lord Dorchester Secondary School and that this group may have members interested in joining the committee. This group is also interested in seeing a public display of support such as a flag raising.

S. Rae reported that she also met with two local churches regarding support of Pride Festival, with one being potentially interested in hosting the Drag Story Time.

S. Rae reported that the 2025 Pride Event will be hosted in Dorchester on July 6th and will have similar events to 2024, with a focus on youth.

### **6.2.1 Logo Contest**

S. Rae stated that the sub-committee would like to host a logo contest to engage youth and are requesting to be able to provide a \$100 award for the final design.

**Resolution: AIAC- 010-2025**

**Moved by:** S. Rae

**Seconded by:** D. Lockie

**THAT** the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee **APPROVE** offering \$100 prize for the logo design contest, to be judged by the Pride sub-committee.

**Carried.**

### **6.2.2 Grant Opportunity**

S. Rae reported that the London Community Fund has a grant available for Pride Festivals.

**Resolution: AIAC- 011-2025**

**Moved by:** D. Lockie

**Seconded by:** S. Rae

**THAT** Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee **ENDORSE** applying for \$500 thru the London Community Fund Grant

**Carried.**

**6.3 Resignation of Member**

J. Nethercott, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk reported that member M. Coughlin had submitted her resignation. There was some discussion around recruitment of new members and time of meetings.

D. Lockie suggested the idea of hosting an event with the Playground Experiment in order to recruit new members. This option is being explored and more information will be brought back at the next meeting.

Direction was provided to staff to move forward with recruitment of a new member.

**7. Unfinished Business**

**7.1 Draft Terms of Reference**

This item was deferred until the next meeting once the survey has closed and there are more results.

**8. Scheduling of Meetings**

Next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2025 at 12 noon.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss it was:

**Resolution: AIAC- 012-2025**

**Moved by:** D. Lockie

**Seconded by:** S. Rae

**RESOLVED THAT** the meeting adjourn at 1:09 p.m.

**Carried.**