



Minutes

Municipality of Thames Centre

Accessibility & Inclusivity Advisory Committee

February 5, 2024, 2:00 P.M.

Electronic Meeting

Members Present: Michelle Smibert, Chair/Council Representative
D. Lockie, Council Representative
Michelle Coghlin, Vice Chair/Community Representative
Shauna Rae, Community Representative
Jesse Farquharson, Community Representative

Staff Present: Steve MacDonald, Director of Community Services & Facilities
David Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer
Jana Nethercott, Recording Secretary

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

2. Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest

No pecuniary interests were disclosed.

3. Previous Minutes

Resolution: AIAC-01-2024

Moved by: S. Rae

Seconded by: D. Lockie

THAT the minutes of the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee meeting held on November 6, 2024, be received.

Carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Dementia Friendly Community

Chair Smibert has provided the following link to information on Dementia Friendly Communities:

- [Dementia Friendly Communities - Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners \(alzswp.ca\)](https://alzswp.ca/dementia-friendly-communities)
- [Dementia Friendly Community Supporter - Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners \(alzswp.ca\)](https://alzswp.ca/dementia-friendly-community-supporter)

The Committee discussed the idea of becoming a Dementia Friendly Community and provided Staff Direction to send the information to the Lion's Seniors Advisory Committee for review, prior to making any recommendation to Council.

5. Reports of Staff

5.1 Potential Dates for 2024 Pride Event

Community Representative S. Rae stated that in the past the Pride Event was held in conjunction with Drag Story Time events at the Library's in Dorchester and Thorndale.

There was some discussion around the selection of dates and the possibility of hosting the local Pride event in June, while not scheduling the local event during the celebrations in Toronto or London.

Resolution: AIAC-02-2024

Moved by: S. Rae

Seconded by: D. Lockie

THAT Report No. C-AIAC-002-2024 be received for information;

AND THAT July 14th be set as the date for the Thames Centre Pride Event in Dorchester Park

Carried.

Resolution: AIAC-03-2024

Moved by: S. Rae

Seconded by: D. Lockie

THAT the following Committee Members be appointed to the Pride Event Organizing Working Sub-Committee:

- S. Rae
- M. Coghlin
- J. Farquharson

Carried.

5.2 Information on Joining UNESCO's Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities

S. MacDonald, Director of Community Services and Facilities provided an overview of joining the UNESCO Coalition for Inclusive Communities and CAO D. Barrick stated that currently Thames Centre does a number of the items listed in the Small and Rural Municipalities Guidelines.

There was some discussion on the next steps in the process, with staff stating that a report to Council would need to accompany a resolution from the Committee, to provide more details to Council and outline the required resolution of Council.

Resolution: AIAC-04-2024

Moved by: S. Rae

Seconded by: D. Lockie

THAT Report No. C-AIAC-03-2024 be received for information;

AND THAT the Accessibility & Inclusivity Advisory Committee recommends that Thames Centre Council join the UNESCO Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities.

Carried.

5.3 Project Update – Phase 2 of Accessible/Inclusive Park

S. MacDonald, Director of Community Services and Facilities provided an update on Phase 2 of the Dorchester Dream Park, with installation of the equipment to begin in Spring of 2024 and there is hope that the rubber surfacing will be installed for the Pride Event in July.

5.4 Land Acknowledgment Guidance

J. Nethercott, Recording Secretary provided an overview of the guidelines from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for developing a Traditional Land Acknowledgement.

There was some discussion around the consultation for a Land Acknowledgment and the ongoing outreach with local Indigenous Nations.

The Committee requested to review any Traditional Land Acknowledgment, prior to the recommendation to Council.

Councillor Lockie reported that at the Environmental Advisory Committee there was a discussion around a joint recommendation with Accessibility Advisory Committee for a Healing Forests to be implemented at two (2) locations within Thames Centre.

Resolution: AIAC- AIAC-05-2024

Moved by: S. Rae

Seconded by: D. Lockie

THAT Report No. C-AIAC-01-2024 be received for information;

AND THAT the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee recommends that Thames Centre Council develop a Land Acknowledgment, using the Association of Municipalities Guidelines;

AND THAT the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee support the Environmental Advisory Committee's recommendation to consider a joint recommendation for a National Healing Forest initiative, to be implemented in two (2) locations within Thames Centre.

Carried.

6. New Business

6.1 Liaison with Special Events Committee and Possible Commemorations

S. Rae, Community Representative requested that Councillor Lockie be a liaison between the Thames Centre Special Events Committee and the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

The Committee requested that the Pride Event date and the possibility of hosting commemorations for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation be added to the next Thames Centre Special Events Committee Agenda.

6.2 Terms of Reference

S. Rae, Community Representative brought forward the idea to review the Terms of Reference for the Committee and suggested that more wording relating to diversity should be included.

The Committee requested that staff provide examples of other Municipal Accessibility and Inclusivity Terms of Reference for review prior to the next meeting, in order to facilitate a discussion on a potential update to the Terms of Reference.

7. Scheduling of Meetings

- Monday April 15, 2024 at 12:00 pm
- Monday May 06, 2024 at 12:00 pm

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss it was:

Resolution: AIAC-06-2024

Moved by: D. Lockie

Seconded by: M. Coghlin

RESOLVED THAT the meeting adjourn at 3:11 p.m.

Carried.