

**Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 8, 2018
City of Thorold Municipal Offices
3540 Schmon Parkway
Thorold, Ontario
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

Present:

Sharon Cook
Stephen Barker
Ann Villalta
Sheila Hirsch-Kalm
Rhys Evans
Connie Groves
Joey Hewitt
Karen Lemieux
Gordana Mosher
Donna Delvecchio
Terry Bell

Regrets:

Brenda Mitchell
Donna Herrington

Absent:

Nil

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Be it resolved that the Agenda, be approved. Moved by Joey Hewitt;
seconded by: Sheila Hirsch-Kalm. CARRIED

3. **Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2018**

Be it resolved that the minutes of February 8, 2018 be approved. Moved
by: Rhys Evans; seconded by: Connie Groves. CARRIED

4. School Presentations

Rhys Evans provided an overview of his vision for the school presentations. He would like to focus on the following 5 topics: universal design, person first language, access/physical accessibility, usability and entry.

Sharon Cook stated the need to remember who the audience is and be mindful that attention spans are not very long at that young age. Gordana Mosher and Karen Lemieux each provided their experiences with presentations they have done in the past.

The Committee generally discussed ways to be successful with this initiative.

Ann Villalta arrived at 6:58 p.m. due to delay in transportation

5. Follow-up – JAAC Attendance at Council and Committee Meetings

- Ann Villalta attended a recent MYAC meeting
- Karen Lemieux attended a recent MYAC meeting and announced she has been selected to sit as a patient advisor for Hamilton Health Sciences
- Sheila Hirsch-Kalm shared her experience of attending Accessibility Day at Exhibition Place in Toronto and stated she has been active in the community
- Gordana Mosher will attend Grimsby Council on March 27th and has arrangements to present to the Grimsby BIA
- Joey Hewitt attended an Age Friendly Committee meeting where Steve Murphy presented about Ramp it Up. Donna Delvecchio advised of the concerns raised by the Admin Group regarding this project.
- Connie Groves attended an Active Transportation meeting and a new accessible park is being built in Beamsville based on input JAAC provided to the Town of Lincoln

6. Accessibility Award – Municipal BIA Meetings

Joey Hewitt and Sharon Cook stated they had been approached by a Pelham business to conduct an audit and report on ways to improve accessibility. The JAAC stated they were going to audit 10 buildings in 2018 and rate their accessibility features related to washrooms, customer service, access, etc.

Rhys Evans offered to research the contact information for the app Accessnow. It was suggested the April meeting be focused on drafting the checklist to be used.

7. **New Business**

1. Sharon Cook referenced an article from Voice of Pelham about a sidewalk that was promised but has not materialized. Rhys Evans stated he would contact the Mayor and express his concerns.
2. Sharon Cook referenced an article in Niagara This Week about a para kayak facility being established in the City of Welland.
3. Donna Delvecchio advised that transportation will be provided to all who wish to attend the Volunteer Recognition event in April.
4. Sheila Hirsch-Kalm provided an update on publicity being generated by the daffodils of hope garden in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

8. **Next Meeting – Thursday, April 12, 2018 - TBD**

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.