

**Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 12, 2018  
City of Thorold  
3540 Schmon Parkway  
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Stephen Barker  
Sharon Cook  
Rhys Evans  
Terry Bell  
Brenda Mitchell  
Ann Villalta  
Connie Groves  
Karen Lemieux  
Sheila Hirsch-Kalm  
Donna Herrington  
Donna Delvecchio

**1. Call to order**

Sharon called for 30 seconds of silence in memory of those lost in the Humboldt Broncos tragedy. Sharon called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Be it resolved that the Agenda, be approved. Moved by Stephen Barker; seconded by: Karen Lemieux. CARRIED.

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

Be it resolved that the Minutes of March 8, 2018 be approved. Moved by Rhys Evans; seconded by: Joey Hewitt. CARRIED.

**4. School Presentations – Follow Up**

Rhys and Stephen will work on preparing 5-6 questions for the presentation and bring it back to the group at the next meeting. Rhys will circulate them before the next meeting.

## 5. **Accessibility Award – criteria confirmation and approach finalized**

We need to add more details to the washroom criteria. Donna D. shared the Age-Friendly Award criteria as a model. Donna H. will re-work the criteria for the accessibility award and bring to next meeting. To be awarded, a business should meet 80% of the criteria.

The committee wants to draft a press release to newspapers and local BIA's announcing that we are offering the accessibility award; inviting businesses and community members to nominate businesses to participate. We will also post on the municipal websites. Donna H. will prepare the press release and bring to next meeting. Terry indicated that Scott Roots – Niagara Now is a good contact.

Also, we should invite the media to attend the ceremony at a winning business that demonstrates an excellent example of accessibility.

## 6. **Employment Standard – Proposed Changes for Public Comment**

- The AODA should be adopted into the Ontario Human Rights Act.
- Make it simple to find compliance resources.
- The Standard should apply to volunteers and sub-contractors.

Be it resolved, that this summary be forwarded along with the comments of the AAC be sent to the JAAC Admin Group as an information item. Moved by: Joey Hewitt; Seconded by: Karen Lemieux.

## 7. **Election Preparation – Accessibility Training**

All JAAC members have adopted Thorold's Accessibility Plan for the election. Donna H. to review the previous Election Training presentation and make updates as needed. She will advise the JAAC members that we are available to train election workers as desired.

8. **Community News**

All

**West Lincoln** - MURS project is progressing well. Starting a Kiwanis Club. Karen cannot attend the Age-Friendly meetings due to her schedule. We need another representative.

**Grimsby** – Stephen will speak at Brock University at National Access Awareness Week. Grimsby Walk for Guide Dog – May 27, 2018.

**Niagara-on-the-Lake** – Community Centre – trying to get the accessible parking spaces reinstated. Sheila spoke with the Mayor. Daffodil Garden of Hope opening April 29, 2018.

**Thorold** – Carolyn Langley retires in mid-June 2018. We should circulate a retirement card. We will invite her to a meeting say our goodbyes. Lock 7 – undergone extensive renovations; improvements to accessibility. Looking for training and some help. Thorold won an award for Age-Friendly. Donna H. will book transport for Volunteer Recognition – Karen, Ann, Connie, Rhys. Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

**Lincoln** – no news to share.

**Pelham** – still experiencing problems with accessible parking – people parking too close to accessible spaces making it impossible to use the lift. Article in local paper – Sharon has had some conversations. She will send a letter to the Clerk for Council; asking for a new policy for sidewalks be put in place. Shrubs and trees are overgrown, creating hazards.

Be it resolved, the JAAC supports the Chair, Sharon Cook, sending a letter to Pelham Council to re-visit it's sidewalk policy to improve accessibility on municipal sidewalks. Moved by: Terry Bell. Seconded by: Brenda Mitchell. CARRIED.

9. **Next Meeting – Thursday, May 10, 2018**

Sharon

Location to be determined; we will try to meet in West Niagara area. Donna H. will try West Lincoln.

10. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn – moved by: Rhys Evans.