Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee of
Lincoln, West Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Grimsby and Port Colborne
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 9, 2024
Zoom and In-Person Meeting
Four Points Sheraton Niagara Suites
3530 Schmon Parkway
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Present: Rhys Evans (Pelham), Dan Whipple (Pelham), Rebecca Hill (Lincoln), Joey Hewitt (Thorold), Jennifer Thiessen (Lincoln), Dianne Rintjema (Lincoln), Janice Desroches (Thorold), Lisa Peso (Grimsby), Dave Antaya (NOTL), Lauren Bubnic (NOTL), Tammy Dumas, Niagara Region Accessibility Advisor, Donna Herrington, Justin Letourneau (staff support).

Regrets: Jennifer Korstanje (Grimsby), Laura Slade (Port Colborne), Matthew Trennum (Thorold), Nancy Fiorentino (West Lincoln), Lauren Kruitbosch (NOTL), Mary Murray (Port Colborne)

Guests: Councillor Wayne Olsen (Pelham), Mayor Marvin Junkin (Pelham), Justin Letourneau (Tech Support, Thorold).

1. **Introduction of Guest**: Tammy Dumas, Accessibility Advisor, Niagara Region.

2. **Call to order**

   Dan called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. He welcomed Tammy to our meeting.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Be it resolved that the agenda is approved as amended. Under New Business, Rhys wishes to discuss "JAAC T-shirts". Moved by Dave Antaya, seconded by Rhys Evans. CARRIED.

4. **Approval of the Minutes of March 14, 2024**

   Be it resolved that the minutes are approved as presented. Moved by Rhys Evans, seconded by Dave Antaya. CARRIED.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

5. **Niagara Region Accessibility Plan Presentations**
   Tammy outlined the community engagement process used for the Region's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. She will share her contact information as well as the Transit contact's information with Donna to be sent to the committee.

6. **JAAC Administration Presentations:**

- Town of Lincoln – Julie Kirkelos, Clerk

Julie outlined several initiatives being undertaken in Lincoln including exploring the use of AI technology and a Return-to-Work policy and process. Donna will circulate Julie's report with the minutes.

- Town of Pelham – William Tigert, Clerk

Bill reviewed a few projects being conducted by Pelham including Centennial Park washroom renovation, the Parking By-law Update and the potential adoption of Facility Design Guidelines for the Town which will include accessibility considerations.

- City of Thorold – deferred to next meeting due to illness.

- Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake – Lauren has committed to sending the municipality's report next week.

- Town of Grimsby – Mike Graybiel – Facilities and Parks

Mike informed the group that the Town is considering decommissioning some facilities due to age and the cost of retrofitting. Staff are currently finishing the Casablanca Waterfront Park which includes a ramp to the beach, a beach mat, and an accessible playground. JAAC will be invited to the grand opening. The Town continues to work on the Peach King Arena addition and is re-designing it's accessible parking spaces to comply with the Design of Public Spaces Standard.

- City of Port Colborne – deferred to next meeting due to illness.

New Business:

7. **JAAC T-shirts**

Rhys wondered if the committee should get t-shirts for visibility. Committee members felt there was little opportunity to wear the shirts based on how we interact with the community. Some thought was given to new lanyards, new business cards and maybe JAAC buttons.

8. **Community News**

Dan wondered if there was a need for a regional quarterly newsletter on accessibility. Committee members thought that a monthly column on accessibility news within the JAAC catchment area might be a good idea, and/or an article geared to the business community might be needed.

Lisa asked if the JAAC has meetings with the respective planning committees within the JAAC. At the moment, we do not. Perhaps this is something the committee should pursue.

9. **Next Meeting – Thursday, July 11, 2024, from 6:30-8:30 pm**. Location: Four Points Sheraton, Thorold ON. Format to be hybrid (in person/Zoom).

10.   Adjournment. Dan motioned to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Rhys seconded.