

Minutes – MAAC Meeting

City Hall, 5th Floor Boardroom 12:00p.m.
January 9th, 2020

Members Attending:

Brian Bibeault – Chair
Barb Bryant
Councillor Scott Robertson
Barbra Smith
Luc Lirette
Sharyn Emond
Linda Thomas-Ouellette

Absent:

Penny Leclair – Co Chair
Suzanne Nielsen
Robert Nielsen

Also Attending:

Staff: Adam Curran, MAAC Secretary-Treasurer, CNB
Joel Therrien, Policy Planning Intern
Evan Moore, Database Specialist
Member of the public: Butterfly Fields

Call to Order:

- The Chair called the Meeting to Order at approximately 12:02 p.m.

1) Minutes from the November 14th, 2019 were read

Moved by Barbra Smith
Seconded by Sharyn Emond

2) Public presentation from Butterfly Fields

Butterfly made her presentation to the Committee, explained the accessibility issues that she faced for consecutive years at the bus stop located near the Marshall Avenue and Booth Road intersection.

In the past, the bus stop did not have a wheelchair-friendly design, after years of communicating with the City, a wheelchair pad and ramp was installed.

In the past, there had been some issues concerning snow removal from the ramp and platform which made the platform non-usable for wheelchair users.

As a form of protest, Butterfly placed a wheelchair in the snow to demonstrate wheelchair user would not be able to utilize this platform under these conditions.

Following this, the City has cleared snow from the platform periodically and the issues have been largely resolved. However, the bus stop and the platform are not ideally located in relation to each other and Butterfly has expressed that this may still cause confusion for some users. She has made suggestions to the City for other suitable locations for the bus stop. Luc Lirette, Transit Supervisor explained that this process would require multiple steps such as establishing new coordinates and other technical and manual steps.

3) Discussion with Evan from I.T on new City Of North Bay website

Evan gave a fairly high-level explanation of the changes that have been made to the website. The changes have started being implemented since late 2018, a lot of work is yet to be done but the goal is to have the website be up and running for March 1st 2020.

The City is taking a new approach to content and making commonly accessed information easier to find and more accessible. A number of staff will be trained to edit and review content to ensure consistency. A consistency standard has been created by Gord Young, communication officer.

In terms of website accessibility, Evan explained that the current website was difficult to use with a screen reader, Brian agreed. Evan then explained how the use of specific programs will increase website accessibility. He also explained how editors will be trained to make content as accessible as possible while following leading accessibility standards.

New website will have a content management system which will make departments take ownership of their content. Brian recommended that content related to the MAAC committee should be all in one place on the website.

Evan then explained that website accessibility also means making the content more accessible to search engines in order to improve the local search engine.

Brian mentioned that he would text the website with a screen reader in the near future and asked if Evan could attend a MAAC meeting in the future to give the committee a tour of the website, Evan agreed.

4) Next Meeting

Thursday February 6th 2020

Next parabus meeting will be determined at a later date in the near future.

5) Adjournment

Resolution #19-15

Moved by: Barb Bryant

Seconded by: Barbra Smith

“That this Meeting does now Adjourn at 1:05 p.m.”

“Carried.”

Chairperson