

City Of North Bay
Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee (MAAC)
2017 Annual Report

Background

This report reflects activities undertaken by the North Bay Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee (MAAC) during 2017 and plans for 2018.

Summary of Activities – Year 2017

Committee Membership – 2017

Nora Long (Chair)
Sharon Moseley-Williams (Vice-Chair)
Denise Alkins
Brian Bibeault
Sharyn Emond
Robert Nielsen
Suzanne Nielsen
Barbra Smith
Barb Bryant
Councillor Anthony (City Council Representative)

Denise Alkins resigned from the committee in November, 2017.
Barb Bryant joined the committee November, 2017.

Staff:

Adam Curran (Secretary-Treasurer, November-December)
Beverley Hillier (Acting Secretary-Treasurer, July-October)
Luc Lirette (City Transit Representative)

Meetings of the Committee

The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee met eight (8) times in 2017. Meetings generally take place the first Thursday of every month, at 5 p.m. at City Hall.

On the October 12, 2017 meeting, the Committee agreed to hold the meetings on the first Thursday of every month, at 12 p.m. at City Hall. The change of time has been successful to date and will continue in 2018.

Guest Speakers

MAAC meetings are regularly attended by City Staff. This allows Staff to receive feedback from the Committee regarding the accessibility of existing and proposed policies, programs, services, facilities and infrastructure.

It is also an opportunity for MAAC members to gain a greater understanding of municipal processes and projects.

Guest speakers in 2017 included an introduction to the City's new CAO Keith Robicheau and Robin Cameron to discuss the renovations taking place at the front entrance of City Hall.

A number of service groups also attend MAAC meetings in order to raise awareness of accessibility issues and provide information regarding services available in the community. In 2017, this included Nikki Sage who is a home care consultant with Home Instead Senior Care.

Activities

City Staff consulted with MAAC throughout 2017. Some specific examples of projects that MAAC provided comments on include:

- snow removal;
- waterfront accessibility;
- accessible seating at Memorial Gardens; and
- sidewalk fracture cracks.

MAAC continued its participation as member of the Age Friendly Coordinating Committee of North Bay (AFCC) with Nora Long representing MAAC at AFCC meetings. MAAC participated in the Age Friendly Expo, September 14, 2017. During the Expo a table was set up to raise awareness of MAAC and their initiatives.

Awareness Initiatives

MAAC participated during Accessibility Awareness week and had a booth set-up at Northgate Shopping Centre May 29, 30 and 31 and a booth set-up at the Farmers Market on June 3 to provide awareness of the committee and other initiatives the committee is currently working on.

Snow Removal Recommendations and Fracture Cracks

The Committee had noticed an improvement with snow removal in 2017. However, there have been on-going concerns with the piling of snow in accessible parking areas, snow ridges created by the sidewalk plow, and a lack of sand on ice, creating hazardous conditions.

The Committee has brought these concerns to the attention of Public Works. The Committee will continue to look for ways to improve this process and stay in contact with City Staff and provide feedback.

A meeting was held with the Engineering Department and Public Works with regards to fracture cracks. In 2018, Engineering has agreed to try a pilot project on pouring concrete for the sidewalks which would limit the amount of fracture cracks in the sidewalk. MAAC will provide feedback once the first sidewalk has been poured.

2018 Work Program

The Committee and staff are preparing a formal work program for 2018. This program may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a) Inform Council of Provincial Standards and Legislation, as they become available.

- b) Create a social network presence for the MAAC Committee.
- c) Continue to increase community awareness of accessibility issues.
- d) Review and comment on policies, programs, services and new and existing municipal facilities and infrastructure.
- e) Host guest speakers from various municipal departments and outside agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Long, Chair
North Bay Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

NL/AJC/dlb