



**The Corporation of the Town of Essex**

**Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

September 6, 2024, 9:30 am

Colchester Community Centre, 100 Jackson Street

Present: Vice Chair - Oakley, Beth  
Member - Kurt Schroeder  
Member - Parker, Linda  
Member - Kokovai, Richard  
Member - Currie, Sherri  
Member - Lauzon, Tara  
Councillor - Allard, Brad, Ward 3  
Sherry Bondy, Mayor

Absent: Chair - Bridger, Corrine  
Member - Pacuta, Michael  
Member - Sandi Hale-Whittaker

Also Present: Rodney Klie, Manager, Parks and Facilities  
Everett Vanlare, Facility Clerk, Community Services

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request. Please contact the Clerk's Office at [clerks@essex.ca](mailto:clerks@essex.ca) or 519-776-7336 extension 1100 or 1101.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

Beth Oakley, Vice Chair, announced that Corrine Bridger has submitted a formal recognition. Mr. Klie expressed his gratitude for her commitment to the committee.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations (comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi Peoples), and of the Huron-Wendat Peoples. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

**3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict noted at this time.

**4. Adoption of Published Agenda**

**4.1 Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda for September 6, 2024**

**EAAC26-09-21**

Moved By Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Sherri Currie

**That** the published agenda for the September 6, 2024, Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

**5. Adoption of Minutes**

**5.1 Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes for June 7, 2024**

**EAAC26-09-22**

Moved by Richard Kokovai

Seconded By Tara Lauzon

**That** the minutes of the Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held June 7, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**6. Unfinished Business**

**6.1 Essex County Accessibility Festival**

- Rodney Klie, Manager, Parks and Facilities, explains the layout of the Essex County Accessibility Festival and the roles Committee members will have in the event.
- Linda Parker, Member displayed the poster for the Essex County Accessibility Festival to the Committee and talked about the amount of work that has been done in such a short amount of time.

**6.2 Committee Goals and Focus Areas**

- Beth Oakley, Vice-Chair, asked the Committee what the goals of the group are and if the Committee has suggestions for improvement. Richard Kokovai, Member, spoke about his past experiences with the Committee and how the group has acted as an advocacy group.
- Sherry Bondy, Mayor, reminded the Committee to be proactive when there are issues found so Council is aware of these issues.
- Kurt Schroeder, Member, discussed the Town of Essex Report a Problem Program and the lack of follow through on problems that have been reported. Tara Lauzon, Member, added to Mr. Schroeder's comment, saying that she has experienced the same issue with Report a Problem.

**7. Correspondence**

- Rodney Klie, Manager, Community Services, presented a letter that was received from Co-An Park requesting that the Committee assist in a joint 50% split with the Town of Amhersturg's Accessibility Committee in funding a wheelchair accessible ramp for a band member at the Jamboree Fest.

**EAAC26-09-23**

Moved By Councillor Allard

Seconded By Sherri Currie

**That** the correspondence from Co-An Park Committee requesting joint fifty percent partnership funding with the Accessibility Committee of the Town of Amherstburg for a wheelchair accessible ramp for a band member at the Jamboree Fest, be received; and

**That** the request for partnership funding, when needed, be approved.

**Carried**

**8. New Business**

- No updates to report.

**9. Adjournment**

**EAAC26-09-24**

Moved by Councillor Allard

Seconded By Tara Lauzon

**That** the meeting be adjourned at 10:30am.

**Carried**

**10. Future Meetings**

- November 1, 2024 - 9:30am ECSC - Barnett Meeting Room
- December 6, 2024 - 9:30am Colchester Community Centre

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Chair

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Recording Secretary