



The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: February 26, 2024

Subject: SRCLK.2024.02 – Arran-Elderslie Accessibility, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Advisory Committee

Report from: Christine Fraser-McDonald, Clerk

Appendices: Appendix "A" - Arran-Elderslie Accessibility, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council hereby,

1. That Council approves the Terms of Reference for the Arran-Elderslie Accessibility, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Advisory Committee;
2. That a member of Council be appointed to the Committee; and
3. Directs staff to proceed with the recruitment of five (5) to seven (7) community members.

Report Summary

The Arran-Elderslie Accessibility, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Advisory Committee is an advisory committee that provides Council guidance and recommendations on matters relating to accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie and will assist staff in local accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives/functions.

Background

On November 13, 2023, Council passed a resolution that directed staff to prepare a Terms of Reference for the Arran-Elderslie Accessibility, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Advisory Committee (see Appendix A).

At this meeting, Deputy Mayor Shaw and Paisley Ward Councillor Penner were appointed to this committee.

Since that time, Paisley Ward Councillor Penner has indicated that she would like to withdraw from this committee. Therefore, a second council member is required to be appointed.

Analysis

As per the AODA, the Council of every municipality with 10,000 people or more must establish an accessibility advisory committee. If the municipality had a similar committee before the AODA became the law, that committee should continue. Municipalities with less than 10,000 people may either establish an accessibility advisory committee or continue a similar committee that existed before the AODA became the law. Two or more municipalities may decide to set up a joint committee, instead of each one having its own.

The majority of the municipal accessibility advisory committee members must be people with disabilities. The committees give advice to the municipal council to help it carry out its responsibilities under the AODA.

Council must consult with the Accessibility Advisory Committee:

- when establishing, reviewing and updating the Municipality's Multiyear Accessibility Plan, accessibility standards and annual public status update;
- on accessibility for people with disabilities on buildings that the Municipality:
 - constructs;
 - purchases;
 - significantly renovates;
 - leases or declares a municipal capital facility;
 - on the need, location and design of accessible on-street parking spaces;
- before building new or making major changes to existing recreational trails to help determine particular trail features;
- on the needs of children and caregivers with various disabilities in the municipality when building new or making major changes to existing outdoor play spaces;
- on the design and placement of rest areas along the exterior path of travel when building new or making major changes to existing exterior paths of travel;
- Council must provide site plans and drawings from developers to the Accessibility Advisory Committee in a timely manner, when requested;
- Review of applicable site plans and draft plan of subdivisions, and plans for new or modified municipal facilities.

Staff have created a Terms of Reference for this proposed committee. The overall goal of an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee is to provide guidance to staff and Council in the development of policies, initiatives and programs aimed at reducing barriers in the workplace at the Municipality and fostering diversity and inclusion in all areas of the organization, both internal and external.

Currently, we have the following members of Council on Municipal Committees:

BASWR – Councillor Nickason

GSCA – Deputy Mayor Shaw

SVCA – Councillor Penner

Wind Turbines – Councillor Nickason & Councillor Dudgeon

SMART – Deputy Mayor Shaw

Chesley and Area Fire Board – Councillor Hampton, Councillor Dudgeon, and Mayor Hammell

Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee - Councillor Hampton, Councillor Penner

Committee of Adjustment – all of Council

Police Service Board – to be determined

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.5 Engaging People and Partnerships

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

The financial impacts of the Accessibility and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion have been accounted for in the 2024 Budget. Funds identified for 2024 for this Committee is \$5,000.

Approved by: Sylvia Kirkwood, Chief Administrative Officer