

**Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee of
Lincoln, West Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Niagara-on-the-Lake,
Grimsby and Port Colborne
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 11, 2024
Zoom and In-Person Meeting**

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Present: Dave Antaya (NOTL), Lauren Bubnic (NOTL), Rebecca Hill (Lincoln), Joey Hewitt (Thorold), Jennifer Thiessen (Lincoln), Laura Slade (Port Colborne), Dianne Rintjema (Lincoln), Janice Desroches (Thorold), Lisa Peso (Grimsby)

Regrets: Rhys Evans (Pelham), Dan Whipple (Pelham), Jennifer Korstanje (Grimsby).

1. Presentation: Phil Johnson and Kate Ball – Niagara Parks Commission

The JAAC welcomed Phil and Kate to the meeting. They presented their Public Information Centre presentation on accessibility efforts of Niagara Parks to date.

2. Call to order. As Dan and Rhys were not in attendance, Donna Herrington chaired the meeting. Donna called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Joey asked that Accessible Passport be added as 7(a) to Community News and a description of this initiative be provided by Donna.

Be it resolved that the agenda is approved as amended. Moved by Laura Slade seconded by Dave Antaya. CARRIED.

4. Approval of the Minutes of November 9, 2023

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

Business Arising from the Minutes:

5. Accessibility Award – next steps

Rebecca Hill volunteered to do some research and drafted some nomination questions and criteria for review by the JAAC. This criterion was circulated to the JAAC for review. The group had significant discussion on this issue. Key points include:

- The nomination process is useful, keeps focus in line with AODA Standards and provides more formality of the nomination.
- The group is committed to making the award process friendly and uncomplicated.
- However, a nomination process allows us to keep accurate records of who received recognition for their accessibility efforts.
- An award campaign with a specific timeframe would be easier to market.
- There was some discussion about levels of accessibility to be recognized: Platinum, Gold, Silver Bronze. However, the group felt this would complicate the intention of the award as we'd have to qualify each level.
- We need to reach out to BIA's and Chambers and ads in newspapers, and to all JAAC partners to market this award.
- A number of award names were discussed:
 - Accessibility Pathways Award
 - Accessibility Advancement Award
 - Accessibility Achievement Award
 - Access Forward Award – although Donna mentioned that this is identical to a training business name.
 - Accessibility Matters Award

Rebecca will set up a voting poll so members can vote privately for the award name.

New Business:

6. Town of Lincoln AODA and funding for small businesses resolution

Dianne outlined the resolution. It was decided that the committee would take some time to review it and provide individual votes for the following motion via email by Friday, January 19, 2024, at the latest:

Be it resolved that the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee of Lincoln, West Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Grimsby and Port Colborne supports the resolution brought forward by the Town of Lincoln which urges the

province to establish funding for businesses attempting to comply with the AODA. Further the JAAC believes that this resolution should be shared with other municipalities before being forwarded to the Province. This resolution should be shared as quickly as possible so that affected businesses will be able to comply with the AODA deadline of 2025.

Moved by Dan Whipple, seconded by Dave Antaya. CARRIED.

7. **Community News**

(a) **Accessible Passport** – is a new initiative by Donna Herrington and her business partner Gillian Mackey where videos are made to showcase the accessibility of tourist destinations for people with disabilities. This initiative began with the Niagara Parks PowerStation.

8. **Next Meeting – Thursday, March 14, 2024.** Location: Four Points Sheraton, Thorold ON. Format to be hybrid (in person/Zoom). Donna asked the group if the new technology provided by the City of Thorold assisted in facilitating a more accessible meeting. All agreed it was very helpful.

9. Adjournment. Laura motioned to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. Seconded by Joey.