



STAFF REPORT

Title: Axcelling Forward - August 8, 2023 Delegation

Meeting Date: August 22, 2023

Executive Summary:

Axcelling Forward Owner KayLee Hallwachs appeared as a delegate at Council's August 8, 2023 regular meeting of Council wherein she provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to accessibility concerns in the community and how simple solutions can make the City of Cold Lake more accessible.

Background:

August 8, 2023 Delegation

Mayor Copeland welcomed Axcelling Forward Owner KayLee Hallwachs to the Council meeting at this time being 6:05 p.m.

Ms. Hallwachs provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to accessibility concerns in the community and how simple solutions can make the City of Cold Lake more accessible.

Brief questions from Council ensued.

Mayor Copeland thanked Ms. Hallwachs for the presentation.

Ms. Hallwachs returned to the galley at this time being 6:27 p.m.

Based on the delegation, administration was understood that there were three (3) specific categories in the request for action:

1. Implementation of wheel chair ramps that are contrasted in color to be identifiable:

The can be done with such products as thermoplastic – inlay markings. This will come at a significant cost of which an order of magnitude estimate may be presented to Council for further consideration.

The City would also need to amend its Municipal Engineering Standards to ensure developers also adhere to newly established design standards for new development.

2. Implementation of programs and regulations to have businesses install, fix, and re-establish zero barrier access and maneuverability in their establishments.



The Alberta Building Code establishes requirements for accessibility for buildings. The City of Cold Lake does not have a program that follows up on an ongoing basis on meeting these requirements after final inspection under the City's QMP.

In several instances older buildings are based on older Alberta Building Code requirements.

This initiative would require the City to establish programs to have building inspected based on relevant codes, new regulations perhaps specific to the community regards to accessibility for public and private facilities, as well as enforcement and financial incentives for establishment of accessibility initiatives and/or legislated requirements.

3. Implementation of enhanced access to Kinosoo Beach:

It is understood from the presentation that even a ½" inch delta in elevation is a barrier for persons with disabilities. These barriers need to be changed to zero. This would include the nationally accepted practice for wheel chair ramps around the community (included in the City's engineering standard), the City's service levels for sidewalk cracks around the community (this will come at a significant operational impact for sidewalk replacement), and the installation of the concrete sidewalk into the water at Kinosoo Beach (this will require further engineering, environmental approvals, and budget).

The above noted would require specific reports from various departments.

Alternatives:

Council may consider the following motions:

1. That Council accept the Axcelling Forward delegation presentation made at the August 8, 2023 regular meeting of Council as information.
2. That Council accept the Axcelling Forward delegation presentation made at the August 8, 2023 regular meeting of Council as information and direct administration to provide a briefing on the City's Municipal Engineering Standards relating to wheel chair ramps; to provide a briefing on options and budgets associated with the implementation of color be identifiable wheel chair ramps throughout the City of Cold Lake, provide a briefing on accessibility requirements in the City's Land Use-Bylaw and Alberta Building Code, at a Corporate Priorities Committee for review and recommendation.



3. Direct administration to provide a briefing on the City's Municipal Engineering Standards relating to wheel chair ramps at a Corporate Priorities Committee for review and recommendation.
4. Direct administration to provide a briefing on costs and budget associated with the implementation of color to be identifiable wheel chair ramps throughout the City of Cold Lake at a Corporate Priorities Committee for review and recommendation.
5. Direct administration to provide a briefing on accessibility requirements in the City's Land Use-Bylaw and Alberta Building Code at a Corporate Priorities Committee for review and recommendation.

Recommended Action:

That Council accept the Axcelling Forward delegation presentation made at the August 8, 2023 regular meeting of Council as information.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

No

Submitted by:

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer