

Meeting Minutes



City of Guelph

Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

City Hall, Meeting Room D

From 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Chair: Julian Murphy

Vice Chair: Mike Greer

Committee Liaison: Leanne Warren

Minutes: Sarah Wren

Agenda Items

All were welcomed by the Chair.

Attendance: Julian Murphy, Mike Greer, Cathy McCormack, Raminder Kanetkar, Brooke Sillaby, Jason Dodge, Donna McMurdo, Sarah Mathison, Malcolm Mcleod, Brad Howcroft, Marlene Pfaff, Deborah Stienstra.

Regrets: Lynn Jeurond, Melissa Tolton

Item 1, 2 and 3

Item 1, Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve: Brooke

Seconded: Malcom

Carried

Item 2, Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None heard

Item 3, Minutes of August 21, 2018

Motion to Approve: Cathy

Seconded: Jason

Carried

Item 4

Guelph Mobility Updates –**For Information** – Jason Simmons, Supervisor of Mobility and Community Bus

More Mobility buses are on the road now than in the history of Guelph Mobility. The manager of the service reported that with the new scheduling software, they can operate the service much more efficiently. With both of these recent changes, the service is on track to be able to accommodate last minute changes within 3 hours-notice. Two more buses are now available and

are on track to carry 35-40% more rides than last year. So far 13,500 trips have been made this year, the same amount was the total for last year. Business to Red Top Taxi has been decreased by 95%. These service improvements have been a goal for this service for a few years.

Wheelchair accessible Supervisor vehicles are now in service for emergency situations; the feedback received has been positive.

Until last week they had 9 blocks (blocks of time that vehicles are on the road), now a tenth block has been added with positive results. AAC asked if the ridership was from the same locations. There are 1400 registered mobility users which is about the same month to month. It is the same core group of ridership (about 800 users are active), yet more trips have been recorded for these users.

AAC asked if the ability to cater to bookings 3 hours ahead has been promoted. Jason advised no, not yet. If the pilot program launches in January/ February 2019 it will be promoted. At this point passengers will be able to book their ride through mobile app, online and by phone.

Item 5

Speedvale Avenue Underpass Trail – **For Information** – Leanne Warren

The design that was presented at the August meeting will be presented to Council. This trail is compliant with the City's Facility Accessibility Design Manual (FADM) on the north side of the bridge and compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act on the south side of the bridge. However, once detailed design is underway the designers will look to make the south side meet or come as close as they can to meet the FADM.

Detail design won't happen until there is funding, which is decided by Council; the project includes the rebuilding of a retaining wall that hasn't reached the end of its lifespan. With this in mind, an interim design will also be proposed to Council that includes widening the existing pedestrian crossing on Speedvale Avenue. The aim of this interim solution is to shorten the distance people need to walk.

AAC members were happy to hear that the committee's recommendations from the August 2018 meeting will be part of the Council report.

Item 6

Community Plan Update – **For Engagement** – Stewart McDonough, Strategy and Innovation

Last time Stewart presented an overview of the Community Plan. He is looking to hear from the broad community, including diverse groups that are representative of the Community, to advance the conversation. At the August meeting, the concept of creating news headlines about what you'd like to see in Guelph was shared. Affordable and accessible housing has been coming up in the conversations.

Blank 'Guelph News' newspaper headline templates were distributed for members to populate plus 2 other questions:

Question 1: If Guelph accomplished everything you want in the next 10 years, what would be your headline for Guelph?

Question 2: What barriers or challenges are in the way of achieving your headline?

Question 3: What Guelph strengths would help in achieving your headline?

The community engagement will end in February 2019, and there are two days of events planned to validate the findings through engaging the community. Other questions proposed to

the community include 'If Guelph was a village of 100', and validating 'What we've heard to date' and a master plan scan covering poverty and drug task force.

AAC members contributed some of the following headlines:

- "Guelph commits to blue community strategies and commits to significant environmental involvement"
- "Guelph goes 12 full months in a row with no deaths due to opioid overdoses"
- "Guelph completes its 3rd totally accessible affordable housing building"
- "Guelph young teens report that Guelph is the best city to grow up in"
- "Guelph voted most open and welcoming community/city for all of its citizens"
- "Guelph leader in Accessible housing options"
- "Most livable city in Ontario! Inclusive of all groups and ages"
- "Guelph wins UN award by building and sustaining diversity, access and inclusion"
- "How Guelph got it all figured out"
- "Would like to find a different way for strollers on city buses so they aren't in the way"
- "Guelph becomes the Canadian gold standard for accessible outdoor activity"

Barriers: Do I also list all of the barriers that were written down, or just the few mentioned in the meeting?

- Limited accessible and affordable housing
- Current population diversity
- Rapid growth within the city

Strengths:

- Change in training and environment for police officers. More green spaces
- Community engages effectively
- Very well educated residents and city staff. Various advocacy groups at different levels. Involvement of the private companies and the industry is helpful.

Members were encouraged to hold onto the forms for further completion if necessary and pass onto Leanne and Sarah for collection. AAC is invited to contact Stewart, Leanne or Sarah with further feedback if they like. Sector workshops on economy, health, education and environment will be paired with an online platform.

AAC asked if the hashtag #makeyourmark is trending on Twitter. Stewart replied it wasn't. AAC suggested by establishing a Guelph neighbourhood coalition and refining the hashtag to #makeyourmark 'neighbourhood', it could be more accurate for tracking. Stewart shared that a video making initiative would be coming soon.

Item 7

Vehicle for Hire – Set Sub-Committee and Recommendations for Terms of Reference – **For Engagement** – Leanne Warren

As a follow up to the August AAC meeting, the committee stuck a sub-committee to meet with staff to determine a how the funds collected from ride-share services in Guelph should be spent. The sub-committee will make a recommendation to the AAC. AAC will make a recommendation as a result of the guidance from the sub-committee.

There is interest in inviting soon to be former AAC members to continue with this process as it was started during their time on the committee. The AAC felt that these members could be advisors invited to join in.

Sarah M, Cathy (invited to join as a former member as of January), Brooke, Brad (invited to join as a former member as of January), and Malcom confirmed interest in joining the sub-committee. If any members want to participate, they are welcome to join in by giving Leanne a call or email noting that interest.

Motion: Moving forward, exiting AAC members may be invited to continue contributing to any sub-committees with an end date until the sub-committee mandate is complete.

Motion: Jason

Seconded: Mike

Carried.

Item 8

Research Project with the University of Guelph – **For Information** – Deborah Stienstra (AAC Member), University of Guelph

Deborah is the Principal Investigator (PI) on a research grant proposal for a 3 year project that includes a pilot component on people with a disability who volunteer in the Guelph Wellington community. At this point they are partnered with the People Information Network (PIN) and Hope House and would also like the involvement of the AAC members. If the AAC would like to be a partner on the project, the options are that the AAC could be 1) a partner now in this grant application or 2) wait until the grant is approved in March/ April 2019 then see if they want to participate. The benefit of joining now as a partner is that it would strengthen the grant.

The goal of the research is to study people with a disability and benefits to volunteering in their community. Often people volunteer to gain experience however the AAC members are in a non-typical position because they volunteer with a goal to advise based on their experiences and unique knowledge.

If the grant application is successful, it is likely that a chair would need to be appointed to the sub-committee. By either partnering now or later, a chair would need to do some of the admin, namely a letter of support and work with Deborah's office.

Deborah was asked if there could be any conflicts of interest with AAC members or the City; she responded that there wouldn't be a conflict as the conditions of the grant are that you must have an academic partner. The connection with the AAC would be seen as a benefit as it illustrates a deeper level of commitment that could be seen as innovative. As the P.I on the research, Deborah doesn't believe that there is a conflict in her role as she doesn't benefit directly, there are no funds transferred.

Leanne reassured the AAC that no committee members would be required to participate. Leanne will setup a meeting with Deb and staff who can advise the AAC on their involvement. Leanne also noted that the resources are likely to include meeting rooms and participant's time.

Next steps is to wait till March/ April to see if the grant is issued. In the meantime, Leanne and Deb to meet to discuss with staff who can advise on the AAC's participation. Deb abstained from further discussion at this point.

Motion: That the AAC will be listed as a potential partner on the Disability and Livelihoods research grant until we have more information, further engagement with the City, and grant approval.

Motion: Marlene

Seconded: Malcom

All in favour. 1 Abstained (Deborah).

Item 9

Site Plan Committee Report – **For Information** – Mike Greer

Mike reported on Site Plan that don't include affordable housing that is also accessible. The AAC have discussed in the past that accessible houses are rare in Guelph and that there is a concern that the need for accessible single houses and other non apartment-style houses will increase with the aging population and as the population of people with a disability.

It currently appears that the barrier to move this concern to a positive outcome is thought to be legislation, difficulty in persuading developers of the value, and local requirements

Discussion lead to next steps of inviting a staff person from the Planning Department to the December AAC meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to further understand any constraints that the City may have and possible solutions.

Leanne to also connect with the Province's Accessibility and Seniors Ministry to let them know of the AAC's concern.

Once meeting with the Planning Department, the AAC could consider the following as next steps:

- OBC change requests
- Steps to include in the Site Plan or another City process
- Informing the Mayor and City staff who meet with Provincial and Federal staff

Mike reported that a multi-tiered approach will likely be most successful. Within his networks he has noticed that other advocates are working toward this message as well

Item 10

Request to send to Site Plan Sub-Committee for Staff Consultation – **For Recommendation** – Leanne Warren

- a. Pedestrian Bridge at Wellington and McDonnell
- b. Ward to Downtown Bridge

Details were distributed via email regarding the new accessible pedestrian bridge, features a bench that overlooks the water. Railing heights meet the FADM.

Motion: The AAC to delegate the detailed design to be worked out with staff and the Site Plan Sub Committee and report back to the AAC.

Motion: Jason

Seconded: Brooke

Carried.

Next Meeting:

December 18, 2018 from 3 – 5 p.m. City Hall 112

Future Topics:

- Site Plan Sub-Committee report: update the AAC recommendations for Site Plan review

- Wilson parking structure and accessibility – December 2018
- Multiyear Accessibility Plan – December 2018
- Accessible playground including sensory activities for adults similar to parks in the United States.
- AODA Engagement may include: Guelph Trail Master Plan, Reviews On-Street Parking Consultation, Outdoor play spaces, Recreation trails.