

Meeting Minutes



City of Guelph

Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

City Hall, Marg MacKinnon Meeting Room 112

December 17, 2019

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

Meeting Chair: Mike Greer

Vice-Chair: Malcolm McLeod

Attendance: Mike Greer, Malcolm McLeod, Brooke Sillaby, Harold Grace, Ted Stevens, Elyse Trudell, Lorilei Root, Sarah Mathison, Lynn Jeaurond, Donna McMurdo, Deborah Steinstra, Leanne Warren,

Regrets: Elizabeth Lowenger, Jason Dodge

Agenda Items

Welcome to all.

Item 1, 2 and 3

Item 1, Approval of the Agenda

Approved: Malcolm

Seconded: Elyse

Carried

Item 2, Declaration of Conflict of Interest – None heard

Item 3, Approval of Minutes of August 20, 2019 (No meeting in October)

Approved Harold

Seconded Ted

Carried

3:05 to 3:30 Item 4

Guelph Transit Updates – **For Information** – Jason Simmons - Manager, Transit Operations
Committee members commented that people they know like the new app.

The committee were hoping to hear from Transit how the new app and booking system are working. Hearing about concerns and what is working well would be appreciated by the committee members. Leanne to share this with Transit and invite them to attend the February 18, 2020 meeting at 3 p.m.

Committee members were reminded to contact Transit directly with any issues that they experience and encourage others to do the same. Transit can only fix issues if they know about them.

It was reported that the tactile signs at the Transit Terminal have slid down the posts. As a result, there has been a request to have the Braille located on the information signs.

3:30 to 4:00 Item 5

Funds collected from non-taxi ride for hire companies – **For Recommendation** – Leanne Warren

In 2018 the City began collecting funds from non-taxi ride for hire companies operating in the City. The funds are to make these companies accountable for not offering wheelchair accessible transportation services as the set-up of these services involve individuals providing their own personal vehicles.

The City approached the AAC for a recommendation on how to spend the funds. The AAC felt that a sub-committee could work through some recommendations and present these back to the AAC. This was a struggle as schedules were busy and with few examples to follow (Ottawa seems to be the only other municipality that have made recommendations) no recommendations were put forward.

Staff requested a motion from the committee to recommend that these funds be reserved until the committee could determine a recommendation.

Due to not reaching quorum at the October 2019 meeting, a motion was still required for this topic. A draft motion was emailed to the AAC who then voted on the following motion.

Motion:

The AAC recommend that:

Funds generated from the Vehicle for Hire be reserved for accessible initiatives in the community.

Motion by Mike

Seconded by Malcolm

Carried

Further discussion on this topic is needed

Committee members approved the Agenda that contained this above motion.

Leanne brought this opportunity for a recommendation back to the AAC as the City needs a recommendation before year-end of 2020. To help the committee determine a recommendation Leanne read the following from the Ottawa Council report:

In Ottawa the VFH Steering Committee made the following recommendations based on collecting, as of December 31, 2018, the total amount of funds available in the VFH Accessibility Fund was \$1,248,413. Based on historical trip data, an average of \$720,000 per year can be allocated to programs supporting accessible transportation in the city of Ottawa. Funds collected for the Vehicle-For-Hire Accessibility Fund are credited to the By-law and Regulatory Services operating budget and any unspent funds are transferred to the Private Transportation Company Accessibility Reserve. Expenditures required to support accessibility programs will be funded by the accessibility funds collected.

“Based on public consultations and the feasibility analysis conducted by staff, the VFH Accessibility Fund Steering Committee recommend that the funds be allocated as follows:

1. Provide funds to not-for-profit and community agencies, such as community resource centres, to expand accessible transportation services in rural areas;
2. Develop a Smartphone app for Para Transpo customers so they can track the arrival of their ride;

3. Reduce the cost of taxi coupons; and
4. Increase the maximum allowance of taxi coupons per customer.”
April 13, 2016 <http://ottwatch.ca/meetings/file/574355>

In Guelph Leanne reported that \$28,000 has been collected since the 4th Quarter in 2018.

The AAC discussed the following:

1. The Ottawa recommendations:
 - a) Provide funds to not-for-profit and community agencies, such as community resource centers, to expand accessible transportation services in rural areas
 - Removed from the list in Guelph as this is not within the Guelph AAC scope.
 - b) Develop a Smartphone app for Para Transpo customers so they can track the arrival of their ride
 - Guelph Transit has an app that does this. Remove from the list in Guelph
 - c) Reduce the cost of taxi coupons
 - For consideration and is believed to be within the AAC scope
 - d) Increase the maximum allowance of taxi coupons per customer
 - For consideration and is believed to be within the AAC scope
2. Other discussion that took place was determining which population should benefit from these funds:
 - a) Should the recommendation be focused on benefits for people with a physical disability that cannot take a typical Uber/Ride vehicle? Or
 - b) Should the recommendation be restricted to those who cannot take Uber/Ride?
 - c) The committee believe that they should make a recommendation for only one year and re-evaluate.

The AAC recommended:

Staff to bring info (stats) to members leading up to their Feb meeting.

4:00 to 4:05 Item 6

Transportation Engineering Update – **For Information** – Leanne Warren

Transportation Engineering has two brief updates for the AAC that are action items from their team in 2020.

- Item #1, Temporary Speed Cushions – as a result of three capital construction projects in 2020, the City will be installing temporary speed cushions in the immediately surrounding areas to mitigate traffic concerns arising from the construction. Speed cushions will be installed one per block face and will be removed after construction is completed. Staff has investigated other measures to deter traffic during construction periods, however have determined that speed cushions would be the most effective with the easiest removal and installation.

- Item #2, Accessible On-street Parking – a \$50,000 budget request to Council for work to be completed during 2020 was approved. Although we don't have a definite plan for the accessible on-street parking in the downtown (due to staff resources), staff is planning on using a portion of the money to upgrade the stalls on Norfolk Street in front of the medical building to full AODA and FADM compliance. There are also plans for accessible stalls on Crimea Street (in front of the Guelph Food Bank) and Woolwich Street (in front of the Sleeman Centre), which will also be fully AODA and FADM complaint. Staff will be reviewing the budget over the winter to determine how many more parking stalls can be installed and/or upgraded to AODA and FADM compliance in 2020. This will be an annual budget request going forward.

4:05 to 4:15 Item 7

Parks Update – **For Information** – Jean Starchuck and Jyoti Patak

- Jean and Jyoti presented an overview of a new design for the splash pad and washroom building at Hanlon Creek Park.
- The AAC made the following **motion**:
 Recommend that staff meet with the Site Plan Sub-Committee as they work through the design.
 Motion by Malcolm
 Seconded by Ted
 Carried
- We are currently working with an Architect, on the replacement of the washroom facility, splash pad and surrounding area at Hanlon Creek Park, located at 505 Kortright Road West.
- The washroom and Splashpad have reached the end of their useful life and now is the time to develop an inviting, engaging, safe, accessible, comfortable, cost effective, highly functional and aesthetically pleasing design. A high priority is also being placed on operation and maintenance, along with customer security and safety.
- The construction is scheduled for this coming year with the site being opened back up to the public in 2021. The adjacent playground will remain open and untouched during this project.
- When it comes to accessibility the following items are currently included in the scope of work:
 - Overall compliance with the FADM
 - Two new asphalt accessible parking spots with appropriate signage
 - Smooth transition/gradual grading from the parking lot to the sidewalk to the facility/Splashpad
 - Improved site lines
 - A barrier free picnic area within proper distance of the parking area
 - The washroom will have three gender neutral washrooms – one being universal and the other two being large washrooms with grab bars
 - The multi level Splashpad will be accessible by ramps on both sides
 - Opportunities for barrier free play are being explored
 - One existing trail prone to flooding will also be improved

4:15 to 4:20 Item 8

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) – **For Information** – Leanne Warren

1. Province's public feedback opportunity regarding the first draft of the Information and Communication update in the AODA Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations – **For Information** – Leanne Warren
2. Province's public feedback opportunity regarding the first draft of the Information and Communication update in the AODA Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations – **For Information** – Leanne Warren
 - a) The Province has extended the period to submit feedback to the Information and Communication Standard within the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation to this Friday, October 18th. This is the first draft of this update from the Province.
3. Changes in the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility – **For Information** – Leanne Warren
Alf Spenser has retired. Awaiting to hear what structure the Ministry will take.

4:20 to 4:30 Item 9

AAC Site Plan Sub-Committee Report – **For Information** – Mike Greer

1. The number of site plan submissions has been low and so the committee have not met in a few weeks. The committee will resume meeting in February.

4:30 to 5:00 Item 10

Committee business – **For discussion** – Leanne Warren

1. Congratulations to those who applied and were re-appointed to the committee
2. New committee members to join the AAC at the February meeting are Brian East and Michael McPherson
3. Committee vote for chair and vice chair will take place at the April AAC meeting
4. New City Accessibility Coordinator/Liaison to the AAC, Chris Lytle, will begin work on Jan 13, 2020.
5. Mike Greer will be meeting with the Mayor to talk about Accessibility affordable housing. Mike will give the committee an update at the next AAC meeting.

Meeting Adjourned **motion** by Mike;

Seconded by Lynn.

Carried

Next Meeting:

February 18, 2020 from 3 – 5 p.m. City Hall 112 Marg MacKinnon Room

Topics:

- Transit Update
- Suggestion that David Lepofsky attend an AAC meeting
- Non-taxi ride for hire
- Snow removal
- Site Plan Sub-Committee Report
- Accessible Housing