

Meeting Minutes

City of Guelph

Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

City Hall, Meeting Room 112

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

Meeting Chair: Brad Howcroft

Vice-Chair: Julia Phillips

Agenda Items

Welcome to all

Present: Malcolm McLeod, Brad Howcroft, Jason Dodge, Joanne O'Halloran, Cathy McCormack, Luc Engelen, Sarah Mathison, Julia Phillips, Julian Murphy, Marlene Pfaff, Brooke Sillaby, Michael Greer, Raminder Kanetkar, Tanya Davies

Regrets: Missy Tolton

Staff: Robin Gerus and Jason Simmons (Transit); Stephen O'Brien and Tina Agnello (Clerks), Luke Jefferson (Parks)

3:00 to 3:05 Item 1 and 2 and 3

Item 1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve by Raminder, seconded: Julian

Carried

Item 2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None heard

Item 3. Approval of Minutes of February 21, 2017

Motion to approve by Malcolm, seconded: Julian

Carried

3:05 to 3:20 Item 4

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

Jason and Robin Gerus reported on March mobility statistics

- 1306 passengers
- 186 3rd party trips
- 1000 community bus passengers
- Totaling 4300 trips in March

Jason and Robin also reported that Transit is sending out a tender for new mobility buses with funding coming from both levels of government. This will total 9 mobility vehicles for Guelph Transit. Of these vehicles, it is not yet clear which vehicles will be replaced and added to the current fleet. A further review will be needed.

Guelph Transit is looking at changing their Mobility business model for off-peak hours for a more comprehensive service. As of May 1st, there will be 3 new Mobility drivers on staff to avoid using 3rd party drivers and to maximize the work within Guelph Transit.

There will be a community bus review coming in summer of 2017. As a part of this review process, Guelph Transit will take a comprehensive look to see if the community bus is beneficial and feasible for the City to continue running. Route changes will be a part of the review process. This will be a separate process from the conventional transit route changes. Trapeze will be included in the review process. There will be community engagement for the community bus. Jason plans to ride along the route and get into the community to hear customers feedback to put forward the best service possible, this includes route suggestions.

Current Transit vehicles are using diesel fuel and Robin perceives the lifespan of the mobility vehicles range from 5-7 years. It appears that based on their experience at a recent transit conference that diesel may be a thing of the past. Hybrid vehicles brought forward as an alternative however Jason and Robin have not heard of any hybrid transit vehicles locally.

3:20 to 3:45 Item 5

Site Plan Sub-Committee:

1. Report - **For Information** – Julia Phillips

Julia commented that site plans were steadily coming in at a high rate however the most recent group of submissions was quite low. If anyone is interested in joining the site plan sub-committee please contact Leanne.

2. Riverside Park Play Structure Replacement – **For Discussion** – Luke Jefferson
AAC members have valued the opportunity to provide input into the design of the Riverside Park play structure replacement project. Staff engagement with the AAC site plan sub-committee works well for the AAC members involved as well as these members reporting their recommendations to the AAC.

Luke told the AAC how the project is now ready to progress into the construction drawing stage and invited the AAC to be involved in this process as staff find that the AAC's input is very helpful. This project has evolved considerably as a result of staff listening to the AAC concerns and suggestions. Parks Planning has taken a more balanced approach following the early designs that really focused on a challenging play environment and transitioned into a more inclusive playground design finding a balance between challenge and access. Incorporating ramp accessible play decks that are more closely linked to the current Riverside Park Playground design allows for inclusion and options for all. Luke highlighted that Riverside Park will likely be closed after July 1st this year.

Motion: The AAC are pleased with the current design of the Riverside Park play structure replacement project and recommend that the AAC site plan sub-committee continue to engage with staff during the construction drawing stage of this project with the goal of providing advice on the detailed design.

Motion by Mike

Seconded by: Marlene

Carried

3:45 to 3:50 Item 6

On-Street Parking – **For Engagement** – Leanne Warren and All

At the February meeting the work of this committee for 2017 included engaging the AAC to gain their direction to staff regarding on-street parking. Over the past month, AAC site plan committee members reviewed and commented on a draft motion. The motion was then sent to the AAC prior to this meeting for comment.

The AAC has decided to defer the on street-parking recommendation back to the Site Plan Review Sub Committee for engagement. The recommendation will be brought forward to the AAC at the June meeting.

3:50 to 4:10 Item 7.1

Online Voting – **For Information** – Leanne Warren, Stephen O'Brien (City Clerk) and Tina Agnello (City Deputy Clerk)

Council is considering to not include online voting for the 2018 municipal election as there are concerns with security and the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) process to list residents. 33% of votes were cast online in the 2014 election and very little concern about online voting was raised at the time. The concern is not financially driven. It has become apparent that a voter can add themselves to the MPAC list that municipalities use for the online voting list. City staff stand by their recommendation for internet voting to be a part of the 2018 election.

The Guelph Accessibility Advisory Committee view online voting to be part of an inclusive suite of options that ensures all residents have an opportunity to vote during the municipal election. People with a disability can find it difficult or impossible to "make it out" to vote and so online voting provides an option and ensures that the dignity of people with a disability has been taken into account by providing all polling options that are available to the municipality so that all citizens can participate in the municipal election. It is therefore recommended that the MPAC concerns be made apparent to the Province so that online voting can be an option for the advance polls as well as on Election Day in the City of Guelph.

4:10 to 4:20 Item 7.2

Online Voting – **For Discussion** – Leanne Warren

Motion: AAC recommends to city council to keep online voting in place to prevent barriers and to provide greater opportunity for all voters in the 2018 municipal election

Motion by: Jason

Seconded by: Julian

Carried

Brad and Julia will make a presentation to Council on April 24.

4:20 to 4:30 Item 8

Bicycles on sidewalks – **For Discussion** – Leanne Warren and Joanne O'Halloran

Concerns were raised that people with specific disabilities feel that riding their bicycle in the bike lanes is not as safe as riding on the sidewalk because the bike lanes often end before the person has reached their destination. This means that the cyclist needs to share the road with vehicles and this feels unsafe for many cyclists with a disability. In addition, concern was raised surrounding the wording for online City of Guelph biking standards as it is felt that the wording is not written with people with a disability in mind but rather those who can drive a vehicle.

Introductions of the details were met with mixed opinions from the committee.

Some members of the committee feel that it is unsafe for individuals with disabilities to be using a bicycle on the roadway as bike lanes come and go while other committee members feel that they are unsafe when individuals ride their bikes on the sidewalk.

There is a concern from staff that property setbacks have not taken into account line of sight for drivers of vehicles and the potential speed that a bicycle can be travelling on a sidewalk. It is felt that as a car pulls across the sidewalk that a bike is likely to collide with a car whereas bike lanes are located on the road where the line of sight has been planned for. Other committee members feel that the sidewalks are not wide enough to safely permit pedestrians who may also have a disability and bicycles. The multi-use trails seem to be a reasonable solution for both concerns however these trails are only in a few locations in the city.

Several opinions were voiced however the committee was aware that they needed to understand all of the impacts before making any recommendations. Leanne to reach out to City Staff to gain more information. Staff to attend a future meeting with the intention for discussion to continue surrounding impacts and alternatives.

4:30 to 5:00 Item 9

Items for committee engagement – **For Discussion** – Leanne Warren

Deferred to next meeting

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting:

June 20, 2017 from 3 – 5 p.m. City Hall, meeting room C