

Meeting Minutes

City of Guelph

Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

City Hall, Meeting Room 112

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

Meeting Chair: Brad Howcroft

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Agenda Items

Welcome to all

Present: Mike Greer, Tanya Davies, Sarah Mathison, Brooke Sillaby, Brad Howcroft, Julian Murphy, Cathy McCormack: Luc Engelen, Jason Dodge, Raminder Kanetkar

Regrets: Malcolm McLeod, Marlene Pfaff, Missy Tolton, Joanne O'Halloran

Staff: Jason Simmons (Transit), Leanne Warren (Accessibility Services and AAC Liaison)

Item 1 and 2 and 3

Item 1. Approval of the Agenda Cathy and Sarah

Item 2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - None heard

Item 3. Approval of Minutes of June 20, 2017 – No changes Mike and Tanya

Item 4

Delegation Regarding Library and Baker Street Development – **For Information** – Anne Gajerski-Cauley, Citizen (up to 5 minutes)

Anne asked the AAC to formally weight in on the development of the main branch library. She was asking that the AAC delegate to Council on August 25th to speak to a central library from an accessibility perspective. Her concerns are focused on the location of the accessible washrooms at the current main branch library as they are on the top floor of three floors of public service areas.

She is also concerned that the book slacks are difficult for people who are seated in a wheelchair or that need to climb onto a stool to reach the top shelf who may not be stable on their feet.

She is hoping that the AAC can speak to other accessibility concerns as well

Hillsburg new library and Hamilton public library main branch washrooms were thought by Anne to be great.

Anne disclosed to the committee that family members has Autism. The committee member ask Anne what key elements should be used as a benchmark to address the needs of this population from her perspective.

Anne recommended to consider balancing competing needs and to hear from a diverse population of people with disabilities. Further she recommended to have a conversation with other communities that have done similar renovations or new buildings.

Any expenditure should be cost effect but also take accessibility into account.

The committee discussed if they should pursue these concerns. Their discussion came back to staff needing to find out more information and if input is needed now so that recommendations are timely.

Motion: Ask staff to research more on this topic and discuss at a future meeting with a goal of setting a plan for next steps for the next year.

Motion by Julian

Seconded by Cathy

Item 5

- a) Guelph Mobility Updates - **For Information** – Jason Simmons, Supervisor of Mobility and Community Bus
 - The 9 mobility buses that were ordered will arrive in 2 months.
 - 13 full time employees to help with extended hours of services
 - As of Sept a conventional bus will drive a community bus route. Further, the pick-up locations will be changed from in larger facilities driveways to on the street.
 - In sept there will be two more mobility buses to accommodate same day trips because a conventional bus is replacing the community bus which frees up two mobility buses.
 - The community bus will still go into St Joseph's Health Centre.
 - The will no longer go into 130 Grange, Janefield, Wellington Park and other retirement properties, Elliot and the YMCA, Neeve for the community buses.
 - AAC: there is a concern that people will have trouble getting out to the road to catch the community bus.
 - Transit response: The community bus is not intended to be just for people who have a disability.
 - AAC: The community bus seemed to be successful but because of the change to pick up on the road means that people won't have once an hour service at their door but rather have to deal with slush in the winter. More planning is required and spontaneity is being taken away.
 - Conventional upon request will remain.
 - Concern that the conventional bus for the community bus will reduce the accessible seating and there are significant concerns regarding snow.
 - At present one time there was discussion by Transit to purchase smaller buses rather than larger conventional buses.
 - Transit is asked to remember that people with disabilities have diverse needs and that these be considered.
 - There was public consultation on the Community buses by staff asking where they would like to go as well as sessions at the Evergreen and as a response to concerns raised at 130 Grange.
 - AAC cautioned that information sessions are not consultations from the committee member's perspective.

- Aug 23 city hall, September (on line) will be an information session about the alignment of the new routes and community bus.
 - 40 days of ridership will be report at the October AAC meeting.
- Concerns had been raised about the length of mobility devices that fit within the Mobility buses. Research with the manufacturer and other Transit companies resulted in learning that 30 inches x 48 inches long was the safe standard used.
 - Public information centres and other marketing programs will take place to communicate these dimensions.
- IVR is a new system that allows a person to call into Transit
 - The trip planning software will also be launched soon. Jason will report more at the October meeting.

b) Provincial Transportation Standard – **For Information** – Leanne Warren

Leanne reported that there hasn't been any further information about the AODA Transportation Standard update.

Item 6

Committee Business:

6.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee Handbook – **For Information** – Leanne Warren

Members were asked to contact Leanne if there were any changes proposed for the handbook. No comments were heard and so no updates to the handbook at this time.

6.2 Vice-Chair Nominations and Election – **For Discussion** – Brad Howcroft

Julian Murphy was elected by committee to hold the position of vice chair until the end of 2017.

6.3 Identify Gaps in Committee Representation for Fall Recruitment – **For Recommendation** – Brad Howcroft

The committee reviewed gaps in their knowledge around their table. They recommend that preference be given to the following applicants: An adult who can bring knowledge to the committee regarding children with a physical disability; someone who is very knowledgeable about current Deaf culture; a youth with a disability; or retirement living with a disability.

Item 7

Annual Information Report and Presentation to Council – **For Discussion** – Leanne Warren

The committee will prepare a presentation to be delivered to Council during February 2018 regarding accessible affordable housing. The Site Plan sub-committee of the AAC are seeing several multi-residential housing applications but rarely are the non-apartment style units wheelchair accessible or designed with the VisitAbility or Flex Housing principles in mind. The AAC would like to see this change with Council's support making Guelph a desirable community for people of all abilities.

Item 8

8.1 Site Plan Sub-committee Report – **For Information** – Brad Howcroft

There have not been many site plans submitted over the summer. It is felt that the number of plans coming forward will pick up in the fall. If any members would like to join the committee, contact Leanne for training and orientation.

8.2 Accessible Routes within Development – **For Discussion** – Mike Greer

Some site plan submissions for multi-residential buildings are lacking an accessible route when first submitted. The Site Plan Sub-committee may consider recommending advice to developers about the importance of accessible routes and what they should include during the early stages of planning the site design.

Item 9

Accessibility Affordable Housing – **For Discussion** – Mike Greer

Mike asked the committee to develop a formal vision regarding accessible affordable housing this topic to be further developed at the October AAC meeting.

Mike and Jason will work with Leanne on this by gaining more information through the Site Plan sub-committee and research from Accessibility Services.

Item 10

Compliance Report to Province and Multiyear Accessibility Plan – **For Information** – Leanne Warren

Leanne will send out a copy of the plan to the committee for comment in September.

Item 11

Bicycles on sidewalks – **For Discussion** – Leanne Warren and All

Deferred to October

Next Meeting:

October 17 from 3 – 5 p.m. City Hall 112

Topics:

- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Report
- Multiyear Accessibility Report
- Site Plan Sub-committee Report

Meeting Adjourned 5:00 p.m.