



Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 11:30 a.m., at the University of Waterloo, 125 St. Patrick Street, Stratford ON

Committee Members Present: Roger Koert – Chair Presiding, Geoff Krauter, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Diane Sims, Jamie Pritchard, Andy Mark

Staff Present: Oonagh Vaucrosson – Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, Nathan Bottema – Project Engineer, Mike Mousley – Transit Manager, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Also Present: Connor Luczka - Media

Regrets: Heather Contois, Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Roger Koert, Chair presiding, called the AAC meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

Reading of the Land Acknowledgement and a Moment of Silent Reflection.

Reading of the Respectful Workplace Policy.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3. Delegation:

3.1 Mike Mousley, Transit Manager – New Magnus Card Program

Mike Mousley, Transit Manager, provided an overview of the new Magnus Card program that the City of Stratford Transit will be rolling out, April 3, 2024. The

new program will assist in making the transit experience more accessible for everyone.

There is no cost to download the app and it can be used in many other cities, a list is provided in the app. Mr. Mousley demonstrated how to use the app and also noted the audio option that is available. Transit staff can use the app to receive data to further analyze services, as well as receive feedback from users.

4. Adoption of the Previous Minutes

The minutes from the March 5, 2024 meeting will be listed on the May 7, 2024, agenda for consideration.

5. Infrastructure Services Update

Nathan Bottema, Project Engineer provided the following update:

- the second half of the Albert Street reconstruction project from Waterloo Street to Front Street (Phase I) started last week;
- sidewalk projects will be beginning Spring 2024. Waiting to hear from Auto Form Contracting on an exact start date;
- Nicholson Concrete has started replacing some sidewalks throughout the City as part of the asphalt and concrete restoration contract;
- Albert Street Phase II, asphalt resurfacing, pedestrian crossovers, Moderwell Street local improvements and Perth Line 36 culvert replacement project are all in the design stage;
- tenders have closed for the watermain relining and the sewer relining projects;
- missing sidewalk links on McCarthy Road will be completed in 2024;
- a pedestrian crossover will be installed at the corner of Greenwood Drive and McCarthy Road and move the current bus stop closer to the pedestrian crossover (currently across from McCarthy Place);
- as part of Engineering's Accessibility budget, staff will be completing the three accessible on-street parking spots and lowering the curbs as requested by the AAC, as well as continue working towards the modifications to the parkland across from the bandshell on Veteran's Drive. This request is going to the Parks Board on April 8, 2024. At this point staff will know roughly what is remaining in the Engineering accessibility budget.

Diane Sims inquired if the sidewalks and curb cuts at the intersection of Wellington Street and St. David Street could be assessed as they are rough and in need of repair. Mr. Bottema will do a site visit of the requested area.

6. Site Plan Review Sub-Committee Update

Oonagh Vaucrosson, Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, provided an update that the Review Sub-Committee reviewed the following plans and submitted reports:

- 156 Albert Street;
- 596 Erie Street;
- a second review of 180 Wright Blvd.

7. Update from the Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator

Oonagh Vaucrosson provided a written report to the AAC members and highlighted the following items:

- the ONAP conference is scheduled for May 9-10, 2024 in York Region;
- additional site plan reviews are excepted;
- work has commenced on the flyer for the presentation from Julie Sawchuck on May 29, 2024 and it will be ready to distribute shortly;
- the accessible washroom at the Boathouse has been vandalized and is currently locked and closed to the public. The adult change table has had to be removed. Councillor Henderson suggested staff install security cameras outside the washrooms to deter people. Mike Mousley noted that this is an ongoing issue at the transit station washrooms and three cameras will be installed there;
- the Mobi mat information sheet has been created and it has been posted on the accessibility page and given to the Events Coordinator to share with event organizers;
- the presentation by Julie Sawchuck will be advertised on the City's website. Roger Koert stated that AAC members will attend and can set up an information table;
- a meeting is schedule with a member of the community to discuss organizing an accessibility scavenger hunt, AAC will be updated once more information has been received.

Roger Koert inquired about the Accessible Steering Committee suggesting that the AAC consider applying a fee to use the new Mobi mats for event organizers. He questioned if

the event organizers should be charged a fee for using the mats because City facilities are not accessible. He suggested that perhaps a deposit would be more appropriate and if they returned the mats in good condition, they received their deposit back.

Jamie Pritchard stated that organizers should not have to incur an additional cost to make their event accessible.

8. Update from Council

Councillor Henderson provided the following updates from Council:

- Council has adopted the Respect in the Workplace Policy for all attendees at Council, Committee and Advisory Committee meetings. The policy is posted on the City's website;
- All the City's sports sites have been audited, with the exception of two. The washrooms at National Stadium are scheduled to be getting an accessibility upgrade this summer.

9. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

9.1 Launch of the FADM with Perth-Huron Builders Association

Oonagh Vaucrosson has contacted PHBA and is in the process of setting up a meeting to discuss a presentation.

9.2 Developing an AAC Rebate Program

Roger Koert prepared a draft outline of the proposed rebate program and shared it with AAC members for their feedback. He will work with the Council Committee Coordinator to try and get a program started this year.

9.3 2024 National AccessAbility Week Plans & Accessibility Award

Roger Koert provided an update on Accessibility Week noting the following:

- the AAC will support Oonagh Vaucrosson at City Hall on May 29, 2024 for Julie Sawchuck's presentation;
- Roger Koert and Diane Sims are in contact with the Stratford Festival regarding promoting accessible performances;
- the AAC would like to announce the annual accessibility award during Accessibility Week. Andy Mark will contact Heather Contois to inquire if she is available to spearhead this again this year;

- if the rebate program is completed in time, it could be launched during this week.

9.4 Update on Accessibility Audits for City of Stratford Facilities

Oonagh Vaucrosson noted she has a list of approximately 40 City facilities to be audited. She will link 4-5 facilities together to be scheduled for audits on the same day and will make arrangements with any AAC members that are available to attend. Councillor Henderson, Andy Mark and Diane Sims volunteered to assist. The goal is to have all the facilities completed by the end of 2024.

As requested at the last AAC meeting, Oonagh Vaucrosson discussed the pathway at the Packham Road Soccer Facility and the use of crushed asphalt in lieu of the original accessible design to use stone dust, with the Community Facilities Manager. The Community Facilities Manager will look into the original design plans and when the Soccer Association took over the facility. Roger Koert noted that if the original design was to make it accessible with stone dust, at some point someone made the decision to change it to crushed asphalt, which is not accessible.

9.5 Update on Stratford Police Station

Diane Sims updated members that she met with Mayor Ritsma and Chief Skinner and they reported that there are funds in the 2024 budget to do the required accessibility updates to the George Street police station. At the May meeting, the Police Chief will share preliminary plans.

The May AAC meeting will be held at the new Police Administration building. This will give members an opportunity to see the new accessible facility.

9.6 Update on Status of AAC Motions

Roger Koert reported that Vicky Trotter, Council Committee Coordinator provided a list of outstanding AAC motions with updates on their status with the agenda package. Some of the motions are complete and some are being added to the 10-year capital plan.

Mr. Koert stated he has been invited to meet with Mayor Ritsma and the new Sports Tourism rep at the end of April to discuss the SERC site, which has been added to the 10-year capital project plan and scheduled for 2025. The requested tax deferral program has also been deferred to the 2025 budget for discussion.

10. New Business

10.1 Accessible Parking Request Letter (St. Andrew Street/1 Huron Street – Courthouse) Correspondence from the Perth County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee – Roger Koert

Roger Koert has received a letter from the Perth County Accessibility Advisory Committee regarding additional accessibility parking spots on St. Andrew Street. They are requesting support from the Stratford AAC for their request for additional spots. Stratford AAC members agreed that adding extra accessible parking spots in that area would be helpful with the Library, Courthouse and possible new theatre going into the old Archives building.

Councillor Henderson inquired if staff would investigate if parallel parking could safety be added on St. Andrew Street for Sundays only. Nathan Bottema will investigate and report back to the committee.

Motion by Andy Mark

Seconded by Diane Sims

THAT the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee supports the request by the Perth County Accessibility Advisory Committee to install additional Type-A and Type-B parking spaces on St. Andrew Street in front of the Perth County Courthouse. Carried

10.2 Advisory Committee Budget Memo

Vicky Trotter, Council Committee Coordinator, provided a memo with the agenda package outlining the AAC budget and timeline required to complete projects prior to year-end.

10.3 My Mainstreet Grant Funding

Jamie Pritchard reported that he met with Federal Minister Tassi, and confirmed that the My Mainstreet grant funding was available for accessibility upgrades. The BIA advertised it heavily and it is his hope that local businesses took advantage of the opportunity. Funding was available for up to \$20,000.00.

11. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the AAC will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at the Stratford Police Administration Building, 789 Erie Street, Stratford.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Jamie Pritchard

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT the April 2, 2024, Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Start Time: 11:34 A.M.

End Time: 12:58 P.M.