



A meeting of the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was held on September 1, 2020 at 11:30 a.m., 1 Wellington Street – Ground Floor Staff Room, Stratford ON.

**Committee Present:** Peter Zein – Chair Presiding, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Judy Hopf, Diane Sims, Laurie Maloney-Devlin, Geoff Krauter

**Staff Present:** \*Dan Sykes –Development Coordinator (City of Stratford), \*Michelle Pinto – Project Engineer (City of Stratford), \*Nathan Bottema – Project Engineer (City of Stratford), Tatiana Dafoe – Clerk (City of Stratford), Tyler Sager – Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk (County of Perth), Rachel Suffern – Administrative Assistant to CAO (County of Perth), Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

**Absent:** Jessica Jantzi, Peg Huettlin

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## Minutes

### 1.0 Call to Order

The Chair called the AAC meeting to order at 11:38 a.m.

### 2.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

### 3.0 Adoption of the Previous Minutes – March 3, 2020

**Motion by Geoff Krauter, seconded by Diane Sims THAT the minutes dated March 3, 2020 be adopted as printed. Carried.**

\*Michelle Pinto and Nathan Bottema now present (11:40 p.m.)

### 4.0 Infrastructure & Development Services Update – Dan Sykes

#### Updates:

- Staff has done several tactile plate replacements throughout the downtown area over the summer. AAC funds were not used for any of the replacements.
- The Erie Street sidewalk project is currently underway
- No update on the Mornington Street connecting pathway

**Areas of Concern:**

- Patricia Road at Kathryn Crescent and the crosswalk near Freeland Drive. Mr. Sykes will have staff inspect the area.
- Martin Street – Mr. Sykes will contact the Director of Community Services for an update.

**5.0 Parking**

**(a) Proposed Accessible Parking Spots on Lakeside Drive**

Michelle Pinto reviewed the updated drawings for the two new accessible parking spots on Lakeside Drive. The drawings outline both spots at 3.25m with a 1.5m access aisle. The Committee requested that one spot be a minimum Type A (3.4m) and a minimum Type B (2.6). The Type A spot will be the spot next to the curb. With an extra 0.5m available, staff will split the extra space between the spots and the access aisle to make dimensions slightly larger.

**Motion by Diane Sims, seconded by Councillor Bonnie Henderson THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves and recommends the amended drawings for the two accessible parking spaces on Lakeside Drive and requests they be funded from the 2020 Engineering AAC Improvements budget. Carried.**

**(b) Update on Erie/Oak Street (at Dufferin St.) Accessible Parking Spots**

Nathan Bottema reviewed the Council approved drawings with the AAC members.

The Erie Street spot will be 7.4m long, with a 2m access aisle at the back and a full depressed curb (7.4m) and a concrete apron from the depressed curb to the sidewalk (approximately 3.6m wide). The only sub-standard element for the design of this spot is the width. The configuration of Erie Street through that area is extremely narrow. The existing parking stalls along the street are 2.2m wide and this spot will have to conform to that dimension. Signs and painting will be added.

The Oak Street spot near the entrance to the park (at Dufferin) will be a 7.4m long space with a 2m wide access aisle at the back, 7.4m depressed curb along the side and a 2m wide access aisle at the side. The spot will be appropriately signed and painted.

Dan Sykes will send out a package of the designs of all three proposed spots.

**(c) Update on Signage for Access Aisles**

Tatiana Dafoe informed the committee that staff is investigating alternative options besides signs to mark the aisles as no parking.

\*Dan Sykes, Michelle Pinto and Nathan Bottema no longer present (12:02 p.m.)

## **6.0 Transit**

Judy Hopf noted that there are very few riders on the transit buses wearing masks.

She inquired if making masks mandatory for riders can be enforced somehow.

Councillor Henderson stated that in order to make it mandatory, the community would have to meet certain criteria and cases to mandate it, which Stratford currently does not meet. The City can only continue to promote and suggest people wear masks while out in public spaces, including transit buses. Councillor Henderson will raise this concern at the upcoming transit meeting, as well as reach out to the Health Unit for information.

Geoff Krauter inquired if there was any update from the Stratford Police Board on mandating accessible taxi's in Stratford. Tyler Sager reported that the Accessibility Steering Committee has done some research regarding mandating accessible taxis. It has been done in the past in other municipalities, Brantford has successfully done this by moving the taxi by-law to the Clerk's Office from the Police Services Board. There is a ratio that can be followed for taxis to accessible taxis. Tatiana Dafoe reported that with the accessible taxi by-law being with the Police Services Board, it's not currently overseen by the City. In order for the City to mandate it, the by-law would have to come over to the City to be responsible for licensing, training, etc. She reported it would be a lengthy and detailed consultation process to consider the many factors involved in this project. The concerns the AAC members have, is how does someone who has a disability, call a taxi for an urgent or an emergency situation? Ms. Dafoe will forward information from the Transit Manager regarding the current program created for urgent/emergency situations and the committee can have a further discussion at the next AAC meeting to seek further direction.

## **7.0 Site Plan Review Sub-Committee Feedback Reports**

The committee did not review any plans since the last meeting. Tyler Sager reported that moving forward, his department will co-ordinate the site plan reviews with the Stratford AAC review sub-committee. Mr. Sager will report at the next AAC meeting the updated process for reviews.

Peter Zein addressed recent condominium developments that are not meeting accessible parking regulations. The Clerk noted that the AAC review sub-committee can provide feedback to the developers and the City provides guidelines, however for certain developments, they are not always required to follow them. Mr. Zein was concerned that staff was not agreeing to meet with the review sub-committee to discuss the aspects of the development that were not meeting the guidelines prior to construction being completed. Tatiana Dafoe will follow up with staff to discuss how to address situations such as this in the future.

## **8.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

### **(a) Update on City of Stratford Website /Accessibility Page**

The City website has been updated, including the accessibility page. Laurie Maloney-Devlin inquired if all social media outlets for the City are accessible. Peter Zein reported that the Corporate Communications Lead, Mike Beitz, assured the committee previously that the website is accessible. Tatiana Dafoe also reported that all City-produced videos are closed captioned and people can also contact the Clerk's office to request an item in an accessible format usable for them. Ms. Dafoe will address the question of accessibility on all social media outlets the City uses with the Corporate Communications Lead.

### **(b) Accessibility Audits/Priority Lists (Sporting Facilities)**

No new update.

### **(c) Quote for AAC Stand Banner – Tyler Sager**

Tyler Sager reported that he has the information regarding the purchase of an AAC pop-up banner. The Committee had previously passed a motion to spend the money on the banner and would like to proceed with the purchase. Mr. Sager will work out some details on the design and report back to the committee at the October meeting.

### **(d) Update on Stratford Accessibility Guidelines**

Staff is continuing to work on the zoning by-law amendments, which affect the finalization of the Accessibility Guidelines update. Members discussed using the updated accessibility guidelines as suggestions for staff and developers, as many of them are using minimal standards. However, staff noted that the zoning by-law overrides the guidelines until they match. Until then, the guidelines can only be suggestions and not enforced. Tatiana Dafoe will follow up with planning and engineering staff for a status update on the zoning by-law amendments. Rachel Suffern will forward the most recent update of the guidelines to the AAC members to review and discuss a possible recommendation at the October meeting.

## **9.0 New Business**

### **(a) 2021 AAC Budget Request**

Members discussed their current budget and upcoming plans for 2021 and the budget amount they would like to request from Council. Members felt that the reduced amount they received for 2020 would be sufficient for their 2021 project and plans.

**Motion by Laurie Maloney-Devlin, seconded by Judy Hopf that the Accessibility Advisory Committee requests a 2021 budgetary figure of \$2,520.00 from the City of Stratford. Carried.**

Materials	\$ 420.00
Meeting Costs	900.00
Special Projects	<u>1,200.00</u>
	\$2,520.00

**(b) 2021 Accessible Trick-or-Treating Campaign – Tyler Sager**

Tyler Sager inquired if the Committee would be participating in the 2021 accessible trick-or-treating sign campaign that was started last year. Members discussed that with the current pandemic, they would prefer to not participate in the 2021 program.

**Motion by Councillor Henderson, seconded by Laurie Maloney-Devlin THAT the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee, through an abundance of caution due to the current pandemic, will not be participating in the accessible trick-or-treating campaign for 2021. Carried.**

**(c) AAC Presentation to Council – Diane Sims**

Diane Sims proposed to the members that they do an AAC presentation or update to Council. This would be an opportunity to explain to them who, what, when, where, why and how the AAC can work with Council. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Motion by Diane Sims, seconded by Judy Hopf THAT the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee sends representatives to an upcoming City Council meeting to review for Council members the role and experience of the AAC and how the committee can assist City Council and the Planning Department to make the best accessibility planning decisions. Carried.**

**(d) Accessible Picnic Tables in Market Square – Judy Hopf**

Judy Hopf noted that there are no signs or stickers indicating that the new accessible picnic tables in Market Square are accessible. Tatiana Dafoe will contact the task force that purchased the tables and inquire if they can mark the tables as accessible to make people aware to leave the spots open for wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, etc.

**(e) International Day of Persons with Disabilities – Annual Awards**

Further discussion at the October meeting. Staff will contact Jessica Jantzi to request she send out the information to members.

**10.0 Next Meeting** – Tuesday, October 6, 2020 – 11:30 a.m. – T.B.D.

**11.0 Adjournment**

**Motion by Laurie Maloney-Devlin, seconded by Judy Hopf THAT the meeting adjourn. Carried.**

Time: 1:35 P.M.