



A meeting of the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. - Electronically

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

Staff Present: Tatiana Dafoe – Clerk (City of Stratford), *Tyler Sager – Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk (County of Perth), Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Absent: Dan Sykes – Development Co-ordinator

Minutes

1.0 Call to Order

The Chair called the AAC meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

2.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3.0 Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Laurie Maloney-Devlin, seconded by Councillor Henderson THAT the minutes from the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated October 6, 2020 be adopted as printed. Carried.

4.0 Infrastructure & Development Services Update – Dan Sykes

Tatiana Dafoe reviewed the previously circulated update e-mailed to committee members.

- The Mornington Street connecting pathway project is scheduled for 2021. The City is in the process of purchasing the required land and the project should move forward in the spring.
- The Erie Street accessible parking spot is complete and revised drawings for the Lakeside Drive spot were sent to AAC members on Sept. 8, 2020.
- The new “No Parking” signs have been ordered for the access aisles beside accessible parking spots and should be installed in the next 2-4 weeks or sooner.

- The request has been sent to the Public Works staff who will be clearing the snow on access aisles, in particular the Erie parking lot, to be attentive to these areas.
- Staff has advised that they will be checking the timing on the Huron Street pedestrian crossing. Ms. Dafoe will follow up with staff. Peter Zein inquired if the crossing signals on Erie/Ontario have been addressed? Ms. Dafoe will inquire with staff.

5.0 Parking

(a) Update on New Accessible Parking Spots

As reported above.

(b) Update on Signage for Access Aisles

As reported above.

*Diane Sims and Judy Hopf now present (11:40 a.m.)

6.0 Transit

(a) Transit Buses – Covid Safety Information for School Boards – Tatiana Dafoe/Councillor Henderson

Tatiana Dafoe has reached out the Health Unit and they have forwarded her inquiry to their team working with the school boards. Once she has received information from them, she will update the committee.

(b) Accessible Taxi Program in Stratford

No new updates provided at this time.

7.0 Site Plan Review Sub-Committee Feedback Reports

There were no site plan reviews completed this month.

8.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Update on Stratford Accessibility Guidelines – Tatiana Dafoe

Tatiana Dafoe reported that she has posed several questions to staff for updates on this document. She has been advised that some staff has received the 2018 updates and are currently using them as a reference. She has been further advised that the Chief Building Official is presently reviewing the document. Once Ms. Dafoe has received the review back, she will provide a further update on the guidelines and when the AAC can expect them to be presented to Council for adoption. Peter Zein inquired if staff had any problem with the zoning by-law not passing first? Ms. Dafoe stated there is some concern raised with the zoning by-law and the guidelines not matching, which is what is being reviewed by staff.

Ms. Dafoe intends to invite Development Services staff to attend the meeting when this review is discussed.

(b) Moving Forward with Covid Restrictions – Peter Zein

Peter Zein updated committee members that moving forward, the AAC will be meeting electronically until further notice.

(c) Affordable/Accessible Housing By-Law – Peter Zein/Geoff Krauter/Diane Sims

Tatiana Dafoe provided AAC members links to the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, as well as the link for the 5-Year update to the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. Social Services staff suggested the AAC could review these documents as part of their research for an updated housing by-law.

Geoff Krauter reported that he read the update and felt there was a lot of encouraging updates, however, is stark in the scope of the accessible housing problem. He inquired how the AAC's suggestions could be factored into the updates? Peter Zein agreed that the plan does not include adequate provisions for affordable accessible housing or accessible housing by-laws.

Councillor Henderson stated that staff has been requested in the past to investigate the idea of a certain percentage of new homes/apartments to be built as accessible but has not heard if this has been reported on.

Jessica Jantzi noted that the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan relates to city-owned properties/units and does not affect private builders. Ms. Jantzi offered to send members the link to the recorded zoom presentation that Social Services staff made of the Housing and Homelessness Plan. She noted that the recent subsidized housing units that the City built, do have a percentage of units that are accessible. The City is working towards more accessible units; however, it is the private building market that does not have these same guidelines to adhere to.

Tatiana Dafoe suggested it would be helpful if the committee narrows down the scope of what they are trying to achieve. If the overall objective is to insure more accessible units in private buildings, she suggests the committee makes a recommendation asking Council to lobby the Provincial Government to make changes to the Building Code Act. If there were changes to the Building Code Act to make the minimum standards accessible ones, then this would require every single building to be built to an accessible standard. Even if a municipality passes a by-law to require accessibility standards, it is very difficult to enforce if the Building Code has minimum standards that are different.

The sub-committee will plan a meeting to develop a plan to move forward. If additional accessible private units in the City is what the goal is, perhaps the sub-committee could research other municipal by-laws that they think are worthwhile for consideration. A recommendation could then be put forth to Council requesting either adoption of the by-law or an investigation by staff. Ms. Dafoe would still encourage the committee to lobby the Provincial Government for a greater change, not just for Stratford, but for Ontario.

Laurie Maloney-Devlin suggested meeting with staff on the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan to ensure that the committee has a voice regarding accessibility. Judy Hopf suggested meeting with the Perth County AAC for discussions might also be helpful. Councillor Henderson suggested contacting the March of Dimes for information on municipalities with accessible housing by-laws. She will also discuss this with the Director of Social Services to inquire if there happens to be any staff that are already looking into some of the accessibility issues the committee is discussing.

**Motion by Councillor Henderson, seconded by Judy Hopf
That the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee forms a sub-committee to research making new builds more accessible and affordable.
Carried.**

*Tyler Sager now present (12:27 p.m.)

(d) AAC Stand Banner – Tyler Sager

Committee members reviewed and discussed the samples provided by Rachel Suffern. The invoice for the banner will need to be submitted no later than December 31, 2020. Staff will verify the remainder of funds left in the 2020 budget. Tyler Sager will have the designer draft some additional layouts with a simpler design, incorporating more icons and fewer images. Tatiana will forward some pictures of the accessibility icon in a parking space and one of the new accessible picnic tables for members to review as part of the banner design. She will also send the City of Stratford colours to Tyler Sager.

(e) Update on Presentation to Council – Peter Zein/Diane Sims

Committee members discussed their plans to do a presentation to Council on the AAC, however would like to postpone plans until they can attend an in-person meeting.

(f) International Day of Persons with Disabilities – Annual Awards

To date, the review committee has received three nominations. However, two of them are not from Stratford. There has been one local submission for an individual. Diane Sims has reached out to the nominator for follow up. Staff will forward the nomination to the committee for their review. Nominations are open

to November 15, 2020. Staff will contact the Corporate Communications Lead to request re-sending the media release once more before the deadline.

9.0 New Business

No new business.

10.0 Next Meeting – Tuesday, December 1, 2020 – 11:30 a.m. – Electronically

11.0 Adjournment

**Motion by Diane Sims, seconded by Judy Hopf
THAT the November 3, 2020 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting
adjourn. Carried.**

Time: 1:05 P.M.