



Active Transportation Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) was held on January 26, 2022, at 7:03 p.m., electronically.

Committee Present: David Daglish – Chair presiding, Councillor Vassilakos, Bernard Goward, John Zelek, Donald Hathaway and Lee Chandler

Staff Present: Nick Sheldon – Project Manager and Victoria Trotter – Recording Secretary

Also Present: Sarah Merkel – HPPH, Inspector Clarke – Stratford Police Services

Regrets: Councillor Burbach – Vice-chair, Tatiana Dafoe – City Clerk, Taylor Crinklaw – Director of Infrastructure and Development Services and Pat Ranney

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the ATAC meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3. Welcome to New Members

New and current members introduced themselves.

4. Election of 2022 Chair and Vice-Chair

Staff declared nominations open for the 2022 Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. Councillor Vassilakos nominated David Daglish.

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos
Seconded by Bernard Goward

THAT the nominations for the 2022 Active Transportation Advisory Committee Chair be closed. Carried

David Daglish indicated that he would allow his nomination to stand.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos
Seconded by Bernard Goward

THAT David Darglish be elected as the 2022 Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. Carried

Staff declared nominations for the 2022 Vice-Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee open. Councillor Vassilakos nominated Lee Chandler. Lee Chandler nominated Bernard Goward.

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

Motion by Bernard Goward
Seconded by Lee Chandler

THAT the nominations for the 2021 Active Transportation Advisory Committee Vice-Chair be closed. Carried

Lee Chandler indicated that he would not allow his name to stand.

Bernard Goward indicated that he would not allow his name to stand.

Staff re-opened nominations for the 2022 Vice-Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee open. Lee Chandler nominated John Zelek.

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

Motion by Lee Chandler
Seconded by Councillor Vassilakos

THAT the nominations for the 2021 Active Transportation Advisory Committee Vice-Chair be closed. Carried

John Zelek indicated that he would allow his name to stand.

Motion by Lee Chandler
Seconded by Bernard Goward

THAT John Zelek be elected as the 2022 Vice-Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. Carried

5. Adoption of Previous Minutes

Bernard Goward noted that under Item 4, Wayfinding, it was stated that signage for the T.J. Dolan trail is in process, including blazing. He noted that his understanding when the City Clerk asked for input regarding the graphics on the

signage that it would be integrated and compiled into draft signage and the Committee would have the opportunity to review and provide comments. Mr. Goward asked for confirmation regarding what stage the project is at, if the Committee will in fact see a draft of the signage and how much of the allocated \$5000 has been spent.

Councillor Vassilakos advised that the City Clerk provided an overview and that the comments by Sarah Merkel at the November meeting were stating that the project is currently under way. Staff will be working with a graphic designer based on the input provided and will come back to the committee for review. It is a matter of staff having the time to complete this step.

Bernard Goward asked if the data provided to the City Clerk is still being used as part of the project. Councillor Vassilakos responded that the data is still being used and that the City Clerk has noted that a company may need to be hired to complete the graphic design for the large information trailhead signage as well as the smaller signage with trail use guidelines. Councillor Vassilakos also noted that the addition of accessibility features will be reviewed. At this time no budget has been used, only staff time.

Motion by John Zelek

Seconded by Councillor Vassilakos

THAT the ATAC minutes dated November 24, 2021 be adopted as printed. Carried

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a. Annual Review of Terms of Reference

i. Reducing Energy & Environment reps from two to one

Donald Hathaway stated that he is not familiar with the terms of reference and will come back to Committee should he have any questions at a later date.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos

Seconded by Donald Hathaway

THAT the ATAC Terms of Reference be amended to show only one representative from the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee. Carried

b. Transit Advertising – Sarah Merkel

Sarah Merkel noted that in the fall the Committee discussed the opportunity to promote active transportation on the screens in the bus. She noted she would like to come up with a full year calendar of advertising however at this time she would like to propose an option that can be implemented quickly. Ms. Merkel stated that the Committee is keen to promote walk to school

days and Winter Walk Day is taking place next Wednesday and that families can be encouraged to walk from home or park further away from the school and walk to relieve congestion at schools. This event could be shared by reaching out to schools, through the Huron Perth Health Unit (HPPH) and City of Stratford and on the bus advertising screens to promote Winter Walk Days for the month of February.

Councillor Vassilakos noted that the Committee has worked on walk to school days before and this would be a great use of the advertising on the bus. Sarah Merkel stated she will work with Mike Beitz and Mike Mousley regarding graphics to be sent out and have information sent out to the schools via HPPH stakeholders.

Sarah Merkel stated in the next month she is planning to complete a project plan for 2022 including bikes on buses, trails to check out, Be Safe Be Seen program, Winter Walk day and Snow Angels. Councillor Vassilakos provided background on the Snow Angels program noting that it was part of a promotion that provided information on the number of kilometres of sidewalks in the City. She stated she would speak with Mike Beitz regarding past promotions and how it could be expanded.

Sarah Merkel explained that the Snow Angels program allows a person in need or a volunteer to plug in their postal code to find or offer help respectively. She is hoping this program can be implemented in December 2022 and January 2023. Councillor Vassilakos noted that the Public Works Department changes from summer to winter on a schedule and it may be helpful to lineup promotion of the Snow Angel program with the change over.

Councillor Vassilakos recommended that bike month be added to the project plan for 2022. David Daglish questioned if bike month included the promotion of bike to school. Sarah Merkel confirmed that Bike Month is the month of June and that bike to school is included. She noted that a full Bike Month promotion has not been completed to date.

Councillor Vassilakos stated that in the past the City Centre BIA has completed various promotions including Walk and Wheel Wednesday and Car Free Friday. It may be beneficial to reach out to the BIA to see if they have anything planned.

Inspector Clarke asked for any correspondence regarding promotions or events to be forwarded to him to be added to the Stratford Police Services social media. David Daglish confirmed that the concept is to create a full calendar for the year.

7. New Business

a. School zone safety – Councillor Vassilakos

Councillor Vassilakos stated that after a blitz is done in school zones there is an improvement at the schools, unfortunately every so often there are problems again. She has received a number of concerns from residents in the Avon Public School area regarding vehicles that are parked where they should not be as well as concerns regarding near misses at Bedford Public School. Councillor Vassilakos hopes that school travel planning can be implemented again in conjunction with various groups once COVID-19 is under control. She noted in the past, Council has recommended collaboration of the Clerk's Office, Stratford Police Services, and Infrastructure and Development Services to review the concerns at each school and this has been undertaken. She questioned if that should be repeated.

Sarah Merkel noted that she is part of the Parent Council at Avon Public School and she is attempting to implement school travel planning. She sent a report by Samantha McGuinness, the previous school travel planning facilitator for the City of Stratford, to the members of her parent council to review and to include school travel planning as part of the parent council agenda.

John Zelek asked if the majority of the problems are parents picking up and dropping off children and cars being parked everywhere. Councillor Vassilakos shared that in the past she had completed walkabouts from her home to Bedford Public School and can confirm that congestion and traffic counts increase around arrival and dismissal time. She also noted that a lot of students that are eligible for the bus are being driven to the school by a parent.

John Zelek noted that inclement weather makes these situations worse both with the number of vehicles and the safety issues. Councillor Vassilakos confirmed that snow banks, snow loads and rolling stops contribute to the danger. She also noted that convenience is the number one reason why parents drive kids to school.

David Daglish asked if there are ways, beyond travel planning, that the committee could be involved regarding this matter. Councillor Vassilakos stated that if a motion is made to go to the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee it can go through the appropriate steps and could be referred to staff to work with the police, Clerk's, etc. to review. Additionally, it flags school zones for crosswalks and other infrastructure.

Sarah Merkel noted that other municipalities have bollards in the middle of the road with the speed limit on them and she is willing to pull data if the group would like to include these as part of the comprehensive approach to this problem.

Councillor Vassilakos noted that there is a motion for staff to review the 40km/hr limit and traffic calming measures. She noted that the

transportation master plan is being re-done and part of the focus is to be Vision Zero and they are close to going to consultation and the Committee may be able to provide feedback.

Nick Sheldon, Project Manager, confirmed that the transportation master plan is currently with the consultant, however, public consultation has not been completed. He stated that it would be helpful for this committee to participate in the consultation.

Donald Hathaway commented that he has noticed an influx of young families in his neighbourhood over the past number of years and there has been an increase in the number of children. He noted that many vehicles are speeding well over the speed limit. Councillor Vassilakos stated that the number one concern she received in 2021 was speeding throughout the City and that the Transportation Master Plan would be a great opportunity for the Committee to provide input.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos
Seconded by Donald Hathaway

THAT a request be made for staff to add the Active Transportation Advisory Committee as a community group to be consulted on the Transportation Master Plan when the consultants begin the public consultation process. Carried

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos
Seconded by Bernard Goward

THAT a request be made for Stratford City Council to review safety in school zones. Carried

Inspector Clarke asked the group to please let him know if there is an area that needs to be addressed regarding speeding. He indicated that speeding is the number one charge issued each month and it is biggest issue traffic wise. Councillor Vassilakos stated she has an email from the Police Chief on how to report issues and she can provide it to the members of the Committee to pass along to any citizens that contact them.

- 8. Next Meeting Date** – Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., electronically.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Lee Chandler
Seconded by Donald Hathaway

THAT the January 26, 2022, ATAC meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 7:03 P.M.
End Time: 8:04 P.M.