



Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 11:30 a.m., electronically.

Committee Members Present: Peter Zein – Chair Presiding, Laurie Maloney-Devlin, Roger Koert, Peg Huettlin, Diane Sims, Judy Hopf, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Pam Mugford, Andy Mark

Staff Present: Tatiana Dafoe – Clerk, Dan Sykes – Development Coordinator, Mark Hackett – Manager of Community Facilities, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Also Present: Zac Gribble – Executive Director, Destination Stratford

1.0 Call to Order

Peter Zein, Chair called the AAC meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

2.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3.0 Introduction of New Member

Peter Zein welcomed Andy Mark to the Committee. Committee members introduced themselves.

4.0 Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Peg Huettlin

Seconded by Laurie Maloney Devlin

THAT the minutes from the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated January 4, 2022, be adopted as printed. Carried

5.0 Delegates

None scheduled.

6.0 Infrastructure & Development Services Update – Dan Sykes

Dan Sykes, Development Coordinator, provided the following update:

- The accessible parking spot on Lakeside Drive is scheduled to be completed in April 2022.
- The Queen Street project is ongoing and will continue into 2022 with some surrounding streets temporarily closed. Tentative completion in March/April 2022.
- Public Works trip steps have been ground down and fixed on the London track crossings for both north and south bound on Downie Street. No work has been done on the St. Vincent crossing, but CNR will be contacting Public Works to provide traffic support for the repair. No repairs have been done to the Guelph/Exeter line on the Goderich crossings where they intersect with roads. Mr. Sykes will keep the AAC updated on the status of any repairs.
- The Wellington Street repairs will be marked and added to the list for 2022.
- The curb cut across from the Tom Patterson Theatre was noted during the site plan. It has been marked out and staff will complete the curb cut in the spring.
- Argyle Street and Mackenzie Street reconstructions are scheduled for 2022.
- Phase 1 of Huron Street reconstruction project (from the bridge to John Street) will begin in 2022.
- Asphalt resurfacing only will be completed on Lorne Avenue (from Home to Romeo Streets) in 2022.
- Pending funding, asphalt resurfacing on Ontario Street (Burritt Street to the city limits) will also be completed in 2022.

7.0 Site Plan Review Sub-Committee Feedback Reports – Dan Sykes/Roger Koert

Dan Sykes reported that site plans have been submitted to staff for 429 Huron Street. There are many revisions required by the Engineering Department and staff has requested a second site plan be submitted.

Councillor Bonnie Henderson now present at the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Mr. Sykes will forward the initial site plan to members for their information, however, will have the AAC comment on the revised site plan once it is received.

Dan Sykes departed the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

8.0 Transit

No items noted.

9.0 Parking

(a) Allman Arena Accessible Parking Update

Staff circulated an e-mail from the Director of Infrastructure & Development Services stating that the Manager of Engineering will evaluate putting two spaces on Morenz Drive and if able will arrange for work once conditions permit.

10.0 Report from Council on Accessibility Issues – Councillor Henderson

Councillor Henderson reported that at the budget meeting, Committee recommended completing improvements to National Stadium. There is a \$100,000.00 budget for the next five years to do various repairs and updates, including accessibility.

Peter Zein stated that it will take much more than \$100,000.00 to repair National Stadium and make it accessible. Councillor Henderson stated that the AAC will be included on the plan review.

Councillor Henderson stated that a new home builder in Stratford recently presented to Council and stated that he will work with homeowners to build accessible homes. He plans on including one-story bungalow homes.

Peter Zein stated that when developers use buzz words for accessibility, they are not offering specifics on what they are doing to make the homes accessible. He questioned whether Council can question a developer on the specifics of what they are doing to make the homes accessible and define in some manner what accessibility means. Councillor Henderson noted that at this stage of presenting to Council, the developer has purchased the property and is seeking changes. It is at the site plan submission stage, that there is more information shared on accessibility. She also noted that the Accessibility Coordinator position would be able to address some of these issues also. Roger Koert inquired how the AAC can help define accessibility for the City so that this information can be given to developers. Peter Zein stated that holding workshops on accessibility for architects and developers will be key in educating all parties involved.

Laurie Maloney Devlin inquired if Council has decided on the expansion request for the Coordinator of Equity, Inclusion Accessibility Initiatives. Councillor Henderson reported that they had approved the position. Tatiana Dafoe reported that the position

is within the CAO's Office and will focus on accessibility and support the manager with all initiatives while also supporting the Corporation's priority to be compliant with various facets of AODA legislation. This includes supporting departments that are tasked to design transportation options that are accessible for people of all levels of ability and tracking AODA compliance and training records. Ms. Dafoe anticipates this position will not be filled until halfway through the year.

Judy Hopf inquired about the parkette across from the bandshell on Veteran's Drive and is unsure of the need for it with the bandshell in Upper Queen's Park to use. She questioned whether the \$90,000.00 would be better spent, for instance in Memorial Gardens. Councillor Henderson stated they are looking for additional seating with a bandshell in the park area, to eliminate the closure of the road and for safety reasons. Roger Koert noted that the City has applied for funding through a grant to cover the entire cost of this specific project. He also stated that it will be complicated to make that area accessible due to the slope of the lawn, however the report stated that the AAC will be consulted. Councillor Henderson stated that updates to Memorial Gardens are scheduled to be completed in 2022. Roger Koert stated the plans outline ramps on both sides of the sidewalk and a railing down the stairs.

11.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Stratford Boathouse Public Washroom Expansion Project

Zack Gribble provided the AAC with comments from the Architect following the submission of feedback from the AAC. To keep the project moving forward, he is looking for final approval from the Committee to proceed with procurement with the objective to have the renovation completed as soon as possible and have it ready this summer.

Roger Koert noted that it was a little disappointing that they did not take some of the Committee's suggestions as some items were not in the design manual or not required by the Building Code. He noted that overall it is a really good design, but some of the finer details would make it an elite design. Zac Gribble noted that they agreed with many of the items suggested by the AAC and were actually part of their original design, however, could not be contained within the design. Some of the items are budget specific. If budget allows once funding is in place, they will make every effort to include further accessibility measures.

Pam Mugford inquired if there was any consideration given to including an adult-size changing table in the washroom. Zac Gribble noted that they have included one in the budget, and it is the larger size of the two options available.

Motion by Roger Koert

Seconded by Dian Sims

**THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee supports the submitted design for the Stratford Boathouse public washroom expansion project.
Carried**

Zac Gribble thanked the Committee for their support, and he will keep them in the loop with any updates.

Zac Gribble and Mark Hackett departed the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

(b) Update on Launch of FADM – Tatiana Dafoe

No new update provided.

(c) Update on Accessible Housing – Diane Sims

Diane Sims advised she has been discussing a tax deferral program for accessible housing with Mayor Mathieson. He suggested that the AAC submit a letter to the province requesting changes to the Ontario Building Code, Planning Act and Municipal Tax Regulations to allow Council to include this type of incentive in community improvement plans. He noted that in doing this, it will provide municipalities with the opportunity to share these costs with developers as they develop new neighbourhoods and subdivisions.

Laurie Maloney Devlin noted that in the City of Oshawa's plan, they had to tie their plan into the improvement plan for the downtown area. It was questioned whether it is possible to have this type of incentive without having to tie it to a specific project or whether the tax deferral program could be a stand-alone program. Diane Sims noted that she did not feel it needed to tie into a project and would be covered by all community improvement plans. Councillor Henderson added that staff will have to investigate.

Tatiana Dafoe stated that staff has done an initial review of the Oshawa program. Oshawa's program may not be completely applicable to the City of Stratford. Moving forward, the recommendation for AAC is to ask Council to pass a resolution asking the Province to make legislative changes to permit this program in a community improvement plan. The second step would be to ask Council to consider the implementation of a housing inventory, which would require staff resources.

Motion by Diane Sims

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

**THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends Stratford City Council develop an implementation plan to identify current and projected accessible housing inventory needs in the City of Stratford.
Carried**

Motion by Diane Sims
Seconded by Andy Mark

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends Stratford City Council adopt a resolution requesting the Province of Ontario amend the Ontario Building Code, the Planning Act and Municipal Tax Regulations to allow municipalities to include tax deferral programs for accessible housing in community improvement plans. Carried

12.0 New Business

(a) National Accessibility Awareness Week – May 29–June 4, 2022

Roger Koert stated that May 29-June 4, 2022 is National Accessibility Awareness Week this year. He requested AAC members to give some thought on event ideas for discussion at the March meeting.

13.0 Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 11:30 a.m., electronically.

14.0 Adjournment

Motion by Laurie Maloney Devlin
Seconded by Roger Koert

THAT the February 1, 2022 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 11:30 A.M.
End Time: 1:08 P.M.