



Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 11:30 a.m., electronically.

Committee Members Present: Roger Koert, Diane Sims, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Andy Mark, Peter Zein, Pam Mugford, Jamie Pritchard, Geoff Krauter, Heather Contois

Staff Present: Dan Sykes – Development Coordinator, Tatiana Dafoe – Clerk, Gabby Rodriguez – Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Roger Koert – Vice-Chair presiding, called the AAC meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3. Introduction of New Members

Roger Koert welcomed new members Jamie Prichard, Geoff Krauter and Heather Contois. Members and staff introduced themselves.

4. Election of 2023 Chair and Vice-Chair

Staff declared nominations open for the 2023 Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

- Diane Sims nominated Roger Koert

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

Motion by Andy Mark

Seconded by Pam Mugford

THAT the nominations for the 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair be closed. Carried

Roger Koert indicated that he would allow his nomination to stand.

Motion by Jamie Pritchard

Seconded by Diane Sims

THAT Roger Koert be elected as the 2023 Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Carried

Staff declared nominations for the 2023 Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee open.

- Councillor Bonnie Henderson nominated Peter Zein
- Roger Koert nominated Diane Sims

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

Motion by Andy Mark

Seconded by Pam Mugford

THAT nominations for the 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee Vice-Chair be closed. Carried

Peter Zein indicated that he would not allow his name to stand.

Diane Sims indicated that she would allow her name to stand.

Motion by Geoff Krauter

Seconded by Andy Mark

THAT Diane Sims be elected as the 2023 Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Carried

5. Adoption of the Previous Minutes

There were no minutes to be considered at the February 7, 2023 meeting. The September 6, 2022 and February 7, 2023 minutes will be listed on the March 7, 2023 agenda for consideration.

6. Infrastructure & Development Services Update – Dan Sykes

Dan Sykes, Development Coordinator, provided the following update:

2022 City Projects Carried Over

1. Huron Street Reconstruction – Huron Street Bridge to John Street
 - Phase 1 complete – traffic signal work ongoing
 - John Street requires minor restoration in spring
2. Argyle Street and McKenzie Street Reconstruction
 - Construction is complete

3. Romeo Street at Verona Park Pedestrian Crossing
 - Minor work remaining

2023 City Projects

1. Albert Street Reconstruction (Phase 1) – Waterloo Street to Front Street
 - Full road reconstruction, sanitary, storm and watermain replacement (total length = 520 m)
2. McCarthy Road West Road Construction – Orr Street to O’Loane Avenue
 - Road construction (total length = 250 m)
3. Ontario Street Watermain Replacement – Queen Street to Parkview Drive
 - Watermain replacement and road resurfacing (total length = 250 m)
4. Portia Boulevard – Watermain Extension
 - Birnham Construction (contractor) – starting in spring.
 - Directionally drilled watermain (total length = 60 m)
5. Erie Street Watermain Relining – Cambria Street to Monteith Avenue
 - Watermain relining of 150 mm cast iron main (total length = 500 m)
6. Waldies Lane Reconstruction – Wellington Street to Dead End
 - Full road reconstruction, sanitary, storm and watermain replacement (total length = 100 m)
7. Annual Asphalt Resurfacing – various locations
 - Ontario Street – Waterloo Street to Parkview Drive (total length = 1,050 m)
 - Erie Street – Ontario Street to Monteith Avenue (total length = 1,275 m)
8. Missing sidewalk sections to be completed in 2023:
 - Martin Street (East side) – Delamere Avenue to William Street
 - John Street South (East side) – Centre Street to Cambria Street
 - Cambria Street (South side) – John Street South to St. Vincent Street South
 - Walnut Street (South side) – Railway Avenue to Dufferin Street

Dan Sykes reported that the AAC’s sidewalk and curb cut budget line request with the Engineering Division is once again \$50,000.00.

Councillor Henderson requested an update on the completion of a sidewalk at Lorne Avenue and Queensland Drive (at the new apartment building). The Development Coordinator advised he would inquire about any other outstanding sidewalks.

Councillor Henderson advised she has received many inquiries about the bus stop on McCarthy Road (across from McCarthy Place Retirement Residence). The feedback has been that there should be some sort of pedestrian crossing for residents to safely cross McCarthy Road to get to the bus stop and shelter that is on the adjacent side of the

street. Councillor Henderson advised she has directed them to fill out the online form on the City's website to report an issue. The Development Coordinator advised he would mention this issue with staff to discuss possible solutions.

Geoff Krauter inquired if the City was working towards expanding the number of crosswalks with audio signals outside of the downtown core. The Development Coordinator stated that when intersections are requiring improvements, upgrades such as audio signals will be added at that time. He is not aware that there are intersections currently scheduled for improvements. The Development Coordinator advised he would discuss this with the Traffic Division and inquire what they have scheduled.

Roger Koert inquired if the curb cut on Lakeside Drive at the Tom Patterson Theatre will be completed. The Development Coordinator stated it will be completed in the spring. He also stated that the curb cut on Lakeside Drive (opposite York Street) that leads to the ramp to Memorial Park is in need of repair. The Development Coordinator advised he would notify Community Services about this repair. Mr. Koert also inquired if there is a possibility of exploring options to place a handrail along the sidewalk on Lakeside Drive (leading down the hill from the corner of Ontario Street to the entrance ramp at Memorial Park). The Development Coordinator noted that Community Services is also going to add handrails down the stairs near the stone wall at the Boathouse.

Diane Sims thanked the Development Coordinator for his part in getting the road improvements completed at the railway crossings.

7. Site Plan Review Sub-Committee Feedback Reports – Dan Sykes

None noted.

8. Transit

None noted.

9. Parking

None noted.

10. Report from Council on Accessibility Issues – Councillor Henderson

None noted.

Dan Sykes left the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

11. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

11.1 Launch of FADM – Tatiana Dafoe, Clerk

The City Clerk advised that a communication regarding the FADM was circulated to staff and she has discussed the project with the new Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator. She did note that they are getting requests for copies of the manual and they are providing them regularly. Peter Zein inquired if staff knows who is requesting the manuals. The Clerk stated that they do not

necessarily disclose who they are or what business they are representing when they request them from various staff. The City Clerk advised an update would be provided on next steps at the March AAC meeting.

11.2 Accessible Housing/Tax Deferral Programs – Diane Sims/Tatiana Dafoe

The City Clerk reported that this project was referred by Council to staff in the Planning Division. The City Clerk advised she would contact the Planning Division for an update.

11.3 Plans for AAC Presentation to Council – Roger Koert/Diane Sims

Following a discussion, it was determined that members would provide the details of a presentation for Council and submit it to the Clerk for review and scheduling on an upcoming Council agenda. Councillor Henderson suggested that the presentation could take place during National AccessAbility Week or close to the distribution of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Peter Zein, Geoff Krauter, Andy Mark, Diane Sims and Roger Koert volunteered to put together the presentation to Council.

11.4 Annual Accessibility Award – Roger Koert/Diane Sims

Roger Koert provided an overview of the three locations nominated for the annual accessibility award. Mr. Koert and Diane Sims visited all three locations and were available to answer any questions the members had.

Jamie Pritchard inquired if the Committee had ever considered creating categories for the nominations, such as corporate, education, retail, or small business, etc. Peter Zein agreed that this would make the comparisons easier for future nominations. Members were impressed with all three of the locations and how they have addressed accessibility issues.

Motion by Andy Mark

Seconded by Pam Mugford

THAT the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee nominates MacLeods Scottish Shop as the 2022 recipient of the Annual Accessibility Award. Carried

12. New Business

12.1 Update on Stratford Police Station Accessibility – Diane Sims

Diane Sims advised she will be meeting with Police Chief, Greg Skinner and Mayor Ritsma outside the Stratford Police headquarters on February 10, 2023. The purpose of this meeting is to complete an interview with the newspaper regarding the inaccessibility of the current station. Ms. Sims has also discussed the much-needed renovations to improve accessibility with local MPP representative, Matthew Rae.

12.2 National AccessAbility Week (May 28 – June 3, 2023) – Roger Koert

Roger Koert suggested that for National AccessAbility Week this year that the AAC could re-launch the StopGap program. A previous recommendation had been sent to Council requesting a change to the by-law that states that the ramps can be left outside and deployed during business hours. Mr. Koert reported that there are already volunteers available to build and fund the new ramps. Businesses that already have ramps can be audited to see if they require a replacement ramp or if their existing ramp requires painting. Members can also reiterate that the ramps are meant to be a temporary program until renovations can take place.

Roger Koert, Diane Sims, Councillor Henderson and Jamie Pritchard have volunteered to work on this project.

12.3 Members recognized David Onley with a moment of silence.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the AAC will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 11:30 a.m., in the Mansbridge Room of the Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Andy Mark

Seconded by Geoff Krauter

THAT the February 7, 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 11:32 A.M.

End Time: 12:55 P.M.