

Meeting Minutes

City of Guelph

**Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)**

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

City Hall, Meeting Room 112

From 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Chair: Jennifer Popkey Bergen

Present: Brooke Sillaby, Laurie Lanthier, Janice Pearce Faubert, Tanya Davis, Mary Grad, Cathy McCormack, Brad Howcroft, Michael Greer, Sarah Mathison, Malcolm McLeod, Julian Murphy, Julia Phillips, Missy Tolton, Leanne Warren (Liaison), Rebecca Finkelstein (Co-op student), John Alves (Transit), Nancy Button (Transit), Luke Jefferson (Parks Planner), Rory Templeton (Landscape Planner)

Regrets: Ruth Russell

# AGENDA ITEMS

## Welcome to all

## Approval of Agenda

* Motion to approve the agenda by Julian and seconded by Brooke

All in favour – Carried

## Approval of Minutes of February 17, 2015

* Motion to approve the minutes by Cathy and seconded by Malcolm

All in favour – Carried

* Typo in minutes: Missing the phrase “2 weeks” to be inserted after: “site plan committee meetings every”.

## Park Amenities (play equipment, surfaces, non-Facility Accessibility Design Manual features) – For Engagement – Park Planner Luke Jefferson and

* Luke reported that:
  + The Northview Park project is in the early stages. They have not looked at accessibility components in detail yet.
  + It is a small P2 (neighbourhood) park that will probably include a red, yellow and blue play structure, small sports fields and pathways.
  + City of Guelph residents will have a chance to weigh in on their preference through a public input process.

AAC members commented that:

* Typical pathways are 3 meters wide, designed not to exceed certain slope standards and several other requirements that are in the City’s Facility Accessibility Design Manual. Members stressed the importance of following this manual and ensure that staff members meet accessibility standards so that all residents have equal access.
* There is an expectation that the inaccessible play structure at Riverside Park will be accessible in this renovation. At present an AAC member has to carry her son to the one and only piece of equipment that is accessible to him. He is of an age where he realizes that he is not included with his peers. It seems that the structure is the only barrier to him feeling included.
* Examples from other communities were given including St John’s, Newfoundland and Elmira, Ontario.
* There were concerns raised about the surface under the play structures, regardless of the park size. It’s felt that wood products do not provide access for a person using a wheelchair, walker or scooter.
* It was also asked if there is information on which parks are accessible and features within those parks.

Luke and Rory reported that the rubberized surfaces are accessible and meet CSA standards however they are very expensive to install and have a high upkeep cost as dirt and sediment get caught in the rubber. The upkeep is required to keep the surface at the CSA Falls standard rating.

Rory reported that there isn’t currently accessibility information about each of the parks but that the City is working toward new web information like this that would list amenities

## Next steps:

The committee’s Site Plan Review Sub-Committee will continue to meet with staff as these projects develop on paper. Leanne will invite all AAC members to Site Plan meetings when parks will be discussed.

AAC to discuss further if an approach to let Council know how inaccessible parks are without a firm, stable and accessible surface such as the rubberized surface is as Parks staff must work within the budget that they are given.

Leanne to follow up on a concern about a strip of inaccessible curb in Joseph Wolfond Park.

## Riverside Park Play Equipment Refresh – For Engagement – Rory Templeton

Rory reported that it is difficult to achieve full accessibility in many existing parks as their funding doesn’t allow for these features.

In Exhibition Park a new type of naturalized park equipment has been installed. This is nonstandard play equipment that is custom made out of naturalized products and manufactured by Earthscape.

There were concerns from the committee members such as lack of colour contrast for visual cues to see the equipment rather than running into it and the equipment not including thought around usage by a child with a disability. Concerns of not being part of the social experience because of the design of the space was mentioned.

Rory mentioned that the play equipment in Riverside Park is going through a redesign and that:

* The public can comment online and on twitter up to May 3rd providing feedback
* By end of this summer we will have a product to put in the ground

**Actions:**

* Rory will forward the public comment information to Leanne and she will share it with the AAC
* AAC members to visit the naturalized park equipment in Exhibition Park and provide feedback.
* AAC members to comment and provide feedback for the redesign of Riverside Park

## Transit Mobility: Program Updates - For Information – John Alves, Supervisor of Mobility and Community Bus Services

John reported that:

* We are meeting monthly with BTS, the service provider, to address concerns
* We are in the process of upgrading to Trapeze Pass Reservation System. We hope to have it up and running at the end of April-mid May
* No changes to community bus except there is a detour into the University arboretum to accommodate construction
* Concerns regarding booking trips:
  + In one month, 2019 people were a ‘no show’ or cancelled their mobility ride within an hour of scheduled pick up time. This is 20% of our riders.
  + 535 trips not accommodated per month, which is 5% of people.
  + 95% ridership are accommodated
  + Need to educate riders about the effects of cancelling mobility last minute or not showing up
  + Community Bus drives 2954 people over 3 months. There are 16 people a day per bus whereas regular mobility accommodates 10595 people over 3 months
  + The new system calls a passenger 24 hours before their scheduled pick up and gives the opportunity to cancel
  + To resolve this concern, Transit is entertaining the idea of a policy for ridership accountability that would be fair for situations where the cancellation is out of the control of the passenger but they are going to wait and see what happens with Trapeze before implementing an accountability policy
* Trapeze software will:
  + There is a waitlist, so if someone cancels you will be contacted about being picked up
  + When the driver is at a certain distance from pickup, you will automatically be contacted
  + System will input required time, doesn’t allow driver to be running late because adds individual boarding time in
* If we were to take Community Bus and transfer it to mobility, we would be able to take 48 passengers a day
* After implementing Trapeze and improving mobility, we can focus on the Community Bus

AAC suggested that before throwing in towel on the community buses, reintroduce and advertise the service so the public is aware. People think it is part of mobility.

## Guelph Transit Priority Project – For Information – Nancy Button, Supervisor of Scheduling

Nancy reported that:

* Transit priority is a means of helping transit travel through congested areas quickly, taking steps towards rapid transit
* Probably start with signal priority for buses
* Considering fare payments before a person gets on the bus. Pay at station will save time
* Could make Gordon street one way during certain times of day, or for high occupancy vehicles only
* Public meetings held at the university, Stone Road Mall, CCAC, St Joes and the clear message is yes, we support transit priority measures as long as it doesn’t interfere with bicycles or cars
* Stone Rd, Gordon and Norfolk Corridor, Woodlawn and Speedvale are priority street
* Public events will be held on Wednesday June 3rd from 6-9 pm at City Hall, which will have displays and speakers to talk about the positive impact of rapid transit for Guelph. June 3rd is clean air day so there will be free transit
* Long-term goal:
  + The Plan (being developed by a consultant) says we need to have transit modal share of 15%. We are currently using 6% but we must keep up with growth of the city
  + We have 70 buses and would need 250 buses by 2031 to keep up with growth of the city

The AAC feel that if a service is accessible to get anywhere, more people will use the service. Walkable Community concept should be kept in mind in this project.

## Route Changes – For Information – Nancy Button, Supervisor of Scheduling

Nancy reported that:

* The route review that she talked about at the last meeting has been deferred.
* Transit is now aiming to implement the changes in Spring 2016 or Fall 2016
* Website will be updated in a week and will show some newer changes to proposed routes

## Transit Recommendation Regarding Changes to Bus Route – For Recommendation – Leanne Warren

No recommendation at this time until the AAC see a current draft of the new routes. It wasn’t apparent that the concerns that the AAC had were addressed.

**Follow up:** AAC members to check website to see new route

## Proposed Expectation of Topic Outcomes on Agenda – For Discussion – Leanne Warren

* 1. For Information – Something has taken place or there is an event that the Committee members should be aware of. For example, Access Recognition Awards by the Guelph Barrier Free Committee
  2. For Recommendation – Committee will make a motion that provides a recommendation to staff or Council
  3. For Discussion – Committee will discuss a topic and provide the Liaison with direction. For example, topics reported in detail to the Committee of Council
  4. For Engagement – These note the formal engagement of committee members on topics, usually directly related to the Engagement requirements in the AODA
* The AODA requires that municipality must engage with AAC
* This requirement to engage at the planning stage is very helpful for the municipality because it ensures that we have looked beyond the organization for input.
  + With this in mind, we hope that you won’t hesitate to provide feedback when you see “for engagement” on our agendas.
* For engagement should have an action outcome every time

## Follow up Report of New Text with 911 Service – For Information - Leanne Warren

* 43 people from the community attended.
* All but 1 person registered with the T-911 service that day

## Pedestrian Routes: Update on Accessible Pedestrian Signal Funding Application – For Information – Leanne Warren

* Need to have feedback before the signals go in
* Brooke will test out the APS with Leanne
* AAC reminded that it would be ideal to also have APS’ at the College and Gordon intersection

## Site Plan Sub-Committee: Report – For Information – Brad Howcroft

Brad reported that

* The sub-committee needs more members to help review site plans as two of four members will be leaving the AAC this year
* E-mail Leanne or Brad if interested in joining this sub-committee

Members reported that the meeting time doesn’t fit into their schedule. The solution is to hold one meeting in the afternoon and the next meeting in the evening. We will try this for a few months and see how it works for all.

## Pedestrian Routes – For Information – Leanne Warren

* With several sidewalks in need of repair, the City has marked the areas where the sidewalk has lifted two centimeters or more. The mark is intended to warn pedestrians of this change in height of the concrete.
* Since last summer there have discussions on the material that is used to make this mark.
* The AAC strongly recommend that yellow marking are much more obvious and “pop” for people who have low vision or are blind.
* City staff have heard the same feedback from the community during their Public Consultation period.
* May be helpful to have a motion at some point
* Mara will join us in June
* June motion to include more funds for 2016 budget for sidewalks to get fixed

## Curb Ramp Budget Request – For Information – Leanne Warren

There are still outstanding curb ramps to be installed throughout the City. The committee feels that a walkable community is very important.

**Tasks:**

1. Leanne will work with staff to understand how many curb ramps need to be installed. From this information a strategy will develop on how to add curb ramps to the 2016 budget.
2. Report back at the June 16th AAC meeting.

## June Agenda Items:

Site Plan Sub-Committee Report

Curb Ramp Budget Request

Motion for Warning Mark and Budget Request for Sidewalk Repairs

Updates from Transit on:

Trapeze Software and Ridership Concerns

Transit Priority Plan Details

Conventional Bus Route Changes – Possible Motion

## Next Meeting:

June 16, 2015 from 3 – 5 p.m. City Hall 112