

2020 Annual Report

In addition to fulfilling, the ongoing requirements set out in the AODA and the IASR according to the required legislated timelines:

Built Environment

- The Committee recommended :That City Council BE REQUESTED to consider the implementation of a one year Pilot Program waiving parking charges (impact of six parking spaces) for accessible permit holders on the west side of McDougall Street directly adjacent to 400 City Hall Square West. The Committee received an update from Andrew Dowie, Executive Initiatives Coordinator and Bill Kralovensky, Supervisor Compliance & Enforcement relating to the on-street accessible parking pilot program.--B. Kralovensky advises this matter has been referred to the New City Hall Plaza and Esplanade Project Steering Committee. He adds the Planning Department is reviewing parking options in that area.
- The Committee worked with the project lead of the New City Hall Project to provide input, advice and funding for 50% of the invoiced work for the installation of twenty-three (23) new door operators, push buttons, wiring, door strikes and programming into the access control system with the location of the doors/push buttons as recommended by the Accessibility/Diversity Officer to an upset limit of \$69,000 from the Capital Project 7086008 (Accessibility Fund) BE APPROVED and further, that a plaque acknowledging the contribution by the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee and City Council BE ERECTED. The work is now fully completed and the project lead erected the plaque to acknowledge the contribution.
- Linda Mackenzie, Chairperson, Friends of Adie Knox Pool was present to request the opening of Adie Knox Pool for people with physical challenges. She read her letter to the Committee. Committee vocalized support for opening the pool with numerous accessibility reasons noted. Written response from Aquatic services noted in part (more info noted in minutes): “As directed by Council, the City of Windsor does not plan on opening or operating additional aquatic facilities to the public unless the demand exceeds the capacity that we have available at the WFCU Centre Community Pool and the WIATC. Our staff has been working with residents to assist them in attending programming at the WFCU and WIATC pools.” P. Best, Co-Chair suggests the establishment of a subcommittee to review this matter. K. Franklin, Y. Huff and P. Best volunteer to sit on this subcommittee.

- Ongoing support to engineering in their work to update corporate standards to reflect any changes to accessibility standards
- Providing ongoing support--audits and expertise regarding other City Facilities and properties
- Provide ongoing input on the accessibility of zoning by-law amendments and site plans.
- K. Arquette provided an overview of the Recreation Master Plan and noted they intended to develop a network of representatives from diverse communities to intentionally include underrepresented people in recreation programs and services to ensure public spaces and places for recreation are safe and welcoming to all diverse populations through community consultation. WAAC was noted as a key representative of that network and they provided input on the initiative.
- Committee co-chair (P.Best) assisted with the review and recommendations for a new accessible kiosk and queuing system for 350 City Hall.
- T. MacNeil provided an overview of the history of the marina development project. The committee requested a site audit be made available. T. MacNeil noted the request will be accommodated when it is appropriate from a safety standpoint.
- Alexander Park initiative revisited to enhance accessibility features of park with a special focus on persons who are blind or low vision (This Park is located across the street from a building where numerous persons who are blind and low vision live). Of note are requests to include high contrast colour on benches, garbage, and recycling receptacles. Tactile indicators to be provided on the walking path, and signage should be erected to request that a walking path be kept clear due to blind and low vision individuals in the area (individuals fishing along the pathway can create a hazard for blind and low vision patrons).
- Parks Department reached out to WAAC for input on a new playground in the Tranby area. The playground costs are being covered by the Parks budget and they are seeking advice on the accessibility of the design. The main features that the AODA looks for regarding accessible playgrounds includes:
 - a. incorporate accessibility features, such as sensory and active play components, for children and caregivers with various disabilities into the design of outdoor play spaces; and

- b. Ensure that outdoor play spaces have a ground surface that is firm, stable and has impact attenuating properties for injury prevention and sufficient clearance to provide children and caregivers with various disabilities the ability to move through, in and around the outdoor play space.

The suggestions from the Committee resulted in a number of accessibility enhancements including the addition of an accessible picnic table, high contrast colour on the swing set, and the location of the swing set was changed to allow it to be closer to the other play structures.

- G. Jones provided the committee with an overview of a promising wayfinding product. NaviLens is a system that allows, through some signals placed in the right places, blind people to detect them with their phone. Each one of these signs indicate, in an auditory way, in what direction one should go and what is the situation of the person with respect to the indicator poster, in addition to containing information of all kinds. The system consists of labels with colour codes similar to bar codes, QR codes that are placed in the points that you wish to identify, or in which you want to place relevant information for the user. These codes are read by an application that makes use of the camera of the mobile device. The information obtained from each label is read by voice. She indicates that this technology could be considered as a pilot project with Transit Windsor to use on buses and bus stops. Further research and information to be provided to the committee in the future regarding the viability of a pilot project.

Information and Communication

- Ongoing inclusion of Corporate Web Governance meetings to include accessibility and planning to meet and/or exceed legislative accessibility website requirement. Administration with Accessibility focus remain key members of Web Governance committee.
- Researched a variety of accessible document remediation tools to help enhance our ongoing efforts at ensuring WCAG 2.0 website and document accessibility legislative compliance. Due to very high cost of accessibility remediations (approx. \$5 to \$30 per page depending upon the complexity of the page), the focus remains on building the internal skills and technical set-up to remediate the vast majority of documents internally and at a small fraction of the cost to the Corporation.

Transportation

- The Transportation Subcommittee reviewed and reported back regarding accessible taxicabs and other accessible transportation matters.

General Requirements, Accessible Customer Service and Employment

- The Committee had a discussion and planning session regarding accessibility planning priorities for the coming years.
- The Committee discussed their desire to acknowledge long term commitment to the committee and they agreed to the purchase of a Commemorative Bench and a Commemorative Tree to honour two deceased members who had a long term commitment and devoted great deal of time and energy to the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee. (Sandra Friesen, former member of WAAC and Wayne Meneguzzi, former chair and member of WAAC). Administration is working with the Senior Manager of Parks and the Senior Manager of Forestry to have both installed/planted in the coming year.
- Ongoing- IASR training as per requirements
- Subscription by the Corporation of the City of Windsor to the Discover Ability Network for the purpose of hiring people with disabilities as they represent an untapped talent pool that can help fuel innovative growth and a measured return on investment.
- Continue with implementation of Phase one of the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative and Multi-year Accessibility Plan component.
- Commence process for creating Phase 2 of the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative (Community component)
- The Committee formed a Subcommittee to commence planning for a WAAC meet and greet/ event with other Accessibility Advisory Committees (AAC). Meeting planned for spring of 2021.
- Autumn Blaze Maple tree with personalized plaque to commemorate Wayne Meneguzzi, former Chair and long time member of WAAC was planted . in the fall of 2020 in Jackson Park. A small ceremon, date to be determined by WAAC, will follow once is appropriate given the restrictions of the pandemic.
- Arrangements made for commemorative bench with personalized plaque to commemorate Sandra Friesen former long time member of WAAC.
- Provided Letter of Support for the City of Windsor's Jumpstart Accessibility Grant Application for the Farrow Riverside Miracle Park Project.

- Annual Windsor Essex Accessibility Awards was cancelled in 2020 due to the global pandemic. As part of the steering committee, assists with planning, and implementation of the annual event.
- Leonardo Gil, Project Manager appears before the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee to provide a Presentation entitled “Update Report: Windsor-Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. Group members will be asked to participate in two meetings over the course of the project. Meetings will involve qualitative activities piloted in previous community conversations as well as a prioritization process based on the results of public consultation data analyses. Committee agreed to participate in the process.