



## **Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee**

Meeting held February 20, 2024

A meeting of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee is held this day commencing at 10:00 o'clock a.m. via Zoom video conference, there being present the following members:

Sally Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair  
Peter Best, Co-Chair  
Councillor Fred Francis  
Surendra Bagga  
Danica McPhee  
Nicholas Petro  
Caleb Ray

### ***Guests in attendance:***

Joy Mayerhofer  
Saamer Mansoor

### ***Also present are the following resource personnel:***

Mark Keeler, Accessibility/ Diversity Officer  
James Chacko, Executive Director, Parks  
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

### **1. Call to Order**

Sally Bennett Olczak calls the meeting to order at 10:01 o'clock a.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

## 2. Declaration of Conflict

## 3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Caleb Ray, seconded by Danica McPhee,  
That the minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held  
December 5, 2023 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

## 4. Business Items

### 4.1 Capital Fund Recommendations

Sally Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair indicates that the capital expenditures for Huron Lodge and the Windsor Public Library will proceed to City Council for approval in the near future.

### 4.2 Audio Pedestrian Signals - Update

Mark Keeler, Accessibility/Diversity Officer provides the following comments relating to the audio pedestrian signals:

- At this time there are 27 intersections with accommodation of the Campbell and the Polara audio pedestrian signals.
- Although some form of standard or guideline is suggested, every intersection is different. In some cases an Enwin pole or other configuration at an intersection might make it difficult to have the push button exactly where it is supposed to be.
- There are still some engineering challenges associated in coming up with a standard that applies equally to every single intersection.
- Administration is also looking for feedback from WAAC in terms of what are the next upgrades that WAAC would like to see along with the source of the funding, i.e. from WAAC or city funds.
- Administration has advised that there will be a section built into the Facility
- Accessibility Design Standards (FADS) guidelines.

Peter Best, Co-Chair advises that the 27 intersections with audio pedestrian signals is less than ten percent of all the traffic signals in the City of Windsor and adds that there is a need for more.

#### 4.4 Capitol Theatre – Accessible Parking

Sally Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair indicates that the Coordinator, Parking Services has been liaising with a member of the community who has expressed the need for additional accessible parking near the Capitol Theatre.

#### 4.5 Speed Humps

Mark Keeler provides an overview relating to speed humps as follows:

- Council approved the installation of speed humps on several streets in 2023 as the traffic calming initiative is quite important to the city.
- The city is willing to look at the specifications for speed humps.
- Expresses concern with the design of speed humps especially with the running slope going up across the hump and the tapered sides of the hump.
- There are also concerns with maintenance and snow and with inconsistent slopes on some of the sides.
- The challenge is when a car is going over a hump, they need that slope to slow the vehicle down.
- Suggests whether a person is low vision or in a wheelchair, there is a need to find a way to direct a person to where they should be crossing through that path. Will speak to Engineering regarding the use of “markings” and will report back.
- In terms of next steps, he suggests the creation of a small group to discuss the speed hump matter and the following members volunteer – Danica McPhee, Peter Best, Caleb Ray, Nick Petro, Surendra Bagga.

Peter Best states that the speed hump is for the vehicles. He expresses concern with the space and suggests a flat level unobstructed area between the curb and the speed hump.

Nick Petro refers to the side slope and the free space and states there should be diagonal lines to differentiate where the ground is flat and slightly canted.

Moved by Caleb Ray, seconded by Peter Best,  
That the update provided by the Accessibility/Diversity Officer regarding speed humps in the City of Windsor **BE RECEIVED**.  
Carried.

#### 4.6 Transit Windsor Report on Accessibility Complaints

Mark Keeler advises he met with Alena Sleziak, Manager Customer Contact Centre who provided a demonstration of the screens used by 311 operators. He indicates there is a check box for accessibility that groups all of the accessible complaints together.

Administration determined it was not recommended to add a “flag” for Transit as there is a check box that groups all of accessibility complaints. However, a caller may not always indicate that they were on a bus on a given day or time so it is difficult for 311 to track the call. He notes that accessibility complaints are now being directed to him along with the Executive Director of Transit Windsor.

Peter Best indicates that he receives calls on a continuous basis regarding accessibility complaints relating to riding a Transit Windsor bus. He proposes the formation of a working group to help identify and resolve the issues. Mark Keeler states that he will contact Transit Windsor to see if they are amenable to a working group.

Councillor Fred Francis advises that 311 does not do follow-up and does not do extensive tracking after the call has been received. Once the complaint has been forwarded to the city department, 311 assumes that the situation has been resolved. He suggests that Mark Keeler contact the Executive Director of Transit Windsor to ascertain what is done with the complaints once received.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Nick Petro,  
That the update regarding accessibility complaints sent to Transit Windsor by 311  
**BE RECEIVED.**  
Carried.

#### **4.7 Sandy’s Point**

Peter Best provides the following comments relating to Sandy’s Point:

- Sandy’s Point is a comfortable place located at Alexander Park, enjoyed by folks from Lions Manor, and seniors and it is important that the community be made aware of what the City has done to provide this space.
- Suggests holding a public event at Sandy’s Point the first week in June which is Accessibility Awareness Week to commemorate Sandra Friesen, former member of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- The purpose of Sandy’s Point was to provide a safe space for people who are visually impaired, people with disabilities and seniors with walkers located at the west end of the park. Through funding provided by City Council, an accessible table and a commemorative bench to honour Sandy Friesen was placed in this area.

Sally Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair adds that the view is beautiful looking over to Belle Isle and the Renaissance Centre.

#### **4.8 Further Development of Sandy’s Point – 2024 Forward**

Peter Best suggests the placement of accessible amenities in Sandy’s Point. In response to a question asked by Surendra Bagga regarding if some sort of shelter will be

erected, Peter Best responds that a protected area would certainly be welcomed especially during the summer months. Discussion ensues regarding the lack of a paved pathway to the accessible washrooms.

James Chacko, Executive Director, Parks advises that the older washrooms on the western portion of the property have been decommissioned and will most likely be demolished. In response to Peter Best's concern regarding access from the river walkway to the new washroom building, he notes it is lacking in an accessible connection. A few designs have been worked on to install a connection that would run from the washroom along the east side of the parking lot right along the playground to connect the riverwalk. He adds because of the steepness and the incline and the transition from the parking lot and washroom to the riverfront, they need to install a switchback in that space which will require significant funding which is not available at this time. He remarks that Parks will continue to look for grant opportunities.

Sally Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair suggests that in the grant proposal that Parks would have a matching consideration from WAAC.

Moved by Caleb Ray, seconded by Danica McPhee,  
That the update regarding Sandy's Point located at Alexander Park **BE RECEIVED.**  
Carried.

#### **4.3 Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS)**

Mark Keeler reports that the subcommittee has been meeting weekly and coming into section 4.5 of the FADS and expects to complete the document by late spring/early summer. He adds that the City of Windsor's FADS is the only one in Canada that has recommendations from people with disabilities.

Sally Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair requests that the FADS Table of Contents be provided at the next meeting of WAAC.

Moved by Danica McPhee, seconded by Caleb Ray,  
That the Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS) update **BE RECEIVED.**  
Carried.

#### **Other Business**

Mark Keeler states that there is no representation on WAAC for people with hearing disabilities. He reports that he received a call from a resident who requires a "deaf child at play" sign. City Policy demands that requests for city signs come from an external agency, the Canadian Hearing Society. He advises he will continue working with Senior

leadership and the Canadian Hearing Society to come to some sort of a resolution. This matter will be discussed at the next meeting of WAAC.

Caleb Ray asks if there is a way to bring the different entities together as this is a safety concern especially for a deaf child.

In terms of the request for signage for the deaf child, Councillor Fred Francis states he will reach out to Mark McKenzie, Ward Councillor to assist in the process of acquiring a sign.

## **5. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom video conference.

## **6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 11:20 o'clock a.m.