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Windsor, Ontario June 14, 2016

A meeting of the **Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee** is held this day commencing at 1:30 o'clock p.m. in Room 406, 400 City Hall Square East, there being present the following members:

Peter Best, Chair
Kathy Iacovone, Vice Chair
Councillor Ed Sleiman
Surendra Bagga
Sandra Friesen
Jillian Hotson
Sheila McCabe (arrives at 1:38 p.m.)
Ricardo Pappini
Nicholas Petro (Voting – alternate)

Regrets received from:

John Azlen
Chris Lemieux
Robert Williams

Guest in attendance:

Mr. Peter Murphy, regarding Item 5.1

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Scott Bisson, Coordinator Community Development
John Brunelle, Handi Transit
Gayle Jones, Accessibility/Diversity Officer
Tom Graziano, Senior Manager Facilities
Fahd Mikhael, Manager, Traffic Operations
Alina Sirbu, Executive Director, Huron Lodge
John Wolf, Senior Manager, Traffic Operations
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 1:31 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" **attached** hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

The Committee Coordinator calls for nominations from the floor for the position of Vice Chairperson. S. Friesen nominates Kathy Iacovone, seconded by Councillor Sleiman. The Committee Coordinator asks if there are further nominations from the floor, and seeing none, the Committee Coordinator asks Kathy Iacovone if she accepts. Kathy Iacovone accepts.

Moved by S. Friesen, seconded by Councillor Sleiman,
That Kathy Iacovone **BE ELECTED** Vice Chairperson of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee for the term ending December 31, 2016.
Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT

None disclosed.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Moved by S. Friesen, seconded by N. Petro,
That the minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held March 29, 2016 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

5.1 Accessible Stands at Cullen Field

The daughter of Mr. Peter Murphy speaks on her father's behalf regarding accessibility issues at Cullen Field (located within Mic Mac Park) as follows:

- Mr. Peter Murphy contacted the Accessibility Officer and advised he loves baseball and stated the stands are outdated and not accessible.
- There is a bar blocking access to the stands with no handrails.
- There is a very old ramp on one side and there is a concern with safety when a person with a heavy wheelchair is utilizing the ramp.
- Spectators are placing lawn chairs in the area designated for wheelchairs.
- Cullen Field is a site for men's provincial and regional baseball games.
- There is no shade and no back support in the stands.

G. Jones indicates there is a need to replace the bleachers and to ensure they are accessible. She states the repairs to the bleachers at Cullen Park have been noted as a future project for the Park's Department.

In response to a question asked by K. Iacovone regarding if the washrooms are accessible, Mr. Murphy responds they are not.

The Chair thanks Mr. Murphy and his daughter for their presentation.

The Chair refers this matter to the Sport and Leisure subcommittee for a report back.

5.2 City of Windsor Downtown Transportation Strategy

The WAAC Subcommittee Review for the City of Windsor Downtown Transportation Strategy – Executive Summary submitted twenty comments/suggestions to Andrew Dowie, Project Administrator for consideration and inclusion in the final report.

The Chair thanks R. Pappini, S. Bagga and S. Friesen for their submission to the Project Administrator.

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by S. McCabe,
That the comments/suggestions submitted by the WAAC Subcommittee for the City of Windsor Downtown Transportation Strategy – Executive Summary **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

5.3 Accessible Recreation Subcommittee Report

The Chair advises J. Azlen (not present) is working to establish wheelchair basketball and other recreation programs in the city.

In terms of accessible parking spaces in the downtown core, R. Pappini states some business owners are utilizing these spaces. He notes the business owners park for four hours, drive around the block and park for an additional four hours.

J. Wolf, Senior Manager, Traffic Operations indicates he contacted the DWBIA to reduce the time to park in an accessible space from four to three hours. He adds typically, parking changes are vetted through the BIA and ultimately to Council for approval.

G. Jones questions if a business owner with a permit should be allowed to utilize the accessible parking space, or, to park in a parking garage.

S. Bagga states the solution is to provide more accessible parking spaces.

R. Pappini requests WAAC provide any additional comments which will be forwarded to J. Wolf.

5.4 Development of a Windsor Standard/Policy for Audio Pedestrian Signals

The application for funding from the Capital Project #7086008 for an upgrade to existing pedestrian signals to the Windsor standard from Traffic Operations - Signals is distributed and **attached** as Appendix "A".

J. Wolf provides the following information relating to the upgrade of existing pedestrian signals:

- There are currently 9 locations with audible pedestrian signals.
- There are four new audible pedestrian signals – Pillette/Wyandotte location will be installed in a few months.
- A request to install signals on Huron Church and at the Riverside/Parent intersection.
- Requesting \$30,000 from WAAC with matching funds from Traffic Operations to retrofit 5 existing audible pedestrian signals.
- Cost is \$12,500 per location (total of \$60,000 to retrofit five locations)
- Location for the placement of an audible traffic signal is determined through discussion with the CNIB.

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by S. Friesen,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$30,000 to be derived from the Capital Project #7086008 – Accessibility ODA Requirements Fund for the retrofits of five (5) existing Audio Pedestrian Signals to the Windsor Standard (voice message) with the proviso that the Traffic Department provides matching funds in the amount of \$30,000 and further, that the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee in conjunction with the Canadian Institute of the Blind determine the locations of the audible pedestrian signals to be retrofitted.

Carried.

5.5 Status of Alexander Park

Background information relating to the contribution of ward funds (by Councillor Sleiman) for accessible improvements to Alexander Park in the amount of \$40,000 is provided:

- Ward funds in the amount of \$40,000 was utilized by Parks for benches, the construction of a walkway and the bumpers on the ground.
- Washroom is not accessible

- Benches are not visible to the visually impaired. Paint on the benches should be a high contrast colour, i.e. yellow. The benches have been painted orange and green.
- Textural cue adjacent to the benches has not been installed.
- Had requested a cement pad with an accessible picnic table.
- Garbage bins have not been identified with a yellow fluorescent stripe.
- Due to the fishermen and the placement of fishing paraphernalia on the walking path (causing a tripping hazard for the visually impaired), it was suggested to paint a single line along the pathway delineating the area for pedestrians and to provide signage to keep the area clear.
- A number of the items would have minimal costs i.e., painting the benches a high contrast colour, provide tactile markings along the pathway to identify the location of benches, and to place reflective strips along recycling and garbage bins around the park.
- Placement of signage to denote there are blind persons in the area.

T. Graziano notes the concerns presented by WAAC will be provided to the Executive Director of Parks.

Councillor Sleiman will provide an update on this matter as the improvements were funded by Ward Funds.

6. DIVERSITY OFFICER'S REPORT

Alina Sirbu, Executive Director, Huron Lodge thanks WAAC for inviting her to the meeting. She advises there are 224 residents at Huron Lodge, 90% of which are over 80 years of age. She notes Huron Lodge has indoor exercise equipment but would certainly welcome equipment for use outdoors as many residents are still physically active.

G. Jones provides an overview of accessible outdoor exercise equipment such as air walkers and tai chi wheels.

In response to a question asked by Councillor Sleiman regarding if there is sufficient outdoor space for the equipment, A. Sirbu responds affirmatively.

The Chair refers this matter to the Sports and Leisure subcommittee for a report back.

The Chair requests members indicate their interest in sitting on one or more of the following subcommittees:

1. Community Development
2. Communication & Community Services
3. Sport and Leisure

4. Transportation
5. Employment
6. Miscellaneous and Follow-up

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 3:30 o'clock p.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR