

Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting held May 29, 2019

A meeting of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee is held this day commencing at 2:00 o'clock p.m. in Room 204, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Peter Best, Co-Chair
Sally Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair
Councillor Ed Sleiman
Surendra Bagga
Yo Son Dah Nost Huff
Mialynn Lee-Daigle
Sheila McCabe
Ricardo Pappini
Nicholas Schuurman
Kristy Franklin (alternate)
Caleb Ray (alternate)
Nicholas Petro (alternate)
Angela Hart (alternate)

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Gayle Jones, Accessibility/Diversity Officer
Andrew Dowie, Executive Initiatives Coordinator
Bill Kralovensky, Supervisor Compliance & Enforcement
Dana Popa, Handi Transit
Greg Rusk, Supervisor Community Programming
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Committee Coordinator calls the meeting to order at 2:00 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 Chair

The Committee Coordinator calls for nominations from the floor for the position of Chair. It is generally agreed that the election will include the appointment of two Co-Chairs. Councillor Sleiman nominates Sally Bennett Olczak, seconded by R. Pappini as Co-Chairs. There are no further nominations from the floor. The Committee Coordinator

asks S. Bennett Olczak and P. Best if they accept. They accept and P. Best assumes the Chair.

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by R. Pappini,
That Sally Bennett Olczak and Peter Best **BE ELECTED** Co-Chairs of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee for the term ending December 31, 2019.
Carried.

3. Declaration of Conflict

None disclosed.

4. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by R. Pappini, seconded by Councillor Sleiman,
That the minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held September 27, 2018 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

5. Business Items

5.1 WAAC Terms of Reference and Mandate

Moved by S. McCabe, seconded by Y. Huff,
That a review of the WAAC Terms of Reference dated September 2014 **BE DEFERRED** to the next meeting of the Committee.
Carried.

5.2 WAAC Budgets – Overview

G. Jones provides an overview of the WAAC Capital Fund and the WAAC Operating Budget as follows:

- The WAAC 2019 Operating Budget is approximately \$11,000 due to a carry forward from 2018.
- The WAAC Capital Fund is approximately \$385,000 and this fund is used for accessibility improvements/retrofits in municipal buildings that are above and beyond the AODA standards. The process to acquire this funding begins with the city department completing an application which is forwarded to WAAC and if approved, is sent to the respective Standing Committee and City Council.
- Up to \$50,000 a year, of the WAAC Capital Fund, can be used for non-built environment issues such as the use of sign language interpreters.

5.3 On-Street Accessible Parking Pilot Program

Andrew Dowie, Executive Initiatives Coordinator and Bill Kralovensky, Supervisor Compliance & Enforcement are present to provide an update relating to the on-street accessible parking pilot program. A. Dowie provides the following comments:

- Various Ontario cities, i.e. Hamilton, Toronto and Niagara Falls use a model that encourages long-term parking in a particular spot. Metered parking exists in order to encourage turnover and to supply multiple uses for the parking spot.
- Toronto has also been experiencing extensive use of accessible parking permits at meters. The most common complaint is that able-bodied family members are frequently borrowing the permit in order to benefit from an unlimited parking privilege at every parking meter. This is in turn depriving legitimate accessible permit holders from accessing the most accessible parking location.
- There is no efficient way of ensuring that these spaces are freed up without a heavily resourced parking enforcement program.
- Extending parking privileges to those having an accessible parking permit will ultimately add complexity to the enforcement program. It increases the amount of time spent investigating for compliance and reduces the time available to very compliance in other areas.
- The yearly loss of revenue in the event that a meter is not generating income is \$3,000 per meter, or \$18,000 for the six affected spaces.

It is proposed that the one year Pilot Program be premised as follows:

- Parking time frame would mirror existing time limits for street parking. The parking privilege for permit holders will not be unlimited but would be consistent with existing turnover and time limit regulations.
- Parking permits will always be subject to verification.
- Parking privileges will not extend to no stopping areas.
- Signage indicating a special area in which parking fees are waived for accessible permits.
- The pilot project area will be along the west side of McDougall Street adjacent to 400 City Hall Square West. This impacts six parking spaces. Four of the noted signs would be placed on existing posts currently delineating parking boundaries.

In response to a question asked by G. Jones regarding the choice to use the west side of McDougall Street for the pilot project, A. Dowie responds the area appeared to be an appropriate site to gather data.

B. Kralovensky advises that approximately 15 accessible permits are confiscated every year due to misuse.

S. McCabe asks if the pilot project area will be identified by signage. A. Dowie expresses concern that people will assume that this pilot project is city wide. He adds there will be a bar on the sign that identifies this zone.

Moved by S. Bennett Olczak, seconded by S. McCabe,
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.

Carried.

S. Bagga voting nay.

5.4 Participation in Accessibility Event – July 13, 2019

The Co-Chair reports an Accessible Awareness Day will be held on July 13, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Devonshire Mall. He asks for volunteers to man a table at the event and to distribute WAAC promotional materials. R. Pappini, S. McCabe, Y. Huff, C. Ray, M. Lee-Daigle and N. Schuurman volunteer to assist in this event.

G. Jones suggests the development of a WAAC brochure that includes previous projects approved by WAAC and City Council that addressed accessibility improvement/retrofits to city facilities.

Moved by S. Bagga, seconded by N. Schuurman,
That a table **BE PROCURED** (at no cost) for members of WAAC to participate in the Accessible Awareness Day event to be held on July 13 2019 at Devonshire Mall.
Carried.

N. Schuurman leaves the meeting at 3:35 o'clock p.m.

Moved by S. McCabe, seconded by Y. Huff,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,500 for costs associated with the purchase of a pull-up banner, the printing costs for the new WAAC brochure and for promotional items to give away at events.
Carried.

5.5 Discussion & Priorities Planning Session

Moved by R. Pappini, seconded by S. McCabe,
That the WAAC 2019 Priorities Planning Session **BE DEFERRED** to the next meeting.
Carried.

6. Diversity Officer's Report

G. Jones reports the City has purchased Video Remote Interpreting equipment which provides on-demand interpreting sessions in 36 languages (video remote) including American Sign Language and 240 languages (audio). She adds this equipment will be available in the Customer Service area, 1st floor, City Hall and in several other areas in City Hall and in the 400 City Hall Square East building.

G. Jones advises the City of Windsor Workforce Census was conducted in 2018 and 1,000 city staff provided responses to the survey. She adds there were questions in the survey relating to disabilities within the Corporation and if accommodations were being provided.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on a date to be determined in late July 2019.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 3:59 o'clock p.m.

Peter Best, Co-Chair

Committee Coordinator