

Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee

Meeting held September 14, 2021

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 Ed Sleiman
Surendra Bagga
Yo Son Dah Nost Huff
Sheila McCabe
Nicholas Petro
Caleb Ray

Guest in attendance:

Joy Mayerhofer, regarding *Item 5.1*

Regrets received from:

Ricardo Pappini

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Gayle Jones, Accessibility/Diversity Officer
Wadah Al-Yassiri, Manager Parks Development
Andrea O'Brien, Manager Operations
Trevor Duquette, Supervisor, Parks Projects
Katie Pavlovski, Community Development Coordinator
Mark Keeler, Human Resources Assistant
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Sally Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 10:00 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

None disclosed.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by N. Petro, seconded by Councillor Sleiman,
That the minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held June 1, 2021 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 Accessible Playgrounds

Wadah Al-Yassiri, Manager Parks Development and Trevor Duquette, Supervisor, Parks Projects provide the following comments relating to accessible playgrounds:

- Requesting input from WAAC relating to any additional needs that folks may require at some of the larger parks.
- Thirty-three playgrounds are being considered for 2023.
- In terms of Willistead Park, the playground is currently located in the south corner and replacing the playground in the same location would be ideal and would allow for easier access to street parking.
- Playgrounds are accessible and in compliance with the AODA and Facility Accessibility Design Standards.
- Want to enhance a few areas subject to funding.

The following list represents the 33 parks under discussion:

Large Themed Playgrounds:

1. Fred Thomas Park
2. Gignac Park
3. Willisted Park
4. Wilson Park

Medium Group 1:

5. Bradley Park
6. Ganatchio/Little River Corridor Trail
7. Kenilworth Park
8. Lake Laguna Park
9. Mayfair Park

- 10 Seneca Park
- 11. Thurston Park

Medium Group 2:

- 12. Coletta Park
- 13. Kid's Alliance Park
- 14. Matthew Rodzik Park
- 15. Patrick McGuire Park
- 16. St. Paul Grove Park
- 17. Stillmeadow Park

Medium Group 3:

- 18. Cora Greenwood Park
- 19. Garwood Park
- 20. Homesite Park
- 21. Maple Leaf Park
- 22. McKee Park
- 23. Robert Park

Small Group 1:

- 24. Alton C Parker Park
- 25. Avondale Playlot Park
- 26. Dynasty Park
- 27. Francois Park
- 28. Shawnee Park

Small Group 2:

- 29. Aboriginal Park
- 30. Brookview Park
- 31. Devonshire Park
- 32. Kominar Park
- 33. South Rendezvous Park

The Co-Chair remarks that several of her clients who are persons with dementia frequent Willistead Park and asks if there are senior and dementia friendly amenities at the park. She asks if there are safety features for children with autism at the Farrow Riverside Miracle Park.

T. Duquette responds that there are three to five features for children with autism at the Farrow Riverside Miracle Park.

P. Best, Co-Chair asks if the public have been apprised of the facilities and amenities at the parks. He indicates that WAAC members could undertake an audit of some of the parks and make recommendations. He suggests that power-charging stations for wheelchairs be considered.

S. Bagga asks of the 204 parks in the City of Windsor, how were the 33 parks selected. He asks that a summary be provided outlining what facilities/amenities are located in each of the 33 parks to allow WAAC an opportunity to provide comment of what is expected and needed.

N. Petro suggests that surfaces, i.e. waste receptacles be painted in colours that can be seen along with the addition of tactile surfaces on the ground for individuals with low vision.

In response to a question asked by G. Jones regarding if all of the parks will be enhanced, W. Al-Yassiri responds that they will endeavour to ensure that all parks are accessible friendly. In terms of the power charging stations, will look into adding this at the four largest parks and requests funding from WAAC as this initiative relates to the playgrounds.

G. Jones remarks that section 80.19 of the AODA states that the city has a responsibility to consult. She adds that this initial meeting should be the start of the consultation not the full consultation.

The Co-Chair suggests that further information and designs be brought back at the next meeting.

In response to a question asked by Councillor Sleiman regarding if a public survey was undertaken, W. Al-Yassiri responds that a survey was done for all of the parks and data was collected.

P. Best, Co-Chair asks for volunteers to work with the Manager of Parks Development on the parks initiative. N. Petro, C. Ray will assist along with the Co-Chairs.

T. Duquette remarks that a tender is being put together and that they will come back with final designs.

4.3 Proposal for Funding from Capital Project 7086008 – Windsor Public Library

Andrea O'Brien, Manager Operations appears before the Committee and provides the following remarks relating to funding for accessible amenities at the temporary location of the Windsor Public Library:

- The Windsor Public Library moved to the Paul Martin Building located at 185 Ouellette Avenue as a temporary location for the next seven to ten years.
- As part of the project to move the Central Library to the Paul Martin Building, the first floor of the building was designed to be fully accessible and comply with all AODA guidelines, as this space is accessible to the public.
- The Administrative staff are located on the second floor of the building.
- Very little work was done on the second floor at the time Windsor Public Library acquired the building and no changes have been made so far to make this space accessible.

- Windsor Public Library recently hired a staff member that requires this office space to be wheel chair accessible.
- Want to install two automatic door openers on the second floor to make the space universally accessible for both staff and visitors.
- Asking that WAAC share the cost of the installation of the two automatic door openers.

G. Jones states that it is somewhat unusual for a department to request funding for accessible improvements to a temporary building. She adds that A. O'Brien has been a leader in this Corporation in taking initiative to hire individuals with disabilities.

P. Best, Co-Chair advises that departmental budgets should include funding to cover issues such as this.

In response to a question asked by N. Petro regarding what happens when the Windsor Public Library moves out of this building, A. O'Brien responds she is not aware of the city's future plans, however, anything that is installed at this time can be relocated.

Moved by S. Bagga, seconded by N. Petro,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$3,147.75 which represents fifty percent of the cost to install two automatic door openers on the second floor of the Windsor Public Library located at 185 Ouellette Avenue.

Carried.

4.3 Alexander Park

G. Jones shows recent photographs of Alexander Park that displays accessible features and improvements **attached** as Appendix "A".

- G. Jones provides an overview of the improvements at Alexander Park as follows:
- The rubber wheelchair stops at four bench pads closest to Riverside Drive have been removed.
- High visibility tape has been placed on the blue and green waste receptacles.
- Two benches along the riverfront and pathway have been painted yellow for better visibility.
- Signage has been placed along the riverfront that states "Be courteous, blind persons walking."
- There is Braille and tactile signage on the accessible washroom doors.
- Looking into an area at the western point of the park to add a concrete pad with a bench. This could be the area to install the bench for Sandra Friesen and to call it "Sandy's Point". Also to install an accessible picnic table in this area.

G. Jones requests that appropriate Parks Administration provide an update relating to Alexander Park in person or in writing for the next meeting.

4.4 NaviLens Update

G. Jones advises that P. Best was invited to City Hall to participate in preliminary testing of NaviLens to get a sense of whether this more advanced technology is a worthwhile investment to provide wayfinding assistance for the visually impaired. The results were interesting and there are differences noted for someone who is visually impaired that uses an Android versus an iPhone.

P. Best, Co-Chair responds that when using a Smartphone camera, the challenge is if the technology can sufficiently work indoors and outdoors.

M. Keeler remarks that there are several volunteers, who are blind or low vision, that have expressed an interest in coming to City Hall to participate in an wayfinding obstacle course, which would create somewhat of a laboratory environment to do a hands on test of the technology.

In response to a question aske by N. Petro regarding if any other issues were detected over and above the range detected for different devices, M. Keeler responds that lighting, and size and placement of the Navilens codes played a big role but adjustments can be made if it is well tested in some environments.

4.5 Audible Pedestrian Signals

P. Best, Co-Chair advises that he is looking for an update on the status of the audible pedestrian signals in our community. He asks that this matter be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.

P. Best remarks that an audio pedestrian signal is a sound for traffic lights for primarily the blind and visually impaired. When visually impaired individuals enter an intersection, there is a sound for those who cannot see the traffic signal.

4.7 WAAC Financial Variance Report

The Co-Chair advises that the balance of the 2021 funds is \$12,357. Discussion ensues regarding how best to utilize the funds.

4.6 Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS)

G. Jones shows a table that compares the City of Windsor FADS with the London 2007 FADS and Oakville FADS. She adds that the City of Windsor is waiting on the release of the new London FADS, which should be available in the near future. The City of London graciously permits other municipalities to utilize their design standards and the majority of other municipalities have based their FADS off London's document. Once we receive the revised document, we hope to be able to utilize it to revise our own FADS as soon as possible.

In response to a question asked regarding the release of the new FADS and if that can be shared with WAAC via Zoom, G. Jones responds that the information will be provided.

4.8 WAAC's Advisory Role

P. Best, Co-Chair states that he is looking for a process review of WAAC's role. He adds that WAAC should be involved in all facets of city projects, i.e. concepts, planning, implementation and project completion. He notes that some city departments come to WAAC following the completion of a project and request funding. He requests that a representative from Corporate Projects be invited to attend a meeting.

G. Jones suggests that administration be invited to attend meetings to provide updates on corporate project designs and site plans of interest to WAAC.

Councillor Sleiman states that P. Best is requesting that city departments consult with WAAC on various projects.

S. McCabe suggests that if departments do not consult with WAAC during the planning stage of a project, that funding will not be provided for accessible amenities following the completion of the project.

Moved by P. Best, seconded by .Y. Huff,

That in contemplation of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee's role to further their mission and service to the City of Windsor, WAAC reiterates their request to **BE INCLUDED** in consultations relating to new builds and major renovations as it relates to accessibility, and further, that a representative from the Building Department and Corporate Projects **BE REQUESTED** to attend WAAC meetings and to provide site plans and corporate project updates on an ongoing basis.

Carried.

4.9 Windsor-Essex AAC Meeting – Autumn 2021

P. Best advises that he has been asked to co-host the meeting with Christine Easterbrook. G. Jones responds that she will assist in facilitating the meeting possibly between November 2021 and the spring of 2022.

4.10 Requests from Administration

P. Best states the following list represents topics he would like to discuss at some future date:

- Adie Knox
- City Marina
- City Hall
- Accessible Parking
- Black Woods Trail
- Transit Windsor accessibility update
- Accessible Employment Creation and opportunities
- Leisure Buddy and Accessible Sports
- Roseland Golf and Curling
- Mega Hospital
- Handi Transit
- Windsor Public Library - Accessibility Resource HUB

Councillor Sleiman advises that in order not to overload administration, that specific topics be determined.

5. Black Oaks Park – Bench

Joy Mayerhofer, resident is present regarding a request for a bench at Black Oaks Park.

G. Jones recommends the purchase of one wooden bench to add a rest area along the path at Black Oaks Park to enhance accessibility.

The Co-Chair asks that administration from Parks and/or Forestry provide an update on this matter for the next meeting.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on a date to be determined.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 12:09 o'clock p.m.

CO-CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR