



Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee (WAAC)

Meeting held October 17, 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
Danica McPhee
Nicholas Petro
Caleb Ray

Regrets received from:

Councillor Fred Francis
Surendra Bagga
Riccardo Pappini

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Mark Keeler, Accessibility/Diversity Officer
James Chacko, Executive Director Parks
Ian Day, Senior Manager Parking Operations/Traffic
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Sally Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 10:08 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 Danica McPhee, seconded by Nicholas Petro,
That the minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held May 14, 2024 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 Hidden Disabilities Sunflower – Update

Mark Keeler, Accessibility/Diversity Officer advises that Hidden Disabilities is an awareness and training program to teach staff how to handle more than 900 different hidden disabilities. He indicates that the report will be reviewed by the Community Services Standing Committee and City Council.

In response to a question asked by the Co-Chair regarding the role of WAAC in this matter, Mark Keeler responds at this time it is more of an administrative point. The Co-Chair asks in terms of the Hidden Disabilities training, will this include corporate staff, elected officials and committee members. Mark Keeler responds primarily corporate staff will be trained but envisions extending training to the foregoing and to include the library, WAAC and other committees. He adds that the training consists of workshops that are offered several times a year.

Danica McPhee asks if this training will be extended to new hires. Mark Keeler responds affirmatively.

4.2 Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee Survey, Strengths and Areas for Improvement

The Chair advises that an informal meeting to look at WAAC's strengths and weaknesses was recently held and notes the comments will be provided at a later date.

4.3 2024 Operational Budget – Update

The Chair reports that the balance of WAAC's 2024 operating budget is \$6,250. The Chair asks if requests have been received from Administration relating to expenditures from the operating and the capital budgets. Mark Keeler responds that no requests have been received at this time.

Peter Best asks for an update regarding the purchases relating to programming at the Windsor Public Library provided by WAAC.

4.4 Audio Pedestrian Signals (APS's)

Mark Keeler advises there are currently 27 intersections with audio pedestrian signals. He indicates that Traffic has been waiting for direction from WAAC regarding what intersections need upgrades. He recommends that discussions be held with the Infrastructure Working Group to take stock of the status of the APS's.

Ian Day, Senior Manager Parking Operations/Traffic recalls following the last meeting, Administration had come to a basic set of standards or starting points that are accessible crossings (which have been implemented at all the intersections). He adds in 2024, Traffic will be updating St. Rose and Wyandotte and new intersections will be going in on Lauzon Parkway.

It is generally agreed that further discussions regarding the APS's will be held with the Infrastructure Working Group who will report back to WAAC.

4.5 Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS)

Mark Keeler advises that the final FADS document underwent a rigorous process and states there may be some resistance to change by Administration, i.e. widening the curbs and changing the bathrooms. He adds that FADS has not been updated since 2006 and, there may be cost implications with the upgrades.

The Chair thanks the members of the FADS Subcommittee.

Danica McPhee asks if there have been edits to the FADS document. Mark Keeler responds that all the city departments involved will still need to review every section and to make comments/revisions.

4.6 Transit Windsor

Mark Keeler reports that he assisted Transit Windsor with their Federal Accessibility Plan. He remarks that Transit is looking at modifying their transit information system or looking at the transit schedules and a more accessible web model. He reports he changed 311 so he now sees every accessible complaint that comes to Transit Windsor and subsequently sends feedback to Transit for their review. He suggests that representatives from Transit Windsor be invited to attend occasional meetings of the Infrastructure Working Group.

Peter Best thanks Transit Windsor for the open communication. He refers to the reporting to the 311 Call Centre and adds he has not received any negative comments from the accessible community.

4.7 Infrastructure Working Group

Peter Best advises that the Infrastructure Group will be meeting monthly. Mark Keeler states that the focus of the group will be infrastructure, things of a technical discipline, i.e. the airport, transit, traffic, new bathroom installs, and new trails.

Nicholas Petro commends this Working Group as it allows WAAC to better interface with the various city departments.

Mark Keeler remarks there may be regulatory changes coming regarding how consults are being done within city departments. He advises he will be meeting this day with representatives from Adie Knox to review over 60 pages of architectural diagrams. He notes that he is not an architect or engineer and is not qualified to ensure that the diagrams are AODA compliant or meet the Building Code. Adie Knox was advised that they should contact WAAC with these matters and adds that this will be reported back to the Working Group.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the end of November/early December 2024.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:49 o'clock a.m.