

Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee – Held December 12, 2017

A meeting of the **Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee** is held this day commencing at 11:30 o'clock a.m. in Room 407, 400 City Hall Square East, there being present the following members:

Kathy Iacovone, Co-Chair
Peter Best, Co-Chair
Surendra Bagga (arrives at 11:35 a.m.)
Councillor Ed Sleiman
Sandra Friesen
Ricardo Pappini
Robert Williams

Regrets received from:

Jillian Hotson
Sheila McCabe

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Jane He, Engineer III
Gayle Jones, Accessibility/Diversity Officer
Greg Rusk, Supervisor, Community Programming
John Brunelle, Handi Transit
John Wolf, Senior Manager, Traffic Operations
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

K. Iacovone, Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 11:31 o'clock a.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" ***attached*** hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. Declarations of Conflict

None disclosed.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by P. Best, seconded by R. Pappini,
That the minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held August 15, 2017 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.

Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 Streetscaping on Ouellette from Wyandotte Street

Jane He, Engineer III is present and provides the following update relating to the streetscaping project on Ouellette Avenue from Wyandotte Street:

- The streetscaping on Ouellette from Wyandotte Street is Phase 6 that included the Wyandotte/Ouellette intersection.
- New traffic signals and tactile mats along with wheelchair and pedestrian crossing were also included.
- Transit Windsor will be installing a digital information board that will provide real time information relating to Transit Windsor bus times.
- The bus shelter at Wyandotte/Ouellette is to be upgraded.
- There is compatibility available to add an audible signal to the traffic signal.
- The sidewalk width will allow for easy manoeuvring of wheelchairs.
- Red pavers will be installed in the bus bay area.

In response to a question asked by P. Best regarding if the digital board will also be auditory, J. He responds she will contact Transit Windsor and will report back to WAAC.

P. Best expresses concern regarding the lack of colour contrast on certain benches and whether there are sharp corners on the planters. J. He responds there are no sharp edges on the planters and there are contrasting colours for the pavers at the curb line. She adds the street furniture will be black in colour. She noted a previous matter had come before the committee and the Committee was agreeable with the black benches at that time.

G. Jones notes that black benches may add the required contrast in certain areas however, if there is a black storefront or other black features in the background it might blend in with the background and be problematic. In such a situation a different colour bench or a contrasting colour on the edges of the bench may assist to help with contrast. She adds that flexibility and awareness are important to be able to keep an environment accessible. The members concur that black benches are appropriate for this project.

The Co-Chair thanks Jane He for her presentation.

4.2 Metered On-Street Accessible Parking

John Wolfe, Senior Manager, Traffic Operations is present and provides the following overview relating to metered on-street accessible parking:

- Ten municipalities, including Windsor from across Canada were contacted and requested to provide information relating to their best practices for metered on-street accessible parking.
- Four municipalities provide “Free Non-Metered On-Street Designated Accessible Parking Spaces”.
- Two municipalities provide “Designated Non-Free Metered On-Street Accessible Parking”.
- Five municipalities provide “Free Accessible Parking at Non-Designated Meters”.
- One municipality provides both “Free Non-Metered On-Street Designated Accessible Parking Spaces” and “Free Accessible Parking at Non-Designated Meters”.
- There are 1426 metered parking spaces in the City of Windsor. The average yearly revenue for each space is approximately \$969.52. Depending on the location of the meter, the yearly revenue for a meter could reach more than \$3,000 at prime locations.
- The cost effect of the implementation of free metered parking for residents with Accessible Parking Permits will vary depending on the location of the parking meter used and the number of residents with Accessible Parking Permits using the meters.
- Enforcement will become more time consuming, as permitted vehicles will need to be “chalked” in order to determine if parking is past the time limit. This would result in dedicating more time to this activity and less time to other enforcement. Enforcement revenues may decrease as a result.
- In order to estimate how many parking meters will be fully occupied by the available Accessible Parking Permits and since statistics for such usage are not readily available, a rough assumption of one fully occupied parking meter for each one hundred Accessible Parking Permits available in the City of Windsor was used.
- The estimated yearly loss of revenue is estimated to vary between \$158,002.67 and \$488,910.00.

P. Best suggests a blend of free accessible parking and paid accessible parking in areas of high demand and requests digital tracking to monitor parking spaces.

Discussion ensues regarding business owners, employees and others who utilize the accessible parking spots for an indefinite period of time, which causes difficulty for those wishing to park with permits. If there is no time limit on certain spots it is extremely difficult for individuals requiring accessible parking to find a suitable spot.

Moved by S. Bagga, seconded by P. Best,

That Administration **BE REQUESTED** to report back regarding the feasibility and logistics of developing a one year Pilot Program relating to free metered on-street accessible parking in a test area determined by the Traffic Operations Department.

Carried.

4.3 Financial Variance Report

G. Jones indicates the balance of the WAAC 2017 Operating Budget is approximately \$5,500. She suggests the purchase of promotional items, i.e. pen with a flashlight or, to request a carry forward of the Operating Budget funds from 2017 to 2018 to allow for retaining a guest speaker to speak to accessibility issues at a future event.

P. Best proposes an initiative to hold community meetings to discuss various topics relating to accessibility in 2018.

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by R. Pappini,

That Administration **BE REQUESTED** to consider a carry forward of \$5,500 from the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee 2017 Operating Budget to 2018 for the purpose of retaining a guest speaker to speak to accessibility issues at a public event.

Carried.

4.4 Subcommittee Updates

P. Best reports he received a request from Windsor Police Services to undertake a walkthrough of the Police Department to determine if there are accessibility issues. K. Iacovone notes she will accompany P. Best on the walkthrough along with the Accessibility Officer.

G. Jones requests volunteers assist with engaging in preliminary discussion relating to service animals and city services. P. Best and K. Iacovone volunteer to assist.

5. Accessibility Officer's Report

The Annual Report to Council – 2016/2017 is distributed and **attached** as Appendix "A".

G. Jones reports that the members of WAAC were invited to tour the new Gino Marcus accessible family change room prior to the grand opening. P. Best, K. Iacovone and G. Jones had an opportunity to review the changes and to offer any further suggestions to the Project Lead. G. Jones indicated that they made suggestions to enhance the accessibility of signage, a simple device to assist with closing the accessible change stall, and suggested the possibility of a colour contrasting stripe to add further contrast between the flooring and the wall. Overall, they noted that they were extremely impressed with the accessibility features added to this family change room, especially given the space limitations, and they commended the project team for their great work. It was noted that the lift in the accessible washroom in the family change room was very functional and G. Jones suggested that the Committee should consider funding a portable lift to help transfer individuals from their wheelchair to the

washroom lift and the pool lift to even further enhance accessibility in this facility to draw even more patrons.

Furthermore, G. Jones states WAAC has been invited for a walkthrough and the Grand Opening of Gino Marcus to view the accessible improvements. P. Best states he will attend on behalf of the committee.

6. Chair's Report

K. Iacovone thanks WAAC for a very successful year.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 407, 400 City Hall Square East.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 1:29 o'clock p.m.

Kathy Iacovone, Co-Chair

Committee Coordinator