

Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting held February 27, 2018

A meeting of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee is held this day commencing at 2:00 o'clock p.m. in the Council Chambers, 3rd floor, City Hall, there being present the following members:

Kathy Iacovone, Co-Chair
Peter Best, Co-Chair
Surendra Bagga
Sandra Friesen
Jillian Hotson (arrives at 3:05 p.m.)
Ricardo Pappini (arrives at 2:30 p.m.)
Nicholas Petro (alternate)

Regrets received from:

Councillor Ed Sleiman, Personal matter
Laurie McMahon

Delegations in attendance:

Dave Killen, Board of Directors, Riverside Minor Baseball Club, *Item 5.2*
Heather Kerr, Donna Kerr and Marleen Crawford, *Item 5.3*

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Gayle Jones, Accessibility/Diversity Officer
Heidi Baillargeon, Landscape Architect
Nora Bertram-Romero, Corporate Marketing & Communications Officer
John Brunelle, Handi Transit
Pat Delmore, Executive Director, Transit Windsor
Melissa Osborne, Senior Manager of Asset Planning
Kristina Pozar-DiPaolo, Asset Coordinator
Greg Rusk, Supervisor, Community Programming
Jamie Kramer, Human Resources Assistant
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Kathy Iacovone, Co-Chair 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. Moment of Silence

The Co-Chair requests a moment of silence in memory of Robert Williams, member of WAAC who recently passed.

3. Declarations of Conflict

None disclosed.

4. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by S. Friesen, seconded by P. Best,
That the minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held December 12, 2017 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

5. Business Items

5.1 Planting of a Memorial Tree for Former WAAC Chair

The Co-Chair proposes that a Memorial Tree be planted in Jackson Park in memory of Wayne Meneguzzi, former Chair of WAAC.

J. Kramer advises the cost of a memorial tree with no plaque is approximately \$500 and with a plaque is approximately \$1,080.

G. Jones states she will report back regarding information relating to the type of tree and the location where the tree is to be planted.

Moved by S. Bagga, seconded by J. Azlen,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,250 for the purchase of a Memorial Tree in memory of Wayne Meneguzzi, former Chair of WAAC, and further, that the type of tree and location to be determined.
Carried.

5.2 Miracle Field and Park – Funding Application

Heidi Baillargeon, Landscape Architect provides a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Riverside Baseball Park – A New Miracle Diamond and Completely Accessible Park”, **attached** as Appendix “A”. The highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- City Council approved the lease of land at Riverside Baseball Park to the Riverside Minor Baseball Club (RMBC) to create a Miracle Field, with a larger vision for a Miracle Park.
- The Miracle Field is a baseball diamond consisting of a rubberized latex-free surface that is free of obstacles. The field is designed specifically for wheelchairs, walkers and other mobility devices needed to assist participating youth and adults with disabilities so that every person regardless of ability can play ball.
- The Accessible Park Vision includes:
 - accessible pathways
 - accessible washroom/change room facilities with lift and adjustable adult change table
 - new water wheelchairs and chair lift for the pool
 - accessible playground
 - greater park connections to all amenities including accessible markings
 - accessible rest areas throughout park
 - improvements to the parking lots with a new formalized park drop off zone
- The total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$4.4 M.
- Requesting \$100,000 from WAAC for the purchase of amenities such as pool water wheelchairs, pool lift, change stations, and an enhanced playground feature.
-

G. Jones suggests purchasing “tilt and recline” water wheelchairs and universally accessible fitness equipment to be placed along the pathway.

M. Osborne indicates the City requires an additional \$1.1M to complete the accessible washroom/change area, playground and pool improvements for accessibility. She adds a report seeking Council’s approval to submit the Miracle Park project to the Canadian Tire Jumpstart for a \$1 M grant will be discussed at the March 5, 2015 City Council meeting.

In response to a question asked by J. Azlen regarding if the parking lot at the Miracle Park will be accessible, Dave Killen, RMBC replies there are a few accessible parking spots, however, during Miracle League days, the east parking lot will be used for accessible use and he will ensure the lot will accommodate accessible vans.

P. Best requests involvement in the planning details, i.e. colour contrast on some of the amenities and rounded corners to avoid injury.

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

That an expenditure from the Capital Project 7086008 (Accessibility Fund) in the upset amount of \$100,000 **BE APPROVED** for the purchase of accessible amenities for the Miracle Park Project subject to the successful award of the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities Accessibility Grant, that a plaque **BE ERECTED** acknowledging the contribution by the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee and City Council, and

further, that the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee **BE INCLUDED** in the planning details and will get final choice in the purchases tied to the funds.

Carried.

G. Jones distributes a letter of support of the City of Windsor's Jumpstart Play Finds a Way Community Accessibility Grant application for The Miracle Park Project from WAAC to Mayor Drew Dilkens, **attached** as Appendix "B".

Moved by P. Best, seconded by R. Pappini,

That the Letter of Support of the City of Windsor's Jumpstart Play Finds a Way Community Accessibility Grant application for The Miracle Park Project from WAAC to Mayor Drew Dilkens **BE ACCEPTED**.

Carried.

5.3 Statistics relating to Disability and Transportation

Pat Delmore, Executive Director of Transit Windsor provides the "Report to the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee -2017 Transit Windsor Customer Services Requests on Accessibility, **attached** as Appendix "C". Highlights of the report are as follows:

- In 2017, Transit Windsor received 1197 Customer Service Requests (CSR) in comparison to 1061 for the same period in 2016. Of that number, 15 were recorded under the category of accessibility.
- A total of 97 additional CSR's were completed which indicated the issue included a component of a person with a disability.
- As of January 2018, to assist with the classification of accessibility related calls, when a caller contacts 311/211 and the call relates to Transit Windsor, one of the prompt questions asked is if the call relates to accessibility.
- The 2017 CSR breakdown under the category of Accessibility is as follows:
 - 8 wheelchair related CSR's (bypassed because the bus was full, the ramp was not working, or 2 wheelchairs were already on board)
 - Bus stop related issue
 - Concerns regarding new bus stop signs
 - Request for availability of bus schedules in other formats
 - Bench request due to disability
 - No air conditioning on bus affecting a disability
 - Once a CSR has been received by Transit Windsor, it is investigated by a department supervisor and properly addressed. A response is made to the caller to inform them that the issue has investigated and addressed. The response is recorded in the DSR system and closed.

In terms of the new Transit Windsor signs, P. Best notes some accessibility related concerns and specifically requested that the signs have more colour contrast and be located lower on the stanchion for visibility. P. Delmore responds it is highly

unlikely the location of the sign will be altered, as the city has a standard of where a sign is located on a stanchion.

The Co-Chair asks if a portion of the stanchion can be painted yellow. P. Delmore states the curb could be painted or tape could be placed on the pole.

Marleen Crawford, delegation is present to speak on behalf of her sister who is deaf, blind and in a wheelchair. She states issues of concern relating to Transit Windsor includes impolite bus drivers and the inability to access a bus due to mounds of snow and the bus stop not being cleared.

P. Delmore indicates the City has a policy for snow removal at bus stops that being all bus stops will be cleared for accumulations of over six inches of snow.

J. Azlen reports he has been unable to access a bus due to strollers occupying the space for wheelchairs. G. Jones proposes the possibility of labeling the wheelchair areas on the buses in a different manner to make it clear what the area is to be used for.

G. Jones recommends WAAC members meet with P. Delmore regarding the bus stop signs and to submit suggestions for improvement to WAAC.

Moved by P. Best, seconded by J. Azlen,

That **CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN** to amending the Corporation of the City of Windsor Winter Control Service Level Policy, subsections 5.7.10 and 5.8.11 as follows "In consultation with Transit Windsor, Priority 1 and 2 bus stops will be cleared for accumulations of over 15 cm (6 inches) of snow" to lower the amount of snow accumulation for removal to assist those of all physical abilities at bus stops and further, that the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee be formally consulted for their input in this matter.

Carried.

5.4 Sub Committee Updates

No subcommittee updates.

6. Accessibility Officer's Report

No report.

7. Chair's Report

No report.

8. Date of Next Meeting

At the call of the Chair.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 3:56 o'clock p.m.

Kathy Iacovone, Co-Chair

Committee Coordinator