

**Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting held July 30, 2019**

A meeting of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee is held this day commencing at 1:30 o'clock p.m. in Room 204, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Sally Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair  
Peter Best, Co-Chair  
Surendra Bagga  
Yo Son Dah Nost Huff  
Sheila McCabe  
Kristy Franklin (alternate)  
Caleb Ray (alternate)  
Nicholas Petro (alternate)

***Regrets received from:***

Councillor Ed Sleiman  
Ricardo Pappini

***Guest in attendance:***

Greg Strong

***Also present are the following resource personnel:***

Gayle Jones, Accessibility/Diversity Officer  
Craig Robertson, Supervisor of Licensing  
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

**1. Call to Order**

Sally Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 1:33 o'clock p.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 Y. Huff, seconded by S. McCabe,  
That the minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held May 29, 2019 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

### 4. Business Items

#### 4.1 Background Information about the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee

G. Jones provides an overview of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee as follows:

- The *Ontario Disabilities Act* (ODA) mandated accessibility committees in Ontario
- The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act* (AODA) - The original goal of the legislation was to remove all barriers to individuals with disabilities in Ontario by 2025. Although the legislation has allowed for some wonderful advancements, due to some shortfalls in the legislation not all barriers will be eliminated by that date, especially since retrofits are not required.
- The Government amended the Building Code itself to cover accessibility standards tied to buildings in areas such as entrances, doorways and ramps etc. as well as including a section in the Integrated Accessibility Standards to address areas related to accessible outdoor spaces, parks and trails.
- The Ontario Human Rights Code requires reasonable and appropriate accommodations for individuals and provides a complaint mechanism.
- The Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS) adopted by the City of Windsor in 2005 provided accessibility design standards for City facilities. This works in tandem with the Building Code, the higher of the standards prevails.
- The *Ontario Planning Act* allows the ability to review site plans at the request of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by Y. Huff, seconded by P. Best,  
That the update provided by the Accessibility/Diversity Officer regarding legislation relating to the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee **BE RECEIVED**.  
Carried.

#### 4.2 WAAC Terms of Reference and Mandate

G. Jones reports the WAAC Terms of Reference and Mandate was last reviewed in September 2014 and adds there has been some legislative changes since then, i.e. accessibility changes to the Ontario Building Code and Federal legislation. She suggests reference to the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative be added to the Terms of Reference.

P. Best proposes the formation of a Mandate/Terms of Reference subcommittee.

Moved by P. Best, seconded by S. McCabe,  
That a WAAC Mandate/Terms of Reference subcommittee **BE ESTABLISHED**  
consisting of Y. Huff and K. Franklin and to report back with their findings.  
Carried

#### 4.3 Accessible Taxis – Information and Updates

Craig Robertson, Supervisor of Licensing provides the following comments relating to accessible taxis:

- Prior to 2007, there were 224 taxicab plates and 5 wheelchair accessible plates.
- Another 5 additional accessible plates were released in 2007 and 5 more in 2008.
- In 2017, with the onset of Uber drivers, the Taxicab By-law was reviewed and it was noted there were only 6 wheelchair accessible taxicabs operating in the City.
- An additional 15 wheelchair accessible plates were released.
- At this time, there are 16 licensed wheelchair accessible taxicab plates, with 5 plates still available.
- Cost to obtain a plate from the city is \$400.

S. McCabe states the city has an aging population and more accessible plates will be required.

G. Jones adds there is approximately \$350,000 in the WAAC Capital Fund account and asks if this issue should be a priority.

Moved by P. Best, seconded by S. McCabe,  
That the Transportation Subcommittee consisting of C. Ray, Chair, P. Best and Y. Huff **BE REQUESTED** to meet and to report back regarding accessible taxicabs and other transportation issues.  
Carried.

#### 4.4 Discussion & Planning Session Regarding Priorities

G. Jones distributes a document entitled “Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee Identifying Key Priorities”, **attached** as Appendix “A”. This document notes a list of potential priorities for the upcoming year. This list is not meant to be exhaustive but to provide some ideas for the Committee to consider.

C. Ray proposes that WAAC be invited to attend public sessions relating to the Parks Master Plan and the Active Transportation Master Plan.

P. Best expresses the need for WAAC to be a partner in the city in terms of accessibility; to build relationships within the community and city.

Discussion ensues regarding issues relating to snow removal on sidewalks and at bus stops.

A suggestion is made for WAAC members to attend the upcoming Ward Meetings.

G. Jones proposes an update of FADS to include the Ontario Building Code accessibility requirements with the Facility Accessibility Design Standards. She noted that a number of other cities have now completed this update.

#### 4.5 Farrow Riverside Miracle Park

P. Best states he is representing WAAC on the Farrow Riverside Miracle Park project and adds the financing has been challenging. He reports the Farrow Miracle Park Committee is requesting funding for the purchase of a commemorative bench at a cost of \$1,800 and two accessible picnic tables at a cost of \$2,000 each.

S. McCabe advises a donation from WAAC was made in the past to the Farrow Riverside Miracle Park.

The Co-Chair asks that the Financial Variance report that outlines the WAAC 2019 Operating Budget be provided for the next meeting.

P. Best requests funding in the amount of \$300 for a "Special Opening" and barbeque to be held for blind children on August 7, 2019 at the Farrow Riverside Miracle Park. He adds WAAC members are invited to attend.

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

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$300 for costs associated with a barbeque to be held on August 7, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Farrow Riverside Miracle Park.

Carried.

#### 4.6 Upcoming Event Planning

The Co-Chair proposes that WAAC meet with other Accessibility Advisory Committees (AAC) either the end of 2019 or early 2020. P. Best concurs and asks that an AAC subcommittee be established. K. Franklin agrees to act as Chair and N. Petro along with P. Best will form the subcommittee.

S. Bagga leaves the meeting at 3:19 o'clock p.m.

P. Best reports the Accessibility Event held July 13, 2019 at Devonshire Mall was well attended. G. Jones and R. Pappini were present and gave out tote bags and WAAC brochures to those who attended the booth.

**5. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on October 8, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 204, 350 City Hall Square West.

**6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 3:30 o'clock p.m.

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**SALLY BENNETT OLCZAK, CO-CHAIR**

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**COMMITTEE COORDINATOR**