

## **Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee**

Meeting held June 9, 2020 via Teleconference

A meeting of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee is held this day commencing at 10:00 o'clock a.m. via Teleconference, there being present the following members:

Sally Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair  
Peter Best, Co-Chair  
Councillor Ed Sleiman  
Surendra Bagga  
Kristy Franklin  
Sheila McCabe  
Ricardo Pappini  
Nicholas Petro  
Caleb Ray

### ***Regrets received from:***

Yo Son Day Nost Huff  
Mialynn Lee-Daigle  
Angela Hart  
Nicholas Schuurman

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

Gayle Jones, Accessibility/Diversity Officer  
Katie Arquette, Coordinator Community Development  
Mary Ellen Bernard, Manager Social Policy & Planning  
Bill Kralovensky, Coordinator, Parking Services  
Trese MacNeil, Coordinator Community Sports Services  
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 10:03 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 P. Best, seconded by S. McCabe,  
That the minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held December 3, 2019 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

### 4. Presentation

K. Arquette is present to discuss recommendations to improve services and programming. She provides an overview of the Presentation entitled “WAAC Meeting, June 9, 2020 – Recreation Master Plan” as follows:

- Develop a network of representatives from diverse communities to intentionally include underrepresented people in recreation programs and services.
- Develop inclusion and Access procedures specific to Recreation and Culture services.
- Consult on program and service development.
- Ensure public spaces and places for recreation are safe and welcoming to all diverse populations through community consultation.
- Improve communication and promotions of various activities.
- Ensure that participation in recreation programs and services is reflective of the community it serves.
- In terms of developing a Network, the following key representatives are provided:
  - Community Development Coordinator, Recreation
  - Diversity Committee Members
  - Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee Members
  - Multicultural Council Partners
  - WE LIP Partners – Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership
  - Windsor Pride Community

K. Arquette opens the floor to questions in an effort to collect feedback that will improve services and will be more inclusive for the community.

S. McCabe notes that the “elderly” have not been included.

P. Best, Co-Chair refers to the “Leisure Buddy Program” which matches an adult volunteer, “buddy,” with an adult participant who faces barriers to participate in social and recreational activities and to help acquaint them with city facilities.

M.E. Bernard indicates that the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Program was part of the consultation that created the Recreation Master Plan. Our culturally diverse population has different ideas about what type of recreational activities they want to see as they are accustomed to activities from their own country.

In response to a question asked by S. Bagga regarding the Recreation and Culture Department, and how “culture” is defined, K. Arquette responds culture in this sense refers to the “arts”.

N. Petro requests that the network partners be made aware of the recreational facilities in the city. He adds he has been a member of WAAC since 2015, and he is not aware of the accessible amenities within the community.

S. Bennett Olczak asks if members are interested in assisting K. Arquette in this initiative. P. Best, S. McCabe and R. Pappini volunteer to assist.

### 6.1 New Playground (Tranby Area)

G. Jones states that the Parks Department reached out to WAAC for input on a new playground in the Tranby area. The playground costs are being covered by the Parks budget and they are seeking advice on the accessibility of the design. The main features that the AODA looks for regarding accessible playgrounds includes:

- (a) incorporate accessibility features, such as sensory and active play components, for children and caregivers with various disabilities into the design of outdoor play spaces; and*
- (b) ensure that outdoor play spaces have a ground surface that is firm, stable and has impact attenuating properties for injury prevention and sufficient clearance to provide children and caregivers with various disabilities the ability to move through, in and around the outdoor play space.*

G. Jones advises input received from WAAC includes the following comments:

- Signage in the park – languages on the signs
- The playground design is beneficial for the community and shows a good balance with vertical and horizontal pieces quiet and high energy zones.
- Suggestion to move the inclusive swing currently located on the edge of the playground closer to the centre of the playground area as it would further the message of inclusivity.
- Ensure there is distinctive colour contrast.
- Suggestion for the addition of an accessible picnic table
- Table for stationary play and for arts and crafts.
- Sensory features, i.e. audio texture, wind vibration, echo
- Addition of pulleys, knobs and dials
- Rest area for family and support persons with sanitizing feature.
- Accessible washrooms.
- Charging stations.

- Clear pathways to the park.
- Accessible parking.
- High contrast signage.
- Suggestion to do a high contrast colour on the dark green swing set as there are concerns for those with low vision or for people at dusk who may potentially walk into the poles.

G. Jones advises the Parks Department appreciates the comments provided by WAAC and will include an accessible picnic table, will place a high contrast colour on the swing set and the location of the swing set will be altered to allow it to be closer to the other play structures.

Comments from other WAAC members not included in the foregoing list will be forwarded to the Parks Department for their information and consideration.

### **5.1 Report No. 118 of WAAC – Pilot Program – Free Metered On-Street Accessible Parking**

B. Kralovensky advises this matter has been referred to the New City Hall Plaza and Esplanade Project Steering Committee. He adds the Planning Department is reviewing parking options in that area.

### **5.2 WAAC Financial Variance Report**

The Chair reports the WAAC Operating Budget for 2020 is \$8,487.

### **5.3 Confirm and Ratify E-mail Poll**

Moved by P. Best, seconded by R. Pappini,  
That the following motion sent on February 10, 2020 by e-mail poll **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED:**

“That the attached letter of Support for the City of Windsor’s Jumpstart Accessibility Grant Application for the Farrow Riverside Miracle Park Project be supported, and further, that approval be given to authorize Gayle Jones, Accessibility/Diversity Officer to sign the letter on behalf of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee.”

Carried.

### **5.4 Accessibility Awards (Windsor Essex County)**

G. Jones reports this community initiative was cancelled this year due to COVID-19. The City and WAAC will continue their participation in this event next year.

## **5.5 Alexander Park**

Councillor Sleiman advises in the past he provided his Ward Funds for accessible improvements to Alexander Park. He notes that upgrades to the washroom are being done at this time.

G. Jones states that previous suggestions relating to Alexander Park were sent to the Parks Department some of which include:

High contrast colour on benches, garbage, and recycling receptacles.

Tactile indicators to be provided on the walking path.

As people fish along the riverfront, signage should be visible to request that the walking path be kept clear due to blind and low vision individuals.

S. Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair suggests that Alexander Park be revisited to review the current condition of the park as it relates to accessibility.

P. Best, Co-Chair reports there are ongoing issues with people who fish along the river and are blocking the walking path.

## **5.6 Accessible Transportation Subcommittee**

C. Ray states that due to COVID-19, he will provide a report at a future meeting of WAAC.

## **5.7 Accessibility Day at Devonshire Mall**

This event was cancelled due to COVID-19.

## **5.8 Discoverability Network**

G. Jones suggests that the Manager of Employment and Consulting Services be invited to attend the next meeting of WAAC.

## 5.9 Windsor-Essex AAC Meeting

P. Best, Co-Chair suggests a virtual meeting be held in the Fall 2020 with the accessibility advisory committees in Windsor-Essex.

K. Franklin indicates she will compose an e-mail to be sent to the AAC's to determine interest in a virtual meeting to be held in October/November 2020.

## 6.0 Marina Development

T. MacNeil provides an overview of the history of the marina development project as follows:

- City Council at its meeting held February 24, 2020 approved Report No. 128 of WAAC which requested that Administration associated with improvements to the Lakeview Park Marina consult with WAAC regarding accessible amenities to the project.
- The project went to tender in October 2019.
- The fabrication and installation began in January 2020.
- There are limited accessibility standards, as the water level cannot be controlled.
- Several features have been enhanced which includes accessible parking spaces, accessible washrooms with grab bars, lowered service counters and AODA approved lighting throughout the facility.

In response to a question asked by P. Best regarding if there are lifts available to lift and lower a person into a boat, T. MacNeil responds there are no lifts.

S. Bagga asks if the site can be visited and reviewed. T. MacNeil advises that no one can have access to the site at this time as it is controlled by the contractor.

P. Best asks that a site audit be made available. T. MacNeil responds his request will be accommodated when it is appropriate.

## 7. New Business

S. Bennett Olczak suggests one or two meetings a year be held virtually.

## 8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 11:56 o'clock a.m.

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**Sally Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair**

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**Committee Coordinator**