



Minutes

Accessibility Advisory Committee

**January 24, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers**

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Chair Christine Farrell
Member Donald Anderson
Member Rebecca Knisley
Carol Merton
Member Jacob Morris-Wheeler

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Member Warren Bazinet
Deputy Mayor Scott Greig

STAFF PRESENT: Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Dana Goetz, Engineering Technologist
Bethany Chandler, Human Resources Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Farrell called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 2.a Councillor Merton Re: Accessibility of City Forms
- 2.b Member Knisley Re: Raised Curb at Scotiabank Parking Lot
- 2.c Member Knisley Re: Transit
- 2.d Member Knisley Re: Safety and Accessibility at 9th Avenue Odawa Heights New Build

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on November 22, 2022.

AC-230124-001

Moved by Member Anderson

"THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on November 22, 2022."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no depositions or presentations.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions from the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

- 8.a Report OP-23-002 from the Engineering Technologist Re: 3rd Avenue East - 1700 Block - On-Street Parking Revisions

The Engineering Technologist gave an overview of the report.

Responding to a question from committee, the Engineering Technologist advised that this accessible parking stall is at the former BDO building, which has apartments and small businesses within.

Responding to a question from committee, the Engineering Technologist advised that there is only one spot in the parking lot with no time limit on the use of the space, however there is additional accessible parking off 2nd Ave. If a building is subject to site plan approval or is a new build, the City can ask that concerns be rectified.

Committee members discussed accessible parking concerns where apartments and businesses are in the same building, building code specifications, and the committee's mandates.

AC-230124-002

Moved by Member Knisley

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-23-002 respecting 3rd Avenue East – 1700 Block – Parking Revisions and Accessible Parking Stall, the

Accessibility Advisory Committee receives this report for information purposes."

Carried.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

11.a Mobility Transit Dashboard Month Ending December 31, 2022

Committee Members discussed the Mobility Transit Dashboard and requested an interpretation be provided with the raw data, that a few sentences that give an overview and trends that may be helpful. The Director of Community Services advised that she will pass the request on to the new Director of Public Works and Engineering, to provide a summary similar to the development updates at the next Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting.

11.b Announcement from Ontario Parks Canada Re: Leaders in Training Program

AC-230124-003

Moved by Carol Merton

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the January 24, 2022, Accessibility Advisory Committee agenda, the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that City Council receive Items 11.a. to 11.b. for information purposes."

Carried.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a Accessibility of City Forms

Councillor Merton commented on accessibility issues with current City forms and the committee's role in assisting with form testing to make them more accessible. The Director of Community Services advised that everything published by the City of Owen Sound should meet accessibility guidelines using the most up-to-date accessibility check and that all documents and forms can be provided in alternate formats.

Committee members discussed changing accessibility technology and a lack of access for some community members, identifying challenges and solutions, involving the expertise of the Accessibility Committee members when the website

is being redeveloped, and the possible development of an ad-hoc working group for specific cases.

The Director of Community Services advised that at the next meeting, an orientation, the mandate of the committee, and the multi-year accessibility plan will be discussed with a focus on where the committee could be of service in undertaking projects.

12.b Raised Curb at Scotiabank Parking Lot

Member Knisley commented on concerns over injuries caused by the raised curb between the Scotiabank parking lot and the other parking lot at the Roxy Theatre as there is very little visibility in that area.

The Director of Community Services advised that this is a concrete barrier. There are both private and public lanes and parking in that area and the information will be passed along to the Engineering Department, which deals with parking lots to find the best solution.

12.c Transit

Member Knisley advised that she has spoken with the Association Supervisor of Environmental Services, Rick Chappell, regarding the new transit provider and issues riders are facing.

Committee members discussed these concerns including drivers not knowing where stops are, passing by bus stops when community members are waiting, drivers doing training and speaking loudly, no press or pull indicator for requesting a stop, and loud music on the buses.

The Director of Community Services advised there is a contract with voyago that addresses performance and suggested that committee ask for an update at the next meeting so these items get addressed back through the committee.

Committee members discussed having staff provide an update at the next meeting, providing a copy of the contract that addresses performance to committee members, and inviting Voyago to provide a deputation at a future meeting.

The Director of Community Services advised that the permanent buses are not yet in service, and this may solve some of the issues, however, some of these concerns can be addressed ahead of this to enhance the level of service.

12.d Safety and Accessibility at 9th Ave Odawa Heights New Build

Member Knisley advised of accessibility concerns regarding the Thompson building and traffic flow coming in from 9th Ave and 8th Ave, as well as the roads within the complex and the possibility of a one-way system for the direction of traffic.

The Director of Community Services advised that the property fronts on two public streets, but the internal vehicle traffic streets between the complex is private. She commented that it may be helpful for Planning and Engineering staff to visit the site and determine if there is additional directional signage that could be added, and to ensure that site plans were followed in the development of the building.

Committee members discussed writing a letter to the non-profit board outlining and documenting these concerns and offering suggestions for consideration to be placed on the agenda for their next meeting.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Farrell adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m.