



**Minutes**

**Accessibility Advisory Committee**

**July 25, 2023, 1:00 p.m.**

**City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers**

**MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Chair Christine Farrell  
Vice Chair Carol Merton  
Member Jason Crone  
Member Rebecca Knisley  
Councillor Marion Koepke  
Member Jacob Morris-Wheeler

**MEMBERS**

**ABSENT/REGRETS:** Member Donald Anderson

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services  
Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services  
Bethany Chandler, Human Resources Assistant

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Farrell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

2.a Chair Farrell Re: Transit

**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 May 23, 2023

AC-230711-001

Moved by Councillor Koepke

**"THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on May 23, 2023."**

Carried.

**5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

There were no deputations 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**

There were no reports of City staff.

**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 June 30, 2023.

The Supervisor of Environmental Services gave an overview of the Mobility Transit Dashboard. She explained that the mobility transit ridership has decreased over the last year, which could be attributed to the increased accessibility of conventional transit.

In response to a question from Committee, the Supervisor of Environmental Services advised that she would bring information back to the Committee regarding the cancellation policy and indicated that the cancellations listed on the dashboard are by the riders, not the service provider. She also indicated that the fare is the same for mobility transit as it is for conventional transit.

The Supervisor of Environmental Services asked for the Committee's input on additional items that may be beneficial to add to the Mobility Transit Dashboard. Committee members suggested statistics on unaccommodated trips, a comparison between ridership levels on mobility and conventional transit, and information on the most commonly used routes would be helpful additions.

**"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the July 25, 2023, Accessibility Advisory Committee agenda, the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that City Council receive Item 11.a. for information purposes."**

Carried.

11.b Memo Re: Heat and the Impact on Specific Populations

Councillor Merton gave an overview of the article received from a public member regarding the impact of heat events. She advised that the poverty task force released information regarding those receiving support benefits.

Committee members discussed the affordability of cooling devices for those who need them and potential barriers they may face, available government subsidies, and how to advise that supports are available to those who may need them. Committee members also discussed advising Grey County of their concerns regarding these issues.

The Supervisor of Environmental Services indicated that the City has a Warming and Cooling Centre webpage where additional information on subsidies available could be added. She also advised that extreme heat and cold are listed in the emergency management plan as one of the top hazards, which are reviewed yearly. City staff will be working with Environment Canada, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, and Public Health as part of the Emergency Management Plan and can explore additional measures for safeguarding at that time.

Committee members discussed research surrounding open hours for heating and cooling centres, how to meet the needs of those with disabilities, and a possible media release. The Director of Community Services indicated she would discuss this with the communications team to send appropriate messaging.

Responding to questions from Committee, the Supervisor of Environmental Services indicated that a review of policies and procedures surrounding heating and cooling centres will begin at the end of October and will be brought up with the rest of the Emergency Control Group at the annual meeting at the beginning of December.

Committee members requested that a review of existing policies and guidelines on heating and cooling centres be put on the agenda for the September meeting.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Supervisor of Environmental Services advised that the County has a registry of vulnerable populations and complete wellness checks for these groups.

**"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the July 25, 2023, Accessibility Advisory Committee agenda, the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that City Council receive Item 11.b. for information purposes."**

Carried.

## **12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

### **12.a Transit**

Chair Farrell discussed the original Reach Centre proposal regarding transit and the recommendation that went to Council. There was a meeting with the Mayor and City Manager regarding the transit proposal and the possibility of having a joint meeting between the Operations Committee and the Accessibility Advisory Committee in the future.

Committee members discussed the current fare structure, the role of the Accessibility Advisory Committee and Council, and the recommendation that went to Council regarding this matter.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Supervisor of Environmental Services indicated that an item will come to the Operations Committee regarding transit and the current fare structure and that an email will be sent out to members when a date is confirmed.

## **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 1:38 p.m.