



Minutes

Accessibility Advisory Committee

January 23, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Chair Christine Farrell
Vice Chair Carol Merton
Member Donald Anderson
Member Jason Crone
Member Rebecca Knisley
Councillor Marion Koepke

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Member Jacob Morris-Wheeler

STAFF PRESENT:

Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Sabine Robart, Manager of Planning and Heritage
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 Councillor Merton Re: Positive Contributions of the Committee

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 September 22, 2023

"THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on September 22, 2023."

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 CS-24-006 from the Manager of Planning and Heritage Re: Request for Committee Comment - Draft Plan of Subdivision - Detailed Design - Greystone Village (42T-20501), Redhawk (42T-15501)

The Manager of Planning and Heritage gave an overview of the report regarding the approved draft plans of two subdivisions. The Red Hawk subdivision at 1905 8th Street East will create approximately 365 residential units, and the Greystone Village subdivision at 1409 8th Street East will create a mixed-use subdivision with 199 blocks and lots with about 716 residential units. This includes single detached homes, townhomes, and apartment buildings. The Manager of Planning and Heritage then gave an overview of the location and features of the subdivision, explaining how the City is meeting and exceeding the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) standards during construction.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Manager of Planning and Heritage advised that as part of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, and to meet the recreational trail requirement as part of the AODA, the new trails throughout the subdivision must be hard surfaced.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Manager of Planning and Heritage noted that on streets with one-sided sidewalks, the sidewalk will take you all away around the same block, on the same side of the road. Committee members recommended that staff consider the most straightforward, predictable, and easy-to-follow route for the sidewalks.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Manager of Planning and Heritage advised that the midblock crosswalks are a shortcut and meet particular

parameters of the engineering standards but are not AODA compliant and do not have an audible sound.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services advised that regarding snow plowing of roads and sidewalks, all of the streets in the subdivision will be assumed by the City; after the two-year maintenance period, they will be maintained by the City.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services indicated that considerations regarding transit routes will continue to be monitored and updated as development progresses.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Manager of Planning and Heritage indicated that the current bus route is on the north side of the road and runs east to west. However, this may be adjusted as different phases of the subdivisions commence.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Manager of Planning and Heritage indicated that 8th Street East is a County road, but 20th Street East will be a City road. Where the subdivision connects with 8th Street East, the intersection design will be a County responsibility. Still, the City will be responsible for maintaining the roads within the subdivision and north into Telfer Creek. The Director of Community Services added that the City has an agreement with the County to provide snow removal for these roads, and the City receives money for this work.

Committee members suggested that staff consider being proactive regarding transit considerations before the tipping point is reached, as these routes are often full and running late. The Director of Community Services noted that with the new transit provider, the City can collect better data to assist in making good decisions regarding future transit routes and services.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Manager of Planning and Heritage advised that through legislation, the developer has to provide five percent of the value of the land in parkland; this can either be a contribution of land or cash towards developing parks nearby. The Greystone Village subdivision provides two blocks of land, and the Red Hawk subdivision will give cash to install and maintain equipment in various parks in the area, including in the future Telfer Creek subdivision to the north.

Responding to a question from the Committee, the Manager of Planning and Heritage indicated that the checklist is only for site plan approvals, as this is the draft plan of the larger vision of the entire subdivision; presentation at the Accessibility Advisory Committee is part of the conditions for draft plan approval. Once construction commences, each block and site plan will use the checklist as part of the approval process.

“THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-24-006 respecting a request for Committee comment on draft plan of subdivision detailed design for Greystone Village and Redhawk, the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. In consideration of a Draft Plan of Subdivision dated June 24, 2022 (redlined) by Crozier Consulting Engineers, for the Redhawk Draft Plan of Subdivision Approval (Draft Plan 42T- 15501) at 1905 8th Street East, accepts the following comments:**
 - a. THAT the draft plan approved subdivision reflects the requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* respecting matters of accessibility;**
 - b. THAT the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee review and comment on the details of the drawings of the recreational trail system across the two developments when the drawings are submitted as part of a future submission; and**
 - c. THAT staff consider the route's accessibility for one-sided sidewalks so they are predictable, straightforward, and easy to follow;**
- 2. In consideration of a Draft Plan of Subdivision dated June 13, 2022, by Bousfields Inc., for the Greystone Village (Flato) Draft Plan of Subdivision Plan Approval (Draft Plan 42T- 15501) at 1409 8th Street East, accepts the following comments:**
 - a. THAT the draft plan approved subdivision reflects the requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) respecting matters of accessibility;**
 - b. THAT the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee review and comment on the details of the drawings of the recreational trail system across the two developments when the drawings are submitted as part of a future submission; and**
 - c. THAT staff consider the route's accessibility for one-sided sidewalks so they are predictable, straightforward, and easy to follow.”**

Carried.

- 8.b Report CS-24-005 from the Director of Community Services Re: 5-Year Review and Update of the City's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP)

The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the report. Accessibility Standards are included in the City's Strategic Plan and Official Plan, highlighting diversity, equity and inclusion goals, parking and transportation, transit, and streets. Included in the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is a summary of past achievements to prevent and remove barriers and the strategies and actions identified across five key areas over the next five years.

Responding to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services indicated that of the staff members who assisted with updating the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, it is not known if any staff members identify as having a disability.

Committee members discussed a recommendation that during the next phase of the review, that the City invite persons with disabilities in the form of a working group to help assist with the plan and that City staff consider involving persons with disabilities in the review process as they might have distinctive suggestions and recommendations on how the plan could be further improved.

AC-240123-003

Moved by Member Knisley

“THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-24-005 respecting the 5-Year Review and Update of the City’s Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP), the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Approve the plan as presented; and**
- 2. Direct staff to consider involving persons with disabilities in the following Multi-Year Accessibility Plan review process.”**

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 October 31, 2023.

11.b Mobility Transit Dashboard Month Ending December 31, 2023.

11.c City of Owen Sound's 2023 Accessibility Compliance Report

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the January 23, 2023, Accessibility Advisory Committee agenda, the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that City Council receive Items 11.a. to 11.c for information purposes."

Carried.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a Positive Contributions of the Committee

Vice Chair Merton discussed the positive contributions of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, why these contributions made a difference, and gratitude for being a part of the Committee. Highlighted accomplishments include:

- Service animals and emotional support animals allowed in cooling and warming centres;
- Type of surface construction material used at park benches and rest stops for ease of access;
- Location of rest stops and grading of inclines, most recently for the Alpha Street redesign;
- City documents presented as single-page documents for ease of use with screen readers;
- Construction barriers with midsections to prevent guide animals from walking through;
- Standardized checklist for site plan approvals to ensure accessibility requirements are met;
- Appropriate pedestrian crosswalk tactile and audible traffic signal posts with recommendations for height location;
- Recommendations to improve customer satisfaction for accessible transit and input into the selection process for the transit provider; and
- Affordable transit ticket pricing for those on Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

Committee members discussed positive experiences and reflections on their time as Committee members.

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 1:58 p.m.