



Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 11:30 a.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

Committee Members Present: Roger Koert – Chair Presiding, Jamie Pritchard, Andy Mark, Geoff Krauter, Heather Contois, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Diane Sims

Staff Present: Oonagh Vaucrosson – Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Tatiana Dafoe – Clerk, Nathan Bottema – Project Engineer

1. Call to Order

Roger Koert, Chair presiding, called the AAC meeting to order at 11:37 a.m.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes – December 5, 2023

Motion by Andy Mark

Seconded by Jamie Pritchard

THAT the minutes from the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated December 5, 2023, be adopted as printed. Carried

Roger Koert Welcomed Oonagh Vaucrosson as the new Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator and members of the AAC introduced themselves.

4. Infrastructure Services Update – Nathan Bottema, Project Engineer

Deferred to next meeting.

5. Site Plan Review Sub-Committee Update - Nathan Bottema, Project Engineer

Deferred to next meeting.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

6.1 AAC Postcards – Jamie Pritchard

Jamie Pritchard has received the new AAC postcards and distributed some to all AAC members. Mr. Pritchard will make sure some postcards are placed at Stratford Tourism, the Rotary Complex and the Library. Please let him know if you require any additional postcards or if you have suggestions for other locations to put them.

6.2 Launch of the FADM with Perth-Huron Builders Association

Geoff Krauter will follow up with representatives at the PHBA and include the new Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator in the e-mail to move forward with arranging a date to do a presentation of the FADM to their members.

6.3 Annual AAC Accessibility Award – Diane Sims

Diane Sims inquired about splitting the accessibility award into two categories, as discussed at the December AAC meeting. Giving the AAC the ability to present awards in an individual category and an award in a business/corporate/industrial category.

Motion by Diane Sims

Seconded by Geoff Krauter

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee revise the annual Accessibility Award beginning in 2024, to permit at the discretion of the AAC, awarding recipients in two categories – “Individual” and “Business/Corporate/Industrial”.

Carried.

The AAC will begin advertising for nominations for the accessibility award this year in June.

6.4 Mobi-Mats – Roger Koert

Roger Koert updated the Committee that the Engineering Department approved the purchase of three Mobi-Mats using the AAC's budget line in their Engineering budget that is used for accessibility improvements. The three mats are 17ft, 33ft and 50ft long. The total for all three mats was approximately \$10,000.00 and they are being stored at the Public Works yard for use at future events.

Staff will contact the City's Events Coordinator to inform her that the mats are now available and can be included in the events and rental application as well as on the events page on the website.

6.5 Police Station Update – Diane Sims

Diane Sims reported that she met with the Mayor and he assured her that there are funds allocated for the installation of a lift at the front entrance of the Police Station on George Street. The Police Department is currently investigating a new station or a renovation or addition to the current station. The lift would still need to be installed to the current building regardless, to bring the building up to accessibility standards by the January 1, 2025 AODA deadline.

Roger Koert noted the cost savings that there would have been when the AAC originally made the motion in 2007 to make the Stratford Police Station accessible.

7. New Business

7.1 Developing an AAC Incentive Program – Roger Koert

Roger Koert will follow up with the Clerk regarding creating a new AAC incentive program for local businesses and using funds from the Committee's 2024 budget. The idea would be that annually, for National AccessAbility Week or as a special project, the AAC would create an incentive for built environment, possibly awarding three businesses \$500.00 each. The funds could be used towards completing projects such as the installation of automatic door openers, installation of a zero threshold entrance or the installation of a universal design washroom. This incentive program could be announced and launched during National AccessAbility Week.

Jamie Pritchard noted that the funds would be welcomed, as there are fewer grants available for accessibility projects than previously offered.

7.2 National AccessAbility Week Plans – Roger Koert

Roger Koert stated that promoting the launch of the FADM presentation or the announcement of an AAC incentive program or other plans could all be goals for AccessAbility week.

- ◆ Councillor Henderson suggested a wheelchair awareness event similar to the one a few years ago.
- ◆ Oonagh Vaucrosson suggested showcasing or highlighting some of the great accessibility improvements that have been made in Stratford and connecting it with the AccessMaps app in terms of the public building accessibility information for businesses.
- ◆ Diane Sims suggested the AAC could be in Market Square with their Committee banner and handing out the new postcards during the week.
- ◆ Jamie Pritchard suggested utilizing the AAC page on the City's website, promoting the week on the City's Facebook page, doing a media release and radio interviews and having the City proclaim National AccessAbility Week.

Please e-mail Roger Koert with any additional ideas or come prepared with your ideas for the February meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the AAC will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. in the Mansbridge Room, Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Jamie Pritchard

Seconded by Andy Mark

THAT the January 23, 2024, Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 11:37 A.M.

End Time: 12:42 P.M.