



Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 11:30 a.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

Committee Members Present: Roger Koert – Chair Presiding, Diane Sims, Jamie Pritchard, Kathleen Barry, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Andy Mark, Brittany McCabe, Jen Weber

Staff Present: Oonagh Vaucrosson – Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, Nathan Bottema – Project Engineer, Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Joan Jones

1. Call to Order

Roger Koert, Chair presiding, called the AAC meeting to order at 11:51 a.m.

Reading of the Land Acknowledgement and a Moment of Silent Reflection.

Reading of the Respectful Workplace Policy.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3. Welcome New Members

Roger Koert welcomed new members Jen Weber and Brittany McCabe. Members and staff introduced themselves.

4. Election of 2024/25 AAC Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

Staff declared nominations open for the 2024/25 Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Diane Sims nominated Roger Koert.

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

Motion by Jamie Pritchard

Seconded by Andy Mark

THAT the nominations for the 2024/25 Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair be closed. Carried

Roger Koert indicated that he would allow his nomination to stand.

Motion by Andy Mark

Seconded by Diane Sims

THAT Roger Koert be elected as the 2024/25 Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Carried

Staff declared nominations for the 2024/25 Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee open. Andy Mark nominated Diane Sims.

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

Motion by Jamie Pritchard

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT nominations for the 2024/25 Accessibility Advisory Committee Vice-Chair be closed. Carried

Diane Sims indicated that she would allow her name to stand.

Motion by Andy Mark

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT Diane Simes be elected as the 2024/25 Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Carried

5. Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Jamie Pritchard

Seconded by Diane Sims

THAT the minutes from the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated November 5, 2024 be adopted as printed. Carried

6. Delegate:

Kylie Wasser, Director, Sport Development & Tourism, provided an update on the SERC track and accessibility improvements for the site.

Kylie Wasser discussed the Sport Tourism Office and her role in projects and events in the future. Ms. Wasser stated she works directly for Destination Stratford, in direct partnership with the City's Community Services Department. She brings with her a great deal of background in sport tourism and a passion for inclusion and accessibility for everyone.

Ms. Wasser noted the current SERC field and track serves as a sport development mechanism locally, however it is not used for sports tourism. Aspects of it are not regulation size and it is not accessible. The site requires a full overhaul to make it accessible and Ms. Wasser is working closely with Community Services staff to design the track improvements and the surrounding area.

Ms. Wasser has already prepared and submitted various grant applications for the site to assist with the track and the infrastructure of the site. City staff has been connected with the number one supplier of tracks in North America that can assist with designing a fully accessible, 8-lane, competition standard, AODA OFSAA-compliant track. This will include any paving to ensure that anyone can access it from any pathway.

Ms. Wasser has offered to keep Roger Koert up to date with information regarding budget, grant updates and design options. She is also in the process of solidifying a partnership with the University of Waterloo around accessibility for students to pitch accessibility upgrades as part of their curriculum. Once final Community Services budgetary approvals have taken place, plans can move forward with a final end date for the completion of the project by March 2027. The track portion will likely be one of the first projects.

Councillor Henderson inquired if funds will be available to assist with accessible playgrounds in Stratford. Ms. Wasser noted that for this project specifically, the SERC playground area will be included in the new development. Ms. Wasser has considered the other parks within the City and will possibly include them in the partnership with the University of Waterloo.

Jamie Pritchard volunteered to assist with the partnership with the University of Waterloo and perhaps see it expand beyond sport to include small businesses. Ms. Wasser stated that she has proposed a business accessibility development fund to help assist small businesses in making accessibility upgrades.

Mr. Koert thanked Ms. Wasser for taking the time to attend the meeting and provide updates on the future development plans for the SERC site.

Kylie Wasser is no longer present at the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

7. Infrastructure Services Update

Nathan Bottema, Project Engineer provided the following update:

- The asphalt and concrete subcontractors have paused work due to snow. Many of the remaining projects will now be carried over to the spring.

Jamie Pritchard stated that he wanted to thank staff for all their work clearing Market Square of snow for the market on the weekend.

8. Site Plan Review Sub-Committee Update

Oonagh Vaucrosson, Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, provided an update that the Review Sub-Committee reviewed the following plans in November:

- National Stadium - washrooms
- 525 O’Loane Avenue – proposed subdivision
- 22 Wingfield Avenue – adjustments to a private dwelling
- 662-666 Ontario Street – proposed new Starbucks
- 9 Humber Street – additional commercial building
- 463 Mornington Street – addition to accommodate kennel for dog breeding
- 632 Lorne Avenue – new fencing

Roger Koert inquired if on future Review Sub-committee reports, that the members and staff who are in attendance at the meeting could be listed.

9. Update from the Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator

Oonagh Vaucrosson provided a written report for December to the AAC members and highlighted the following items:

- update from the recent ONAP Fall conference;
- suggestions for upgrading the transit processes for mobility bus users;
- Gabby Rodriguez, Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator will be returning in January and will be attending the January AAC meeting;
- reviewing the ASC terms of reference to bring them up to date;
- recommendation to Council to consider AAC members be remunerated.

Roger Koert thanked Ms. Vaucrosson for all the work she has done for the AAC and wishes her all the best in her future endeavors.

10. Update from Council

Councillor Henderson previously shared with AAC members the items included in budget discussions regarding accessibility and reviewed the items with members at the meeting.

Roger Koert inquired with AAC members their experiences crossing the bridge to the Tom Patterson Island. Many members have had difficulties crossing the steep bridge to cross to the Island. Nathan Bottema explained that with the recent rehabilitation work that was done to the bridge, the physical life of the bridge was likely extended 20-25 years. Mr. Koert inquired if members would be interested in making a recommendation regarding the bridge's lack of accessibility to bring awareness to Council and staff.

Members noted that there is water access all around the Island and boats do not necessarily need to have clearance under the bridge, they can go around the other side of the Island. Mr. Koert stated that there would be a cost savings not having to rebuild the bridge that high.

Motion by Jamie Pritchard

Seconded by Jen Weber

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends to Council that the current bridge to Tom Patterson Island be replaced with an accessible bridge that satisfies the City of Stratford's FADM, Section 4.5.2 Outdoor Recreational Facilities not to exceed the maximum slope of 1:20. Carried

11. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

11.1 Launch of the FADM with Perth-Huron Builders Association

Deferred to next meeting.

11.2 Update on Annual Accessibility Award Presentation

Roger Koert reported that the presentation to the Festival Theatre at Council last Monday evening went well. The theatre is not only focusing on visible disabilities, but also invisible disabilities. Mr. Koert also addressed Council regarding the importance of implementing FADM and AODA goals in the City.

11.3 Update on Accessibility Audits for City of Stratford Facilities

Oonagh Vaucrosson reported that there are audits to be scheduled for Family Services and the Stratford Library.

11.4 Update on Doorbell Program and AAC Promotional Items

Jamie Pritchard reported that the doorbell kits have been put together and some businesses have been notified to pick their kits up. The promotional items have been ordered and will be invoiced prior to year-end.

11.5 Police Station Update

Diane Sims reported that the work on the front entrance and ramp has come to a halt and the contractors are not currently working on it. Ms. Sims has sent an e-mail to Chief Skinner for an update.

12. New Business

None noted.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the AAC will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. at the Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

14. Adjournment

Motion by Brittany McCabe

Seconded by Jen Weber

THAT the December 3, 2024, Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 11:51 A.M.

End Time: 1:08 P.M.