



City of Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

1:00 PM - Tuesday, October 22, 2024
City Hall, Council Chambers

The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting was called to order on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 1:00 PM, in the City Hall, Council Chambers, with the following present:

Members Present: Paris Escandón, Matthew Wilson, Mary Ann Greenwood, Janet Jones, and Councillor Severson
Regrets: Greg Bamber
Staff: Sheena Earl, Clerk, Matthew Locke, Supervisor of Transit, Jennifer Devlin, Tourism, Tara Laberee Bondi, Clerk's Assistant

Chair's Remarks

Chair Jones welcomed new member Paris Escandón to the meeting. She reminded committee members of their role to work with staff to help identify and remove accessibility barriers.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil.

Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Councillor Severson
Seconded by M. Greenwood

THAT the minutes of the Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated September 24, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Delegations/Presentations

Nil.

Correspondence & Communications

Nil.

Staff Reports

1. Accessible Events - J. Devlin, Tourism

J. Devlin introduced herself to the committee and explained her role within Brockville Tourism as the Events Coordinator. She asked

committee members for input on how to make events in the City more accessible and what barriers they've encountered at events.

Councillor Severson brought up the correspondence from the previous meeting from a resident who had issues accessing pathways in a wheelchair during a festival. M. Wilson said he did not have the same access issues however it may be because he uses a motorized wheelchair. M. Greenwood was concerned there are no barriers on some paths next to the water. J. Devlin asked if temporary barriers were helpful and the committee said they were.

Chair Jones brought up the wires on the ground at events and M. Wilson said the mats were helpful for his motorized chair. P. Escandón mentioned that vendors usually hang items very low and that is a hazard for him. He also noted the importance of having clear paths, without posts or obstacles, to help safely maneuver events.

M. Locke said it is important for event staff to communicate drop off locations to transit staff. Chair Jones thanked J. Devlin for reaching out to the committee for suggestions.

2. Site Plan Review status update - L. Murray

No update

3. Para-Transit Ride Capacity Update - M. Locke

M. Locke presented an overview of ridership statistics for the Para Transit service. In response to a questions, M. Locke said the drivers are responsible for cleaning the buses when not booked. M. Locke said the response to the new system overall has been positive. The new vans offer a smoother and quieter ride than previous, and passengers are pleased with the drivers. The committee discussed how to handle repeat no shows. Councillor Severson suggested committee members should receive free transit to the meeting and requested staff to investigate offering this option.

4. Accessible Bus Stop Status Update - M. Locke

M. Locke provided an update on the project. The five stop enhancements suggested by the committee were reviewed by staff and they propose to switch two of the recommended stops. This would make all five stops being upgraded similar in scope. There was a delay in the project as staff attempted to access grant funding, however it was unsuccessful. M. Greenwood asked if the funding will be able to be carried over to 2025 since the project was delayed and M. Locke said it would. The committee discussed

applying for additional funding and developing a five-year plan for bus stop upgrades. M. Locke suggested the committee create a list of bus stops that need upgrading.

Moved by Member Greenwood

THAT Committee recommends that Council allocate \$25,000 per year to replace inaccessible transit stops across the city.

CARRIED

5. Annual Public Meeting - Staff

The Committee discussed the annual transportation meeting. M. Locke suggested it be held early in 2025 as it will give the new Manager of Transportation and Fleet Services time to settle into the position. Committee members recognized and thanked M. Locke for all his contributions to the city and the committee.

New Business

1. Arts Centre seating

Councillor Severson requested a representative from the Arts Centre attend a future meeting to discuss accessible seating.

With respect to Para-Transit service, M. Locke said he would like to see staff work with the Arts Centre to provide access to evening shows past the operating hours.

Member Reports and Project Updates

1. Experiencing City Sidewalks in a Wheelchair Update - M. Wilson

M. Wilson thanked Councillors Wales, Hobbs and Lavergne and L. Murray for participating in the event. He also thanked K. Spicer for of Brockville Home Care for his support and for providing the wheelchairs. Participants said it was insightful and raised awareness of some of the obstacles encountered by those in wheelchairs navigating city streets. Another session will be held in the spring to allow other members the opportunity to participate.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Member Greenwood

THAT the BMAAC meeting be adjourned until its next regular meeting scheduled for November 26, 2024.

CARRIED

Chair

Secretary