



City of Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

1:00 PM - Tuesday, September 24, 2024

City Hall, Council Chambers

The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting was called to order on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 1:00 PM, in the City Hall, Council Chambers, with the following present:

Members	Matthew Wilson, Mary Ann Greenwood, Janet Jones, and
Present:	Louise Severson
Regrets:	Paris Escandón and Greg Bamber
Staff:	Kelly Brintnell, Tourism Advisor, Sheena Earl, City Clerk, and Lynn Murray, Deputy City Clerk

1. Chair's Remarks

Co-chair Jones welcomed new Member Wilson and said she is pleased to have two new members and possibly two others joining soon.

Co-chair Jones noted that Doug Hone, a long-time member has resigned, and the committee very much appreciates his time and efforts.

2. Disclosure of Interest

Nil.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by: Councillor Severson

THAT the minutes of the Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated June 25, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Delegations/Presentations

Nil.

5. Correspondence & Communications

1. Accessibility to Block House Island during Events

J. Lousley - 1000 Islands Regatta

I would like to suggest that the city change the location of their fencing barriers for special events at Blockhouse to allow someone in a wheelchair or families with strollers to access Blockhouse from the boardwalk along Boardwalk Landing. It is only a matter of about a meter in distance, that would allow us to continue on the pathway and into the event. I am sending a photo of the situation as it existed this past weekend and into Canada Day. Only with the help of two strong men could my husband get from the pathway into the parking lot and then I could wheel him down the road to access the boardwalk on Blockhouse. Janet Lousley

The committee discussed this issue and realized the problem had arisen from how the event organizer had erected fencing. The committee will make it a priority to work with staff prior to events to ensure the site plans meet accessibility standards.

Staff suggested Jennifer Devlin, Festival and Events Coordinator attend the next meeting to discuss the some of these issues.

6. Staff Reports

1. Results of Tourism Accessibility Survey

K. Brintnell, Tourism Advisor reviewed results of a Tourism Accessibility Survey which was active this summer. She indicated that Brockville Tourism intends to create an accessibility guide and would look to the committees for their input while creating the guide.

Co-chair Jones noted concerns that a number of the City's attractions are not accessible.

Member Wilson referred members to an app called "wheelmap" that is available for free and provides information on the accessibility of various locations.

Councillor Severson noted safety and homelessness concerns identified in the survey results, and stated these are not accessibility issues.

The Committee discussed temporary ramps for business who have stairs to enter their premises. L. Murray stated that this topic had come up a few months ago and she had reached out to the Town of Prescott regarding a program they have in place. Her contact there said it is a pilot project organized by their Downtown BIA where they are allocating \$200 per ramp which represents 50% of the StopGap ramps. Councillor Severson suggested inviting our local DBIA to an upcoming meeting to discuss this idea further since many of the establishments that could use a ramp are in the downtown area.

2. Update on Para-Transit Survey

With respect to the survey, Co-chair Jones noted her was disappointed that only 19 riders participated.

It was noted that according to the Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation (IASR) every conventional transportation service provider shall annually hold at least one public meeting involving persons with disabilities to ensure that they have an opportunity to participate in a review of the accessibility plan and that they are given the opportunity to provide feedback on the accessibility plan. It was noted that it is hard for people to attend these meetings as para-buses are in high demand and can't carry many passengers. The Committee considered offering a virtual option for those who can't attend in person. L. Murray will speak with M. Locke to ensure a meeting is planned for the near future.

Member Wilson asked why the conventional buses are not accessible. Co-chair Greenwood clarified they are noting that he may have been declined due to the weight of his scooter. Co-chair Greenwood suggested the city host a few smaller meetings at retirement homes with respect to transit. Co-chair Jones said as the intent is to gather feedback about both transit systems, she said she feels the meeting should attract users of both systems together to hear both sides.

Councillor Severson suggested inviting M. Locke to the next meeting to discuss the number of rides that typically happen per hour and scheduling the Annual meeting.

3. Accessibility Coordinator Position

Moved by: Co-chair Greenwood

THAT this business case be forwarded to the City Manager for her inclusion in the organizational review.

CARRIED

7. New Business

1. Member Wilson explained that he has invited the Mayor and Councillors to come out and see what it is like to operate a wheelchair on city sidewalks. He made note of their meeting point. Councillors are going to use a wheelchair to experience what it is like to maneuver a portion of the city in a wheelchair.

8. Member Reports and Project Updates

1. Oshawa Documents/Checklists

Co-chair Jones thanked staff for sharing the documents received from the City of Oshawa.

2. Resume the review building plans/audits

Co-Chair Jones stated a need to review drawings.

L. Murray will speak with Planning and Building staff about making this happen. Co-chair Greenwood suggested paper copies for people with vision loss.

9. Adjournment

Moved by: Co-chair Greenwood

THAT the BMAAC meeting be adjourned until its next regular meeting scheduled for October 22, 2024.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.