



City of Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

1:00 PM - Tuesday, November 28, 2023

City Hall, Council Chambers

The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting was called to order on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 1:00 PM, in the City Hall, Council Chambers, with the following present:

Members Present:	Greg Bamber, Doug Hone, Janet Jones and Councillor Louise Severson
Regrets:	Mary Ann Greenwood
Staff:	Matthew Locke, Supervisor of Transportation & Fleet Services, Lynn Murray, Deputy City Clerk, and Phil Wood, Director of Operations

1. Chair's Remarks

Chair Jones remarked that she is very pleased to see how things are progressing with the committee and glad we are moving along.

2. Disclosure of Interest

Nil.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by: Member Hone

THAT the minutes of the Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings dated September 26, 2023 and October 24, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Delegations/Presentations

1. Spinal Cord Injury Ontario - Andrea Andrecyk

Member G. Bamber introduced Andrea Andrecyk from the Spinal Cord Injury Ontario (SCIO) organization. Andrea explained that she has lived in the Brockville area for most of her life. She currently resides in Athens and noted that it lacks in accessibility. Andrea explained a little about what she does with the SCIO.

Councillor Severson asked what are the greatest barriers that Andrea finds in Brockville. Andrea noted some stores especially in the downtown area can only be accessed by stairs. Andrea mentioned a foundation called StopGap, who's mission is to break down barriers one step at a time. They build accessible ramps to remove the barrier of a few stairs and give them away for free. Andrea also mentioned a restaurant that has only bar height seating, this is inaccessible for someone in a wheelchair. However, she is very impressed by how accessible Block House Island and the Brockville Trail are.

5. Correspondence & Communications

1. Accessibility Awareness Day

The Committee noted that Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) is the third Thursday in May every year. That makes May 16, 2024 GAAD. The Committee would like to plan something in Brockville to bring awareness to that day.

6. Staff Reports

1. Para-transit In-house Update

P. Wood noted that one vehicle is expected this week the other will follow shortly thereafter. He explained that the process has begun to hire the Administrative Assistant, dedicated to Paratransit, as well the new drivers. M. Locke reviewed this process for the committee members. It was suggested that a media release be sent out via various channels.

2. Updates from last meeting - Phil

P. Wood stated that they are finalizing the Paratransit Service Policy. He said that they could go to committee with a draft version. He reviewed the appeals process of this policy.

7. New Business

1. Bus stop accessibility - Greg

Member Bamber reviewed an old plan with regards to bus stop accessibility. He is proposing they make a 60-day plan to start making bus stops accessible. He would like to list what do we need to do and should likely do an audit of all stops.

P. Wood explained that within the city there are over 200 stops, they realize that some are located for convenience but not compliant. P. Wood indicated they could have stops that aren't even or rarely used. Member

Bamber thinks we should direct our attention to the important and highly used stops.

Moved by: Member Bamber

THAT the Committee suggest several spots of highest interest to insert \$50,000 into the 2024 Capital Budget.

The Committee will suggest a list of priority stops.

CARRIED

2. FYI TV - Update - Mary Ann

Mary Ann was not present, so no update was received.

3. Encouraging new membership

It was suggested that the current members could mention the Committee to others when out in the public.

4. National Accessibility Week

Member Bamber would like to request a proclamation for National Accessibility week and have the flag raised at Tunnel Bay. He also suggested recognizing people in the community. May 25 to June 1, 2024.

5. Providing accessible transportation services – Greg

No discussion was captured on this topic.

8. Sub-Committee and Member Reports/Project Updates

1. Survey finalization - release

J. Jones discussed the changes the City Manager had suggested. J. Jones asked if P. Wood could handle mail out and put copies on the buses. The committee is still waiting for a final draft and approval from staff.

9. Adjournment

Moved by: Member Hone

THAT the BMAAC meeting be adjourned until its next regular meeting scheduled for January 23, 2024.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.