



City of Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

1:00 PM - Tuesday, April 25, 2023
City Hall, Boardroom

The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 1:00 PM, in the City Hall, Boardroom, with the following present:

Members Present: Greg Bamber, Ryan Billing, Doug Hone, Janet Jones, and Councillor Louise Severson
Regrets: Aileen Rossetti and Mary Anne Greenwood
Staff: Sandra MacDonald, City Manager/City Clerk and Cassidy Cameron, Committee Assistant

1. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Billings noted that Member Greenwood was not able to attend and passed along her regrets.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Committee Member Hone

THAT the minutes of the Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated January 24, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Accessible Picnic Tables

Chair Billings mentioned that prior to installing accessible picnic tables, there needs to be more discussions between the Committee and staff. A policy should be drafted to guide the purchase and instillation of accessible picnic tables going forward.

Member Hone mentioned that Brockville create a "By Design" policy; this policy would ensure accessibility is automatically factored into the processes. The City of London is a leading municipality for accessibility standards.

S. MacDonald added that if the Committee can find and agree upon design standards, the City can adopt them. She added that City staff are keeping accessibility in mind for all projects, but if the Committee is able to gather more of these standards, it will alleviate pressure off of the Committee to review every project going forward. If the Committee is able to gather these standards and put them into a formal document, it would be beneficial.

Councillor Severson asked if tables will be purchased by BMAAC. Chair Billings stated that as it stands, accessible tables have been put in through the BMAAC budget. He noted that there are other options to create and making accessible tables in parks, such as retro fitting old tables, etc.

Discussions ensued about the purpose of the Committee; whether they will continue to have a budget or if they will strictly be an Advisory Committee.

Discussions resumed regarding Accessibility By Design. The City of London has excellent documents and standards, the Committee will begin looking at these for references. Chair Billings will send out the City of London's "Facility Accessibility Design Standards" document created in 2021, to the Committee.

2. Accessible Beach Mat Instillation

Chair Billings noted that when talking to C. Davis, there were concerns about washing out the mat with high water levels. They should assess if this is going to work by trial first. Chair Billings will put in a call to the company to see if they are able to test the product prior to purchasing all the items.

The Committee agreed that this trial run would be beneficial. Member Hone stated that they should see if there are any places updating their current mats, and willing to let Brockville use their old mat on a trial period. Member Bramber noted that Browns Bay should have a beach mat, and the Committee could reach out to the contractors there to try and gather more information on the products they use.

Chair Billings stated that prior to going through the full process of grading and paving the areas, they should make sure the beach mat is going to work first.

3. Water wheelchair

The Committee discussed piloting the water wheelchair at Rotary Park first, while they test St. Lawrence Park with the matting.

Moved by Councillor Severson

THAT the BMAAC authorizes the purchase, up to \$5000, of an accessible water wheelchair for the Brockville Splash Pad, to be housed at Rotary Park.

For: Committee member Bamber, Committee member Billing, Committee member Hone, Committee Member Jones, and Councillor Severson

CARRIED 5-0 on a recorded vote

4. Splash Pad

Member Hone mentioned that last year there was a section of the path at the Splash Pad that was not accessible. S. MacDonald stated that staff will look into this.

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

6. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

Nil.

7. STAFF REPORTS

1. Accessible By-law Verbiage - verbal update

C. Cameron stated that most By-laws were previously updated to remove outdated language.

8. NEW BUSINESS

1. Centeen Park Water Accessibility

Chair Billings stated that when talking to staff, aside from St. Lawrence Park, if the Committee would like to explore other parks for accessibility, such as Centeen Park, there are options to do so.

Member Bamber mentioned the option of placing a crane that would lift people from the land into the water who require accessible access. Member Hone echoed this point and stated that a crane like this would also help people into boats.

Regarding accessibility in the downtown core, the Committee discussed the vast limitations within the City, especially as they pertain to accessing the waterfront. Member Bramber noted the need for making boat ramps accessible. Chair Billings asked Member Bramber to take a look at the new docks. S. Macdonald stated that the new docks built are 8 feet wide.

2. Para Transit Feedback Process

The Committee discussed the needs for there to be automated confirmations when residents book Para Transit buses. Chair Billings noted that the current contract allows for the buses to be one hour late, but that it is important to know how often this is happening to residents as there is no data on this right now. Chair Billings mentioned that there needs to be better communication with residents for the expectation on the services as well.

Chair Billings would like to know statistics on the transit services as they currently exist. Councillor Severson added there needs to be safe and anonymous process for people to give feedback about the system. Chair Billings added that there are riders who might not be able to communicate their needs without assistance, and this services needs to protect and advocate for themselves.

Member Hone mentioned that the Committee used to receive bus reports monthly and they no longer receive those.

3. Blockhouse Island

Chair Billings reviewed everything with C. Davis and noted that the matting and ramp by the railroad, that was originally meant to be temporary, will be paved and made permanent this spring. There have been ideas to redesign this ramp to make the slope more gradual.

Member Bamber stated that there is an accessible path on Blockhouse Island that connects to a parking spot, but there needs to be an accessible parking spot added to make sure this isn't blocked.

Moved by Committee member Bamber

THAT the southeast corner of blockhouse island, adjacent to the path be designated as an accessible parking spot.

For: Committee member Bamber, Committee member Billing, Committee member Hone, Committee Member Jones, and Councillor Severson

CARRIED 5-0 on a recorded vote

4. Hardy/Centennial Park

There is no accessible access to the park from the Water Street corner. Chair Billings hopes that this is something that will be brought forward next year in the budget, proposed as a park improvement.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE AND MEMBER REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES
Nil.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Severson

THAT the BMAAC meeting be adjourned until its next regular meeting scheduled for May 23, 2023.

CARRIED