

Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 26, 2018, 1:00 pm
City Hall, Boardroom

Committee Minutes

ROLL CALL:

Ryan Billing, Chair
Greg Bamber
Colleen Cameron
Nancy Gardner
Mary Ann Greenwood
Doug Hone

STAFF:

Virginia Adams, GIS Coordinator
Lynn Murray, Deputy City Clerk (Recording Secretary)

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Moved by: Doug
Seconded by: Mary Ann

THAT the minutes of the Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated April 24, 2018 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Accessible Doors - Mary Ann

Mary Ann discussed the fact that neither the Clerk's nor Planning office doors are accessible. She would like to see a quote done on the cost to make them accessible.

This request will be sent to Earl Moore, Arenas and Facilities Supervisor for follow-up.

Moved by: Mary Ann
Seconded by: Greg

THAT BMAAC requests that an estimate of installing accessible doors in the Clerk and Planning office entrances be completed.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Accessible Taxi Proposal
(Rick Hovey)

Rick Hovey reviewed his discussion paper with the Committee, which is attached to the minutes for reference. He asked the Committee how successful the accessible taxi had been in the past. They all agreed it was very successful and ran regular fares when not running accessible fares.

Rick requested that he be informed of the next meeting so he can bring his business partner for further discussions.

2. GIS and Accessibility
(Virginia Adams, GIS Coordinator)

Virginia told the Committee a little bit about what she does in her capacity as the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator. She reviewed the various maps currently on the City's website. Virginia said through consultation with key Committee members they could create an interactive map for accessible routes in the downtown.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Enabling Fund

Ryan detailed a new grant from Employment and Social Development Canada who are currently accepting applications from eligible applicants interested in receiving grant funding up to \$100,000 from the *Enabling Accessibility Fund* for small projects. This Fund supports the capital costs of construction, renovation and/or retrofit activities in workplaces and communities, as well as the provision of accessible technologies:

- Workplace stream: facilities where people with disabilities work, or could work in the future; and,
- Community Accessibility stream: community spaces where programs and/or services are offered, or will be offered, to people with disabilities.

He thought this might be a good opportunity to get some funding for the Rotary Field House Project. The deadline for submissions is July 26, 2018.

2. Meetings in July and August?

The Committee will meet on July 10th instead of the 24th. This will give them time to consider the request from organizers of the Rotary Field House Project and respond in a timely manner regarding this Committees level of financial commitment to the project.

They will decide at that meeting if they will meet in August.

CAPITAL BUDGET - REVIEW

1. June 2018

The Committee discussed their decreasing revenue and realize that soon they will need to be involved in the budget process, identifying projects and making recommendations to Council.

SUB-COMMITTEE AND MEMBER REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES

1. Briefing to Finance, Administration and Operations

This item has been deferred to the July 10th meeting.

2. Multi Year Plan

This item has been deferred to the July 10th meeting.

3. Rotary Field House

Ryan said he had received an email from Conal Cosgrove, Director of

Operations asking if BMAAC could be a financial partner in this project and support an application to the Enabling Accessibility Fund.

The Committee decided to take a little time to contemplate the level of financial support they are prepared to provide.

4. Site Plan Review

Doug said he has been receiving site plans for new construction but they need to get copies of changes to buildings and site plans on City owned properties as well.

Greg noted that in Oshawa as a member of their Accessibility Committee they would see building permits for commercial and multi-residential projects.

Doug will follow up with Brent Caskenette in the City's Building Department to see if the Committee can get copies of these as well.

5. BMAAC Awards

This item has been deferred to the July 10th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Mary Ann

THAT the BMAAC meeting be adjourned until its next meeting scheduled for July 10, 2018.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 pm.

Accessible Taxi Discussion Paper

Prepared by: Rick Hovey and Emal Wardak

June 25, 2018

The purpose of this presentation is to open up a dialogue between the Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee and City Taxi re-the potential for a sustainable accessible Taxi service in the near future.

The challenge is, to meet the growing need for an accessible Taxi service. This is a synopsis of a plan that is under way to introduce a sustainable accessible Taxi service to the city of Brockville. Statistics vary, but no one can deny the aging demographic of our current population. In a retirement community such as Brockville, the city, in partnership with private enterprise, must address this current and growing need.

The Plan

We plan to buy out a controlling interest in City Taxi within the next year and implement an aggressive marketing plan that will greatly improve the brand. We will then begin developing an accessible service from City Taxi. We are working with Paul Gill, the current owner of City Taxi to transition management, of the company, over the next year. His involvement in the company, long term, will be as a car owner.

The Principles: As there will be a new team managing City Taxi, let us introduce ourselves.

Rick Hovey

30 + years of business experience as principal and managing partner of multiple start up's and businesses. Currently owner operator of a limousine service in Ottawa operating in affiliation with Executive Cab of Ottawa.

Emal Wardak

15 + years business experience with start ups and ownership of various business ventures. Previously accessible taxi driver. Currently owner operator of a Para Tranpo Taxi with affiliation to WestWay Taxi of Ottawa.

Discussion points

Accessible Taxi: Definition is a Taxi which can accommodate passengers with wheelchair or ambulatory on demand, that can quickly respond to the transportation needs of disabled individuals.

1) What is the current need for such a service in the city of Brockville?

- A. With the rapidly aging demographic of Canada and particularly the city of Brockville, needs an accessible transportation alternative.
- B. Despite being known as a retirement city there is no accessible Taxi service available in Brockville.
- C. The approach in neighboring cities like Ottawa is to change all Taxis to accessible by year 2025.

2) What challenges are currently in the way of such a service?

- Accessible Taxi vehicles cost more to purchase, equip, and maintain.
- The operating cost of such a service will be more, re: twice gas usage, higher insurance.
- To service an accessible Taxi call needs more time and effort from the driver.
- A further challenge is in the geography of Brockville. Where, in the city of Ottawa there are many long fares to balance the increased operating cost, in Brockville most fares are quite short.
- Need for a higher meter rate for accessible calls to maintain a sustainable service.

3. What city resources are available to bring to bear with a view to this goal?

- In Ottawa, seniors have the right to use subsidised vouchers to pay for Taxi rides

4. The difference between Para Transpo and Accessible Taxi.

Para-Transpo: Definition is door to door transportation service subsidized by the municipality, for people who have disabilities that preclude them from using public transport. These can be a Taxi based Para Tranpo service, or a municipal Para Transpo Bus with a city employee driving it with all the associated costs. These services are heavily subsidized or completely run by the municipality and are typically a scheduled service.

Here are some examples of individuals who can receive doctor approved transportation services (Para Transpo) in the city of Ottawa.

- 1) Individual with a need for regular dialysis.
- 2) Any individual who is rehabbing after major surgery: approved by doctors.
- 3) Autistic or mentally challenged individuals.
- 4) Seniors are approved due to possible mobility challenges.
- 5) People with vision impairment.

It cost less, to the municipality, to have Taxi based Para transpo than conventional city accessible buses providing a Para Transpo service.

A) A Para-Transport Taxi can pick up multiple passengers and drop them off while running one meter fair for all.

B) A Taxi based Para transpo is quicker; more efficient and can service clients quicker and therefore can service more calls, than a city Para-Transpo bus.

C) Taxi based para transport cars are not maintained by the municipality. Drivers are self employed, not city workers with salary and benefits.

5. Is there a potential for a subsidized Taxi based para transport service for the city of Brockville, similar to the one in Ottawa?