



City of Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

1:00 PM - Tuesday, November 22, 2022

City Hall, Board room

The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting was called to order on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at 1:00 PM, in the City Hall, Board room, with the following present:

Members Present: Ryan Billing, Mary Ann Greenwood, Doug Hone, Janet Jones and Louise Severson
Regrets:
Staff: Cassidy Cameron, Committee Assistant and Phil Wood, Director of Operations

1. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Billings welcomed Councillor Severson to the Committee and stated that he is looking forward to the upcoming term.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Member Greenwood
Seconded by Committee member Hone

THAT the minutes of the Brockville Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting dated September 27, 2022 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Regarding verbiage, Chair Billings would like to see outdated terms such as "disabled" and "handicap," removed from By-Law 119-89 and replaced with the term "accessible."

The Committee discussed accessible parking spots around the city; the condition of the markings, if the locations of the spots were appropriate, and adding a spot near the Arts Centre entrance.

Chair Billings would like the meeting minutes to reflect that during the last meeting on September 27, 2022, a discussion of accessible parking at

Hardy Park took place, as well as a discussion regarding subsidized bus costs for those riding to and from Sherwood Park Manor.

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

6. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

Nil.

7. STAFF REPORTS

1. Operations Update - Verbal
(Phil Wood, Director of Operations)

P. Wood explained that the Operations Department is looking through an accessibility lens when they work on projects; while they are mandated to account for accessibility, they are being proactive and thinking beyond the necessary scope. Notable projects with an accessibility focus include the new marina docks, washrooms at Hardy Park, sidewalk trip lifts and the new arena design.

Regarding the new arena, design considerations will be given to barrier free walkways, accessible seating, adult change tables and more. P. Wood noted that it is easier to design plans that account for accessible features and more challenging to retrofit older/existing buildings to accommodate accessibility.

P. Wood added that the Operations Department has committed to maintaining the Brock Trails throughout the winter and that tracking devices have been added to all fleet which will help with accountability and being stronger against claims.

8. NEW BUSINESS

1. Effectively Engage, Communicate and Discuss Goals
(Councillor Severson)

Councillor Severson stated that she is willing advocate on behalf of the Committee at Council meetings.

The Committee discussed ways they could improve on communicating with and providing information to Council and the public. They noted the challenges of having too many channels to share information on, but agreed that distributing their materials to other Committees and Boards would ensure that others are aware of accessibility requirements, boosting accessibility in Brockville overall.

2. Development of Accessibility Plan (Standing Item)
(Ryan Billings)

The Committee discussed the logistics of having an accessible beach, noting that that St. Lawrence Park might not be the best location for it as the sand is frequently replaced.

Chair Billings proposed that all staff be trained or retrained on accessibility, including transit drivers. The Committee discussed the possibility of scheduling this during Accessibility Week in 2023.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE AND MEMBER REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES

1. Transit Ridership

Brockville Transit (Conventional) *DOES NOT INCLUDE RIVER ROUTE
2021 Ridership – 51,849
2022 Ridership YTD (Jan 1 – Sep 30) – 46,377

Brockville Para Transit (Specialized)
2021 Ridership – 5,915
2022 Ridership YTD (Jan 1 – Sep 30) – 6,785

Member Greenwood expressed concern over the conventional bus system not accommodating people who require additional assistance for accessibility, despite the ability to do so. It was noted that para-services can provide door-to-door assistance, but that the conventional bus system should not restrict their accessible features.

A discussion ensued regarding Sherwood Park Manor transit services. The Committee noted concern about the current rate the Manor is charging residents to use the bus service despite its close location to other retirement homes in Brockville. The Committee would like to explore a cost-sharing agreement.

Councillor Severson asked if an agreement could be arranged between the City of Brockville and Elizabethtown-Kitley or Sherwood Park Manor to provide reduced rates for residents.

P. Wood explained other options available for expanding the city's transit services. He noted that it can be difficult to compare Brockville transit to other cities due to differences in size and use, amongst other things.

10. CAPITAL BUDGET – REVIEW

1. Report to November 17, 2022

The Committee would like information about the budget pre-COVID to determine if "pending items" remained; the new budget does not have "pending items" listed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Member Greenwood
Seconded by Committee member Hone

THAT the BMAAC meeting be adjourned until its next regular meeting scheduled for January 24, 2023.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned 3:03 p.m.