

# Awareness and Education Working Group

## Quarterly Report – May 2021

Working Group Members present	Present: Dorothyanne Brown, Leah Riddell, Penny Leclair, Susan Mockler Regrets: Sherri Scott
Staff support	Janet Jaynes, Deputy City Clerk, Julia McCaugherty-Jansman, Committee Clerk, Jen Pinarski, Communications Officer

The Accessibility and Awareness Working Group met on March 4, 2021 to set priorities and engagement opportunity for 2021 as noted below.

### **Accessible parking awareness campaign**

In 2020 the Awareness & Education Working Group was consulted regarding a plan for an accessible parking awareness campaign that would feature three videos addressing topics related to accessible parking (Curb Ramps, Access Aisles and Misconceptions). These videos would complement a previous video completed in 2018. As a result of physical distancing requirements and limitations on gatherings videography was not possible.

**Staff recommendation:** that a 2021 accessible parking awareness campaign begin in mid-May with a re-launch of the existing video; that graphics and videos be prepared in the spring 2021 for a launch in the summer of 2021 as part of a dedicated parking awareness campaign. Further details of the campaign would be circulated to the working group. The videos could be done as animations and voice overs to limit the in-person contact due to COVID-19 concerns. Videos would have closed captioning and have ASL interpretation.

### **Communication campaigns through the use of various channels to raise awareness of the removal of barriers within the City of Kingston – AccessAbility Awareness Week 2021 (May 31 – June 4, 2021)**

In the previous two years, the City of Kingston has produced a series of videos entitled “I can... in Kingston because...” as part of a communication campaign for AccessAbility Awareness Week. These videos featured members of MAAC and other volunteers demonstrating how efforts to improve accessibility make a difference in how people use and enjoy the city. Videos featured the Kingston Frontenac Public Library Central branch renovations, the StopGap program and Breakwater Park, among others.

**Staff recommendation:** that promotion for 2021 AccessAbility Awareness Week focus on youth/families and accessibility in Kingston, as previous videos have focused on adults.

Potential video topics include:

- City of Kingston Recreation & Leisure programming
- Accessible parks
- Cultural Services Sensory Friendly Programming

The videos could be done as animations and voice overs to limit the in-person contact due to COVID-19 concerns. Videos would have closed captioning and have ASL interpretation.

**Actively promote the need for accessibility awareness training to business, professional and service communities – i.e. make presentations to Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Kingston, etc.**

**Staff recommendation:** That staff reach out to relevant parties to gauge interest in participating in accessibility awareness learning opportunities. Staff would report back to the Working Group by Q3 2021 regarding the results of this engagement and to discuss next steps. The City would partner with local advocacy groups to deliver the presentations/training.

## **BUILT ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP**

### **MAAC Quarterly Report – May 2021**

**Members:** Andrew Ashby, Susan Mockler, David Williams, Caitlin Bruce, Nick Streicher, Janice Wilby, Matt Porter, Glenn Griffiths. Kate Deacon,

**Staff:** Janet Jaynes, Deputy City Clerk

1. **Business:**

- We continued to meet by video conferencing this quarter and work continued with a steady number of site plan reviews current. We welcome several new members to our working group this quarter and focus therefore was on the orientation to DASH for our current program and site reviews. As part of the orientation, the working group reviewed sections of the Design of Public Spaces document in the context of accessibility features in projects. We acknowledge a great compliment of members to assist in our work this year.
- **Briefings** – Chris Wicke, planning, at the tended for our semiannual review of the accessibility checklist and we are preparing to offer more briefings prior to summer break then continue through the fall. Continually exploring options of other briefings from city departments for future meetings.
- **Ongoing Updates** – primarily email review of progress in consultations with project managers with some video conferencing for some current and active projects on BEWG project list. These updates have been relatively minimal with exception of site plans.

2. **Next Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled meeting of BEWG is 10 AM on Thursday May 20, 2021 via video conference call.