



**City of Kingston
Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee
Meeting Number 02-2023
Minutes**

**Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
In a virtual, electronic format**

Committee Members Present

Kim Atwood

Emily Bennett

Penny Bennett (arrived at meeting at 1:19 p.m.)

Caitlin Bruce

Chantaille Buczynski (arrived at meeting at 1:11 p.m.)

Aimee Burtch

Dinah Cotter

Andrea Fitzgerald

Ibrahim Kettaneh (arrived at meeting at 1:59 p.m.)

Darcy King McKay

Susan Mockler

Lucie Moussu

Nikolas Tolgyesi

Janice Wilby

Regrets

Councillor Tozzo

Aldo Ramirez

Staff Members Present

Muhammad Ahsan, Manager, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate Services

Amy Elgersma, Manager, Recreation Facilities

Elizabeth Fawcett, Committee Clerk

Luke Follwell, Director, Engineering Services

Amy Gibson, Manager, Recreation Programs

Janet Jaynes, Acting City Clerk

Derek Ochej, Committee City

Others Present

Members of the Public were present.

Meeting to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Ms. E. Bennett

Seconded by Ms. Mockler

That the agenda be amended to include the addendum, and as amended, be approved.

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Ms. Cotter

Seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald

That the Minutes of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Number 01-2023 held February 2, 2023 be approved.

Carried

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There was none.

Delegations

There were none.

Briefings

- a) Luke Follwell, Director, Engineering Services, was present and spoke to the Committee regarding Transportation and Public Works Update.

Mr. Follwell conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Transportation and Public Works Update, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting the City Clerk's Department.

Ms. Buczynski arrived to the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

Ms. P. Bennett arrived to the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

Ms. Moussu commented that the City had done good work in placing rest areas and benches alongside paths, adding that more spots should be added in the future. Mr. Follwell provided comments regarding the specific feedback that the City seeks for rest areas, adding that there are opportunities to add more spots during projects.

Mr. Tolgyesi spoke to the flexible bollards that are used in traffic calming initiatives throughout the City. He stated that in some areas they reduce on-street parking capacity, causing residents to block sidewalks with vehicles. Mr. Tolgyesi spoke to issues the bollards cause with effective snow removal and lack of space for vehicles to pull over to all emergency vehicles to pass. He added comments regarding increasing sidewalk widths on Bath Road near the Frontenac Mall.

In response to Mr. Tolgyesi's comments, Mr. Follwell stated that staff will relocate flexible bollards if persistent parking issues occur. He added that staff also work to educate residents on the regulations regarding parking and blocking sidewalk access. With respect to snow plowing, Mr. Follwell stated that it is the City's practice to removal bollards from streets in the winter. Regarding sidewalk width, Mr. Follwell spoke to the evolving standards for sidewalk widths, adding that the City is working to catch up with the new standards through construction and reconstruction projects.

Ms. Cotter inquired if motorized wheelchairs or scooters are prevented from using cycling lanes. She stated that many users often utilize cycling lanes as they are in better condition than sidewalks. Mr. Follwell stated that City by-laws currently restrict motorized wheelchairs or scooters from using cycling lanes. He added that updates are

being considered to the Streets By-Law and that restricted uses of cycling lanes will be reviewed.

Ms. Cotter spoke to issues when there are conflicts between sidewalk access to bus stops, stating that residents may need to hail the bus at a non-stop area contrary to Kingston Transit policy. Mr. Follwell advised that staff are continually looking to improve bus stop access and connectivity to sidewalks.

Ms. Fitzgerald commented that snowbanks and snow accumulation on the side of the roads and sidewalks represented a barrier to Kingston Access Bus services in that a bus cannot get close enough to a firm surface to onboard or offboard a passenger.

Ms. Wilby spoke to the importance of ensuring that snow is removed from areas adjacent to accessible parking spaces to allow access to users.

Ms. Buczynski complimented staff on the work accomplished in the past year.

The Chair offered members of the public an opportunity to provide comment.

Michael Judd spoke to the challenges facing residents who need to find an area to rest when walking on City sidewalks or paths. He added that in many places where benches are available there is no suitable shade. Mr. Judd commented that City staff had done an excellent job providing rest areas in parks.

b) Amy Gibson, Manager, Recreation Programs, and Amy Elgersma, Manager, Recreation Facilities, were present and spoke to the Committee regarding Program and Special Events Update.

Ms. Gibson and Ms. Elgersma conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Program and Special Events Update, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting the City Clerk's Department.

Ms. Fitzgerald inquired if the staff utilize the Ontario provincial government's Guide to Accessible Festivals and Outdoors Events. She inquired if the City uses Canadian Hearing Services to book ASL interpreters and if anything training is available to City staff in this area.

Ms. Gibson confirmed that the City uses the Guide to Accessible Festivals and Outdoor Events when planning special events. She further confirmed that the City books ASL interpreters through the Canadian Hearing Society, adding that difficulties in booking

interpreters are representative of a general shortage in ASL interpreters. Ms. Gibson added that a staff member from Recreation & Leisure has been undergoing training in ASL interpretation.

Ms. Buczynski commented that the need for ASL interpreters far outweighs the supply of persons who can provide interpretation services. She commended City staff for making efforts to include interpretation at special events.

Ms. Moussu inquired if accessible lockers are provided at City recreation facilities. She asked if there are any dedicated swim times for persons with disabilities. Mr. Elgersma confirmed that accessible lockers are available at Artillery Park. She added that Artillery Park provides therapeutic swim sessions five days per week.

Mr. Kettaneh arrived to the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

Ms. Mockler sought further details as to how information regarding the accessibility of facilities and events are shared with the public. Ms. Gibson responded that information on accessibility is included in all promotional materials for events and facilities, including website and on-site signage.

Ms. Cotter suggested that more information be shared with the public regarding the availability of accessible lockers at Artillery Park.

Ms. Wilby commented that while all facilities have accessible parking stalls, many of them do not include an accompanying marked aisle to allow users to drop an access ramp. She suggested that these aisle markings be added where possible.

Business

a) 2022 Accessibility Plan Status Update

Ms. Jaynes provided an overview of the Report.

There were no questions or comments from the Committee.

Moved by Ms. Buczynski

Seconded by Ms. Wilby

That the Municipal Advisory Committee recommends to Council:

That the 2022 Accessibility Plan Status Update, attached as Exhibit A to Report Number MAAC-23-003, be received and made available to the public via the City of Kingston website.

Carried

b) Transportation and Public Works Update

This report was considered concurrently with Briefing a)

c) Program and Special Events Update

This report was considered concurrently with Briefing b)

d) Appointments to Project Teams

Moved by Ms. Cotter

Seconded by Mr. Tolgyesi

That the following members of MAAC be appointed to the respective project teams:

- Oakridge Park Playground Improvements: Chantaille Buczynski;
- Bert Meunier Common West and Max Crescent Park: Susan Mockler and Chantaille Buczynski; and
- Terra Verde Park: Lucie Moussu and Aimee Burtch.

Carried

e) Appointments to Awareness and Education Working Group

Moved by Ms. Fitzgerald

Seconded by Mr. King McKay

That Penny Bennett and Dinah Cotter be appointed to the Awareness and Education Working Group for a term ending November 30, 2023.

Carried

Motions

There were none.

Notices of Motion

There were none.

Other Business

There was none.

Correspondence

There was none.

Date and time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee is Thursday May 4, 2023 at 1 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Ms. Buczynski

Seconded by Mr. Tolgyesi

That the meeting of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee adjourn at 2:15 p.m.

Carried