



**City of Kingston
Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee
Meeting Number 05-2023
Confirmed Minutes**

**Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
In a virtual, electronic format**

Committee Members Present

Councillor Tozzo
Kim Atwood
Emily Bennett
Chantaille Buczynski
Dinah Cotter
Andrea Fitzgerald (Arrived to meeting at 1:29 p.m.)
Susan Mockler
Darcy King McKay
Lucie Moussu
Aldo Ramirez
Janice Wilby

Regrets

Penny Bennett
Caitlin Bruce
Aimee Burtch
Ibrahim Kettaneh
Nikolas Tolgysei

Staff Members Present

Craig Desjardins, Director, Office of Strategy Innovation & Partnerships
Tony Gargaro, Manager, Recreation Services
Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Infrastructure, Transportation & Emergency Services
Danika Lochhead, Manager, Arts & Sector Development

Derek Ochej, Deputy City Clerk
Christine O'Connor, Committee Clerk
Lacricia Turner, Director, Recreational & Leisure Services
Neal Unsworth, Manager, Parks & Shoreline
Colin Wiginton, Director, Arts & Culture Services

This is not a verbatim report.

Meeting to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Tozzo
Seconded by Ms. Mockler

That the agenda be approved.

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Ms. Bennett
Seconded by Ms. Bucynski

That the minutes of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting 04-2023, held June 8, 2023, be approved.

Carried

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

Delegations

- a) Rachel Doornekamp and Sara Ogilvie were present and spoke to the Committee regarding Business Item 7(a), Proposed Community-Led Accessible Playground Project.

Ms. Doornekamp and Ms. Ogilvie conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Proposed Community-Led Accessible Playground Project. A copy of the presentation is available upon request through the City Clerk's Department.

Ms. Mockler thanked the presenters and recognized that inclusivity versus accessibility is a key point. She asked the delegates what their next steps for this project are. Ms. Doornekamp explained that great progress has been made on this project already and after several walk throughs of parks throughout the city over the course of the summer, Shannon Park is the potential site that may be used for this playground. She explained that a key reason for choosing this site is that families have requested an accessible change table be available close to the site so that they can stay for longer periods of time. She explained that this would be available right across the street from Shannon Park, at the Rideau Heights Community Centre. She added that the plan is to fundraise for this park.

Ms. Buczynski asked the presenters whether there are plans for more than one inclusive playground. Ms. Ogilvie recognized that there are financial and time constraints, but the hope is that through the development of this park, inclusivity can be taken into planning in all future parks in the city.

Ms. Atwood asked the delegates whether thought had been put into ensuring there are shaded areas of the playground, so that those who cannot stay in direct sunlight for long periods of time are also included. Ms. Doornekamp explained that the design that was shown was just an example and that the hope for the new playground will be to include plastic covers at different points for shade. She added that Shannon Park has an existing gazebo and several trees lining the pathway.

Ms. Mockler asked whether there are plans to educate City staff working in this area. Ms. Doornekamp responded that this is a relatively new movement and therefore not many people working in this area have been exposed to or made aware of the changes of what is considered a great park. She added that if it is not on staff's radar, then it is important to educate. She explained that while her team is fundraising for this park, there is hope that there will be room in the City budget to make parks more inclusive going forward. She stated that there is a strong focus on kids with this project and they

would like to get the school boards involved and help fundraise so that kids can see the importance of inclusive play.

Councillor Tozzo complimented Ms. Doornekamp and her team on the presentation and their work and asked if they could speak to the outreach they have done on this project. Ms. Ogilvie explained that they have been in contact with Rotary Clubs, Extend-A-Family Kingston, and Kids Inclusive. She stated that both Extend-A-Family Kingston and Kids Inclusive have agreed to a partnership.

Mr. Ramirez asked what the biggest obstacle to implementing this project and expanding other parks is. Ms. Doornekamp explained that the biggest obstacle is money as playgrounds are very expensive and the materials required for an inclusive playground are especially costly.

Ms. Atwood inquired into who would maintain the playground once it is built. Ms. Doornekamp stated that she would have to confirm with staff, but she has been told that once the structure is built the City would maintain it.

Ms. Wilby thanked the delegates and added that discussion usually revolves around children, but this project will be very important for parents and caretakers as well.

Briefings

- a) Colin Wiginton, Director of Arts & Culture Services, was present to speak to the Committee regarding the Annual Accessibility Update Arts & Culture Services Report.

Mr. Wiginton conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Annual Accessibility Update Arts & Culture Services Report. A copy of the presentation is available upon request through the City Clerk's Department.

Ms. Buczynski thanked Mr. Wiginton for the informative presentation. She asked whether thought had been put into multicultural events. She asked whether inclusivity arts projects in the area are being planned and about what considerations are being made to balance reconciliation and Canadian folk art. Mr. Wiginton explained that in Arts & Culture it's always an evolution. He stated that staff are bringing a more intentional lens to the events and programs the City offers by looking at moving away from Eurocentric and colonial events and making space for all communities to see their culture celebrated and acknowledged. He added that historically a lot of Arts & Culture programs have been child-focused, but now focusing on long-term care homes is important so that people at all stages of life can be involved.

Business

a) Proposed Community-Led Accessible Playground Project

Neal Unsworth provided an overview of the Report.

Mr. Ramirez asked whether he heard correctly that there are approximately 100 other playground projects in the queue. He asked if any of the other projects foster inclusivity similar to the one presented by Ms. Doornekamp and Ms. Ogilvie. Mr. Unsworth clarified that there are 117 existing playground structures, and that the City does not have a highly inclusive playground on the current workplan.

Ms. Wilby asked whether the parks on school grounds are separate entities or whether they are City-owned as well. Mr. Unsworth confirmed that these are separate from the City, with some exceptions where a few schools use City land for their playgrounds.

Moved by Ms. Cotter

Seconded by Ms. Buczynski

That the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend to Council:

That Council direct staff to continue working with community partners to support the building of a highly inclusive playground in a City-owned park and report back to Council as required on the matter.

Carried

b) Annual Accessibility Update, Arts & Culture Services

Mr. Wiginton introduced the report.

The Committee did not provide comment.

c) Adaptable Programming

Ms. Turner introduced the report.

The Committee did not provide comment.

d) Workplace Inclusion Charter Update

Mr. Desjardins introduced the report.

The Committee did not provide comment.

e) Accessibility Office Update Q2 2023

Mr. Ochej introduced the report.

The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee adjourned at 2:18 p.m. due to a lack of quorum.