



**City of Kingston
Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee
Meeting Number 06-2023
Minutes**

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

Committee Members Present

Janice Wilby, Chair
Councillor Tozzo
Kim Atwood
Emily Bennett
Dorothyanne Brown
Chantaille Buczynski
Dinah Cotter
Susan Mockler
Darcy King McKay
Lucie Moussu
Aldo Ramirez (Arrived to meeting at 1:21 p.m.)

Regrets

Penny Bennett
Aimee Burtch
Caitlin Bruce
Andrea Fitzgerald
Ibrahim Kettaneh

Staff Members Present

Derek Ochej, Acting Deputy City Clerk
Christine O'Connor, Committee Clerk

This is not a verbatim report.

Meeting to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Ms. Cotter

Seconded by Ms. Buczynski

That the agenda be approved.

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Ms. Mockler

Seconded by Councillor Tozzo

That the minutes of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Number 05-2023, held on September 7, 2023, be approved.

Carried

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

Delegations

- a) Joseph Dowser was present to speak to the Committee regarding accomplishments and planned initiatives by the Kingston Area Taxi Commission.

Mr. Dowser provided the Committee with an update on the accessible services and planned initiatives of the Kingston and Area Taxi Commission (KATC).

Ms. Mockler asked for a more detailed definition of an accessible taxi. Mr. Dowser explained that accessible vehicles are defined under KATC By-Law 3 as typically a van that has the appropriate equipment to provide for a safe and secure transportation service. He added that other accessible vehicles are being explored for the future as not all passengers with accessibility needs require a van with a lift or ramp.

Councillor Tozzo asked what accessing these services looks like and whether these services would be available through the apps. Mr. Dowser explained that when calling taxi services, the option for accessibility services is available, and when that call is forwarded to an operator it appears as a priority call. He noted that through this method, patrons requiring accessible services are not pushed to the side based on availability. He added that accessible services can also be accessed on the KATC website.

Ms. Cotter asked whether different classifications for vehicles had been considered for different disabilities. She asked whether they had also considered extending similar services to the Battersea area. Mr. Dowser stated that currently the access vehicles are limited to what is described in KATC By-Law 3, however he noted that by-laws can be changed where appropriate. He added that they will be looking into different classifications for standard vehicles that could also be used for those with limited mobility. He explained that while they are currently working on the Loyalist Accessible Transit Program, as the programs grow, they will look to expand beyond Kingston's borders to areas such as Battersea and Harrowsmith.

Ms. Atwood asked how many accessible taxis are now available in the Kingston area. She inquired about whether servicing the Loyalist Township area would reduce the number of taxis available within Kingston city limits. She asked who is responsible for training drivers and dispatchers and whether the training is focused on customer service or whether it includes how to properly strap mobility devices down in the vehicle. Mr. Dowser noted that there are currently nine issued accessible plates for a total of six vehicles on the road. He added that each brokerage is required to always have one accessible vehicle on the road.

Mr. Dowser explained that training implementation is something the KATC is working on in conjunction with the province's Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act requirement. He stated that changes have been made to driver's licenses and badges recently to require a clear indicator that the driver is accessibility trained and when they are due for re-certification. He added that all training is done at the KATC and is proctored adding if an individual is struggling assistance is always provided. He clarified that training for accessible services is not specific to how to work with customers with a disability. He noted that there is an enforcement branch that can be called if there are any concerns in terms of safe tie-downs and during business hours a security officer will be sent directly to the location of the taxi.

Ms. Buczynski asked if there has been consideration for teletypewriter (TTY) machines, or other accessible services for the blind and hard of hearing communities. Mr. Dowser noted that he will be bringing this point forward to the KATC Accessible Committee.

Ms. Mockler asked whether all taxi drivers receive accessibility training as some passengers with accessibility needs may take a regular taxi. She asked whether the training also encompasses passengers with disabilities that are not visible. Mr. Dowser explained that there is some training on accessibility for all drivers and that all taxi drivers receive the same examination with a section dedicated to serving accessible passengers. He added that training for entry-level taxi drivers does include how to identify, respect, and react to a range of disabilities.

Briefings

There were none.

Business

a) Accessibility Office Update – Q3 2023

Mr. Ochej introduced the report.

The Committee did not provide comment.

b) Working Group Reports

i) Built Environment Working Group Q3 2023 Report

Ms. Atwood provided an overview of the report.

The Committee did not provide comment.

c) Appointments to Project Teams

Moved by Ms. Mockler

Seconded by Ms. Atwood

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

- Woodbine Park Ball Diamond #5: Chantaille Buczynski
- 2023 Celebrating Accessibility Awards: Councillor Tozzo, Dinah Cotter and Penny Bennett

Carried

Motions

There were no motions.

Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

Other Business

Councillor Tozzo stated that he is looking for volunteers for the Inclusive Play Project, and asked any members of the Committee who were interested to contact him. He added that at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) he spoke briefly to the Ministers in charge of Ontario Disability Support Program to advocate for an increase in the amount given.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Date and time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee is to be determined.

Adjournment

Moved by Ms. Cotter

Seconded by Ms. Mockler

That the meeting of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee adjourn at 1:53 p.m.

Carried