

Built Environment Working Group Q2 2023 Report

Built Environment Work Group Subcommittee of the City of Kingston's Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee, April 6, 2023

Members Present

Kim Atwood, Caitlin Bruce, Susan Mockler, Lucie Moussu, Janice Wilby

Staff Present

Derek Ochej, Acting Deputy City Clerk

Regrets

1. Call meeting to order.
2. Announcement from Derek: new change, Derek is taking new responsibilities and is our point of contact for now.
3. Presentations and Guest speakers: Kay Sargent (recorded)
4. Approval of previous BEWG meeting minutes: approved on consent
5. Declaration of any pecuniary interests or conflicts of interest
6. Report from the BEWG Chair (Kim)
 - a. Discussion: Arranging future presenters Leah Riddell (Deaf accommodating environments) and Chris Wicke (City planning) have both agreed to present but the BEWG needs to discuss dates for these presentations. Conflict with dates: Chris only available in June. Because of his ongoing work with the city, we should meet with him first. Others agree. Leah will be invited after the summer break.
 - b. Discussion: Should Kim also approach Mahadeo Sukai (CNIB) to present of accommodating persons with low-vision in built environments? Derek thinks we can invite him in the fall. Will do.
7. Updates from working groups e.g., DASH site plan review (Susan, Kim & Lucie):
Susan: we had a rush of a few site plan reviews. It's calmed down. We are continuing to work together, Janice will re-join us, too. Susan developed some guidelines for training and will expand to talk about the role of the lead person for the next person in charge. Derek is happy to help with information and would like to archive it to have a backup copy. Should include sample contact letters and other document examples that could be useful to newcomers. Thanks for all your work and for training the team, Susan ☺

8. New business? Nope. Thank you for inviting Kay Sargent, whose presentation was outstanding! Kay was willing to give this presentation for free, even though she usually charges a fee. The presentation was recorded. The City is offering training for new members on the documents that are used by project teams. We might use a recording, too.
9. Meeting adjourned.
10. Next meeting: May 18: 10:00-11:00.

Built Environment Work Group Subcommittee of the City of Kingston's Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee. May 18, 2023

Members Present

Kim Atwood, Susan Mockler, Janice Wilby, Lucie Moussu

Staff Present

Derek Ochej, Acting Deputy City Clerk

Regrets

Caitlin Bruce

1. Call meeting to order: Kim
2. Previous minutes approved.
3. Presentations and Guest speaker: Susan Mockler spoke on "What is the Design of Public Spaces Standard (DOPS)?"
4. Declaration of any pecuniary interests or conflicts of interest
5. Report from the BEWG Chair (Kim)
 - a. Update: Announcement of dates for future presentation from Leah Riddell (Deaf accommodating environments) September 21 and Chris Wicke (City planning) June 15
 - b. Kim has done 2 site reviews
 - c. When do DOBS and other regulation documents get updated, and by whom?
6. Updates from working groups e.g., DASH site plan review committee.
 - a. Susan has one project update: does anyone know anything about that project? Project at City Hall about a map at market square, since last fall. Designer doing the summer map trying to integrate features for people with low vision, accessible entrances and parking, etc. Do we have a preference

for the new dynamic accessibility symbol or the regular symbol? Some people don't like the dynamic symbol, and one concern is about the new symbol being readable in Braille. Kim thinks it's not a big difference except that it's a waste of money, as it's not significantly better than the previous symbol. In this case, though, it would not replace an old sign. The map will also be tactile so it can be more universally accessible than old signage used at City Hall. Strong emotional response to the new symbol—there's a little bit of ableism in it! We seem to prefer the old symbol.

b. Kim: fire alarm project, May 25, at City Hall. Kim and Janice will go do it.

7. New business

a. New presentation by Chris and Leah. Kim will send the date of their presentations. Mahadeo will be contacted later, after the summer is over.

8. Discussion items for future BEWG meetings: Susan will keep ask us for project updates.

9. Date of next meeting: Thursday, June 15, at 10 a.m. via Zoom

Built Environment Work Group Subcommittee of the City of Kingston's Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

Members Present

Kim Atwood, Susan Mockler, Lucie Moussu, Caitlin Bruce

Staff Present

Derek Ochej, Acting Deputy City Clerk

Regrets Janice Wilby

1. Kim called meeting to order.

2. Presentations and Guest speakers: Chris Wicke (Senior Planner, City of Kingston) will speak on "Planning and Site Plan Review Process" (first 15-20 minutes, presentation recorded, other MAAC members were welcome to attend).

a. Much change since new Ontario government, especially regarding processes. A few bills were passed, including Bill 23, which changed the scope of site plan approvals. Site plan review only for buildings that have 10 units or more, now. Saving money. Exterior design of buildings (non-functional elements of the design, landscaping) can't be considered in site plan review.

b. Other Bills were passed. Bill 109 –mandatory fee refund in the past if deadlines are not met. Now it's a fee loss for municipalities. Bill 97 giving

minister power to do something confusing. New processes and deadlines for reviews, timing is much shorter.

- c. Provincial Policy Statement used as guidance, above Planning Act, in the past, then Site Plan Control Bylaw, and now these documents have gone through considerable review. Group homes are affected, for example.
 - d. DASH is affected but not sure yet how much. Checklist should be revised because applicants are sometimes confused, and staff, too. Right now, it's no longer necessary to fill it out. We can use it as our own checklist. We can still make whatever recommendation as long as it's related to safety and functionality. We won't get things done if we don't ask, the worst that can happen is for the builders to say no.
 - e. Things have been eliminated, but planners are renaming things to make sure they can verify that the sites are functional.
 - f. We should focus on large, industrial, commercial buildings, but ignore smaller units, constructions with fewer than 10 units.
3. Approval of previous BEWG meeting minutes
4. Declaration of any pecuniary interests or conflicts of interest
5. Report from the BEWG Chair (Kim)
- a. Update: Announcement of a date for future presentation from Leah Riddell (Deaf accommodating environments), scheduled for Sept. 31st 10am meeting.
 - b. Question: Do we want to schedule a presentation from the CNIB (perhaps Mahadeo Sukhai?) related to accommodating environments for persons living with low vision in the Fall? Derek and Kim will coordinate that in the summer.
6. Updates from working groups e.g., DASH site plan review committee.
- a. Susan: Caitlin and she were involved in a wayfinding sign (?) and the drop-off areas are not accessible on Brock and Market Streets. Check with the team at Facilities Management.
 - b. Caitlin: Audible pedestrian signals are very useful, but the public probably doesn't know who to contact when they don't work. In new constructions, it would be good to implement a way to check regularly that these things are working. Also, playground equipment is not accessible (level of woodchips may get low). Suggestion that the city verify that these things are taken care of in a more proactive approach.
 - c. Kim: no clear path for people to leave building if there is a fire in City Hall, especially in the basement. Three possible exits, and the accessible route is not indicated clearly.
7. New business

- a. Janice's replacement, maybe in September?
- b. Lucie's gone until the end of July. Derek will ask the membership if someone could help for a couple of months.
- c. Discussion regarding accessible parking fee & fine rates. Next steps: we are all free to share our comments with individuals, but we can also do something as a group, presented by Kim as the Chair, or through MAAC with Amy as the Chair. We can do something by August or October (EITP) with a delegation or a letter. We can also go speak at Council, as individuals or as a group. BWEG can do something together and Derek will take it farther. Lucie will put something together first and then the group will keep working on it.

8. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: Sept. 7

Awareness & Education Working Group Quarterly Report – September 2023

Working Group Members

Penny Bennett
Aimee Burtch
Dinah Cotter
Andrea Fitzgerald
Darcy King McKay

Support Staff

Derek Ochej, Acting Deputy Clerk

Update on service animal campaign

At the May meeting, staff provided an update on the service animal education campaign. The campaign is scheduled to kick off during National AccessAbility Week, which runs May 28 to June 3. The campaign will include social media messaging and a short educational video providing five etiquette tips for interacting with service animals. In addition to the general public education campaign, information will be sent to all businesses in Kingston regarding the rights and responsibilities of businesses with respect to service animals.

Staff also advised that City Hall and Springer Market Square will be illuminated in red on Wednesday May 31 in recognition of Red Shirt Day of Action for AccessAbility and Inclusion which is organized by Easter Seals Canada.

2024 – 2025 Priority Setting Exercise

At the May meeting the working group participated in a group discussion regarding potential areas of focus for the 2024 – 2025 timeframe. Two main themes emerged from the discussion, which are detailed below:

1. Neurodiversity
 - An important aspect of neurodiversity is community safety and understanding how to reach out to someone when things do not appear right. Part of this aspect for all members of the public is risk mitigation.

- An important aspect for the City may be training on how to identify persons who may be experienced issues to neurodiversity (i.e. dementia) and how to best provide customer service.
- Neurodiversity can be commonly understood as how someone who has experienced a brain change understands the world around them.
- It can include intellectual disabilities, which includes a variety of ranges within the spectrum of neurodiversity.
- Important aspects when working with a person with brain change include patience and kindness as well as maintaining a person's independence and dignity.
- Any public education campaign in this area could be based around simple tips on how to assist a person who has experienced brain change / to recognize when someone is experiencing difficulty.
- There are four basic categories for how a person may have experienced brain change: degeneration, gestational, trauma, or functional.
- There is a natural connection on this campaign with Rideaucrest Home which is operated by the City of Kingston.

2. Mobility-friends streets

- The overall condition of, and temporary blockages (i.e. from vehicles or construction), of sidewalks makes moving around the city a challenge for people using mobility devices. This challenge is particularly noticeable for people who do not use power-assisted mobility devices.
- The current regulations that do not allow persons using mobility devices to use cycling lanes for transportation is additional challenge. It was noted at MAAC meeting in early 2023 staff did mention that these regulations may be changing as part of a review of the Streets By-Law.
- There was a question as to whether the StepSafe program to report sidewalk hazards for repair is still in operation. If it is, it was suggested that more information be shared publicly about the program.