

Meeting Minutes

City of Guelph

Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

City Hall, Meeting Room 112

From 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Chair: Brad Howcroft

Vice-Chair: Julia Phillips

Minutes: Leanne Warren

Attendance: Brad Howcroft, Julia Phillips, Brooke Sillaby, Mike Greer, Malcolm McLeod, Julian Murphy, Cathy McCormack, Jason Dodge, Missy Tolton, Sarah Mathison, Marlene Pfaff, Kate Ducak

Regrets: Tanya Davies, Ruth Russell, Raminder Kanetkar

AGENDA ITEMS

Welcome to all

3:00 to 3:05 Item 1 and 2

Item 1. Approval of the Agenda

- Approved by Julian, seconded by Malcolm
- All in favor, vote passed

Item 2. Approval of Minutes of:

- December 2015; and
 - Approved by Michael, seconded by Brooke
 - All in favor vote passed
- February 16, 2016
 - Approved by Jason, seconded by Cathy
 - All in favor, vote passed

3:05 to 4:05 Item 3

Site Plan Sub-Committee Report

- a. Report on Site Plan Reviews – **For Information** – Julia Phillips
 - The number of site plans reviewed has increased again due to the nice weather and subsequent construction season.

- The site plan review sub-committee meets Monday afternoons and Tuesday evenings every other week.
 - City employees are engaging this sub-committee on topics of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, such as rest areas on trails. It is expected that this will be a long process as working out the details can be complex.
- b. Process of Design of Public Spaces Consultations – **For Information** – Leanne Warren, Helen White and Janet Sperling
- Staff reviewed several standards however one stood out as having possible guiding principles to settle on a standard for staff to use. <http://rehabmeasures.org/Lists/RehabMeasures/DispForm.aspx?ID=895>
 - The AAC sub-committee agreed that 150-250m is a reasonable distance to walk before encountering a rest area
 - On an easy trail (less than or equal to 4% slope), rest areas shall be every 150m (+ or – 50m to take obstacles and obstructions into account) for the first 1600m. After the first 1600m from an entry point, benches shall be every 250m
 - This is from a post-rehabilitation approach based of the link in the first bullet. The distance standard (distance between rest areas after first 1600m) supports the universal design approach and was created with a combination of research and individual staff experience on trails in a rehab environment
 - On a difficult trail, (A slope threshold of greater than 4%) would require a bench every 400m (+ or – 50m based on obstructions and obstacles)
 - Important to keep maintenance expenses in mind throughout this process
 - Only applies to secondary off-road trails, not primary
 - Primary trail: has a defined destination
 - Concern raised about a rehab scope trail based on staging area bench location and the distance travelled to the trail not being taken into account eg. From an individual's home to the trail entry not considered
 - Idea raised that there be designated rehab trails
 - Entry point/exit point definition to be deferred until entry/staging area is clearly defined in trails master plan
 - Exit point based on parking location
- c. Motion from Sub-Committee regarding rest areas on secondary off-road trails – **For Recommendation** – Julia Phillips, Leanne Warren, Janet Sperling, Helen White

Table caption: The table rates the slope of the trail as a measure of difficulty noting either easy or difficult. Therefore the table shows the slope threshold is less than or equal to 4% as an easy trail would require a bench at minimum 150 meters (400 feet), a slope threshold of less than or equal to 4% as an easy trail over 1600 meters from an entry would require a bench at minimum 250 meters (900 feet); and a slope threshold over 4% as difficult trail would require a minimum a bench every 400 meters (1200 feet). The minimum distance between rest areas has a + or – distance of 50 meters to allow staff to take into account slopes, trees and other obstacles along the trails.

Secondary off-road trail distance between rest areas with a bench as per the FADM

Slope/Trail Difficulty	Minimum Distance Between Rest Areas \pm 50 meters
\leq 4% Easy trail	Every 150 meters (400 feet)
\leq 4% Easy trail over 1600 meters from entry	Every 250 meters (900 feet)
$>$ 4% Difficult trail	Every 400 meters (1200 feet)

- Motion: The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) recommends that the above table with caption be used in calculating the distance between rest areas on new and renovated secondary off-road trails throughout city lands. By April 30, 2017 the AAC will review this standard and adjust as the committee sees appropriate resulting in a new recommendation at that time.
 - Motion by Michael
 - Seconded by Sarah
 - Carried
- d. Victoria Park Village trail rest areas – **For Discussion** – Julia Phillips, Leanne Warren, Janet Sperling, Helen White
 - Important to consider responsible dog owning and include a garbage bin near the rest area
 - As per the City’s Facility Accessibility Design Manual, a slope over 5% is considered a ramp however railing are not required and in fact pose a hazard for many bicycle trail users. As a reference, the current POA Court (old city hall) ramp is 5% slope
 - Table mentioned earlier (distance between rest areas) would be created as accessibility guidelines for developer

4:05 to 4:10 Item 4

Guelph Mobility: Changes to AAC Contact Person - **For Information** – Leanne Warren

- The current supervisor of Mobility has left the City
- It is expected that the City will have a new supervisor of mobility services in June.

4:10 to 4:20 Item 5

Update of Travel Training Pilot Program – **For Discussion** – Sam McFarlane

- Several examples of organizations who may have people who are interested in the program were given:
 - Guelph Lions Club
 - Royal City CNIB picnic-flyer participants
 - Option for CNIB or a volunteer
 - new university students through the Centre for Students with Disabilities
 - 1460 C-joy free advertising
 - Social media outlets

- Retirement complexes, low income
- Focus on information sessions versus flyers or other forms of marketing when it comes to Guelph Independent Living
- KidsAbility travel training program to be researched further

4:20 to 4:30 Item 6

Request to Meet with the Mayor – **For Discussion** – Brad Howcroft, Julian Phillips, Jason Dodge, Brooke Sillaby

- Topics that are important to the AAC
 - In favor of the bike lanes on Woodlawn as well as future bike lanes
 - The committee has been able to help educate the development industry in our community on the requirements of the AODA design of public spaces through review and commenting on site plans
 - The committee is currently working with Park's Planning staff on the consultations that are required under the AODA design of public spaces such as rest areas on trails, play structure equipment, etc.
 - The committee has worked with transit regarding the update of the Mobility application
- The committee is concerned about:
 - Affordable housing and hope that "accessible" affordable housing could be considered
 - The use of roundabouts is important to talk about as they are not considered accessible and come up in traffic plans from time to time
- Mayor's vision for the AAC in 5 or 10 years?
- Topics mentioned above were accepted by the committee

4:30 to 4:40 Item 7

Resources such as wheelchairtraveling.com and AccessNow – **For Discussion** – Leanne Warren

- Wheelchairtravelling.com and AccessNow are websites where people who use the site populate it with their impression of accessibility
- Wheelchairtravelling.com seeking local southwestern Ontario feedback
- Michael, Julia, Brad, Ruth and Leanne to meet with tourism to see if there are opportunities to populate these websites and promote through Guelph Tourism

4:40 to 4:50 Item 8

Review of Accessibility and Encroachments (Downtown Sidewalks) – **For Discussion** – Leanne Warren, Michael Greer, Sarah Matheson and Julian Murphy

- A group was selected to review the past recommendation regarding encroachments and the accessible route that needs to remain on municipal sidewalks
- There are businesses who are not following the past recommendation and has been difficult for people to maneuver through

- Clearly labeled boundaries for businesses to put patios outside of their business are not being followed
- Downtown group walk chosen to get a better idea of what needs to be addressed

4:50 to 5:00 Item 9

Outstanding Items from Previous Agenda – **For Discussion** – Leanne Warren

- Things that still need to be consulted on
 - See attached

Meeting adjourned 5:05

June Agenda Items:

Site Plan Sub-Committee Report

Next Meeting:

June 21, 2016 from 3 – 5 p.m. City Hall 112