



**City of Kingston  
Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee  
Meeting Number 03-2024  
Minutes**

**Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.  
Hosted at City Hall in Council Chamber**

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**Committee Members Present**

Aimee Burtch, Chair  
Councillor Tozzo  
Mercedes Augustyn  
Penny Bennett  
Dorothyanne Brown  
Regan Buccioli  
Dinah Cotter  
Susan Mockler  
Andrea Palmer Nash  
Megan Quin  
Aldo Ramirez

**Regrets**

Amanda Amesse  
Chantaille Buczynski  
Andrea Fitzgerald  
Rene Hart

**Staff Members Present**

Amy Elgersma, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services  
Tony Gargaro, Manager, Recreation Services  
Danika Lochhead, Acting Director, Arts & Culture Services  
Derek Ochej, Deputy City Clerk

Christine O'Connor, Committee Clerk

**Others Present**

There were members of the public present.

**This is not a verbatim report.**

**Meeting to Order**

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

**Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Tozzo

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. Augustyn

Seconded by Ms. Cotter

**That** the minutes of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Number 02-2024, held on March 7, 2024, be approved.

**Carried**

**Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were none.

**Delegations**

There were none.

## Briefings

- a) Amy Elgersma, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services and Tony Gargaro, Manager, Recreation Services, were present and spoke to the Committee regarding the 2023 Recreation Services & Recreation Facilities Update.

Ms. Elgersma and Mr. Gargaro conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2023 Recreation Services & Recreation Facilities Update. A copy of the presentation is available upon request through the City Clerk's Department.

Ms. Cotter asked what changes would be made to the accessible parking spaces. Ms. Elgersma explained that the accessible parking spaces would be wider and have additional markings to indicate they are for accessible vans.

Ms. Mockler noted that there were great accessible swimming programs for kids and youth but ones for adults seemed to be lacking. She added that it would be beneficial to move these inclusive programs beyond children up to adults and seniors with disabilities.

Councillor Tozzo asked for elaboration on the services that Bloom Skills is offering at the Via Rail station. Mr. Gargaro explained that the plan for this initiative is to use Centre 70 café as an initial training site for participants, then move to the Kingston Community Health Centre for further training. He added that following this training, they would have paid employment at the Via Rail station cafe. He noted that the group would pay rent for their café space at the Via Rail station.

Ms. Quin asked if the access aisles would be updated from accessible points of entry for those not using vehicles. She noted that the parking lot at Artillery Park does not provide much accessibility for pedestrians to enter the building. Ms. Elgersma confirmed that there is time to make changes to the site plan and these comments could be taken into consideration. She asked if there was a specific site that Ms. Quin had in mind.

## **Business**

### **a) 2023 Recreation Services & Recreation Facilities Update**

This report was introduced through Briefing a).

There were no more questions from the Committee.

The Chair provided an opportunity for members of the public to speak.

Michael Judd inquired about free parking for residents with disabilities in Kingston and when this item would return to the Committee. Mr. Ochej confirmed that there were no representatives from Parking Operations at the meeting to speak to this issue and noted that questions must be relevant to the Report

Ms. Mockler asked for details regarding the process of consultation on different City projects such as the synthetic ice rink that was installed in Market Square for the month of April. Mr. Ochej stated that there is a process called the Accessible Consultation Process Policy that staff are encouraged to follow which involves the creation of Project Teams made up of members of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee to provide feedback to staff on City projects. He noted that he did not have specific information for the synthetic ice rink but added that work is being undertaken to encourage partnering organizations to conduct consultation in advance so that accessibility concerns are taken into consideration.

### **b) Arts & Culture Services Updates**

Ms. Lochhead provided an overview of the Arts & Culture Service Update.

Ms. Quin asked about accessibility considerations for mobility devices and users of non-typical bicycles to access the Grand Theatre. She asked if the City had an ongoing partnership with the Kingston Coalition for Active Transportation (KCAT) and if the bike parking project would occur again. Ms. Lochhead acknowledged that the Grand Theatre is a challenge and noted that there are no current plans to do work on the access points to the building. She stated that there is a work plan for the parking spaces behind the Grand Theatre and that she would work with staff on that project to update the Committee. She added that accessibility consideration had been taken into account in planning for the designated solar eclipse viewing areas such as Grass Creek Park and that efforts would be made to make this a mandatory consideration for Arts & Culture events. She stated that she did not have information regarding the status of the partnership with KCAT and the bike parking project but added that she would follow up with staff regarding that question.

The Chair provided an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions.

Michael Judd commented that access to the Grand Theatre is very difficult for individuals with disabilities.

**c) Accessibility Office Update – Q1 2024**

Mr. Ochej provided an overview of the Accessibility Office Update – Q1 2024.

Ms. Quin asked about the ability to take further review of the site plan control guidelines and by-law recommended changes for 2024. Mr. Ochej noted that the Site Plan Review Project Team is in place as this is a complex issue. He added that Ms. Mockler is the lead of that group and that they could discuss the potential for a meeting to be held with Planning Services staff to provide more information and receive feedback in a non-formal setting.

Ms. Brown noted that May is also Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month and red is the colour associated with that cause. She added that the meeting with Planning Services staff to provide more information on the site plan control guidelines and by-law changes would be helpful.

Councillor Tozzo asked about inquiries and whether follow-up questions to previous inquiries would be included in the count for new inquiries. Mr. Ochej confirmed that the tracking system does not include follow-up questions as a new inquiry.

The Chair provided an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions. There were no questions from members of the public.

**d) Project Team Appointments**

Moved by Councillor Tozzo

Seconded by Dinah Cotter

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

- i. An Gorta Mor Park Pathway Improvements: Penny Bennett, Regan Bucciol

**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 scheduled for Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Ms. Bucciol

Seconded by Ms. Brown

**That** the meeting of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee adjourn at 1:44 p.m.

**Carried**