



City of Kingston
Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee
Minutes

05-2024
September 5, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Hosted in a virtual, electronic format

Members Present: Aimee Burtch, Chair
 Councillor Tozzo
 Mercedes Augustyn
 Dorothyanne Brown
 Regan Bucciol
 Chantaille Buczynski
 Dinah Cotter
 Andrea Fitzgerald
 Susan Mockler
 Andrea Palmer Nash
 Megan Quin
 Aldo Ramirez

Regrets Amanda Amesse
 Penny Bennett

Staff Present: Derek Ochej, Deputy City Clerk
 Christine O'Connor, Committee Clerk

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Tozzo

Seconded by: Ms. Brown

That the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by: Councillor Tozzo

Seconded by: Ms. Cotter

That the minutes of Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Number 04-2024, be approved.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were none.

5. Delegations

There were none.

6. Briefings

There were none.

7. Business

1. Accessibility Standards Policy

Mr. Ochej provided an overview of the report, highlighting that the report was divided into two sections. He noted that the first section included dense legal wording and the second section focused on the best practices and implementation of City policy to reach the requirements under the provincial legislation. He added that this policy is to ensure the City of Kingston meets the minimum standards regarding accessibility legislation and does not preclude the City from going above and beyond to reach the highest level of accessibility and inclusion possible. He stated that it is staff's intention to develop a training program that will focus on best practices and customer service.

Ms. Quin complimented the formatting of the new policy, noting that it's more referenceable than the previous policy.

There were no other comments from the Committee.

The Chair provided an opportunity for members of the public to speak. There were no members of the public present.

Moved by: Councillor Tozzo

Seconded by: Ms. Bucciol

That the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend to Council:

That the current Accessibility Standards Policy, approved by Council in 2013, be rescinded, and the proposed Accessibility

Standards Policy, attached as Exhibit A to Report Number MAAC-24-012, be approved, and

That the City of Kingston Notice of Temporary Service Disruption Policy be rescinded.

Carried as Amended

Moved by: Ms. Cotter

Seconded by: Ms. Palmer-Nash

That the current Accessibility Standards Policy, approved by Council in 2013, be rescinded, and the proposed Accessibility Standards Policy, attached as Exhibit A to Report Number MAAC-24-012, be amended as follows:

On page 25 of 49, in the first paragraph under the heading Service Animals, deleting “Service animals may also provide assistance to persons with post-traumatic stress disorder, epilepsy, autism spectrum disorder and a variety of other disabilities, both visible and invisible.” and replacing with “Service animals may provide assistance to persons with a variety of disabilities, both visible and invisible, such as medical response, mobility assistance, hearing, and combinations thereof.”

On page 26 of 49, deleting the second paragraph and replacing with the following: “If an animal is properly, regardless of status, the best practice is to allow access to the facility. If an animal is not behaving in a professional manner staff do have the ability to request a handler provide documentation of their service animal’s status from on of the professionals listed below. Note, people may be visiting from outside of Ontario where documentation requirements may differ. Residents of Ontario require the following documentation:

That the City of Kingston Notice of Temporary Service Disruption Policy be rescinded.

Carried

2. Accessibility Office Update - Q2 2024

Mr. Ochej provided an overview of the report, highlighting the increase in statistics regarding accessibility inquiries. He noted parking and recreation facilities as two of the city services that have seen the largest increase in reporting barriers that exist. He stated that it is important that these barriers are being reported so that they can be addressed and added that the increasing numbers indicate there is still work that needs to be done.

He added that the Accessibility Features Map is now available on the City of Kingston website.

Ms. Quin inquired about the functionality of the forward-facing interactive map. She noted that when the map is zoomed-out, it can be difficult to see all of the features. She asked if features could be grouped contextually so that certain categories could be selected and unselected for ease of viewing and reading. Mr. Ochej stated that could be opportunities to build in filters and layers. He added that he would provide an update in the next quarterly report.

Ms. Brown noted a lack of features outside of the downtown area on the Accessibility Features Map. She inquired about the reasoning for this. She further inquired about the possibility of merging with Access Now. Mr. Ochej explained that many of the facilities are in the downtown core but added that there would be more updates and that he would be happy to take suggestion from the Committee on additions to the map. He noted that a collaboration with Access Now could be explored.

Ms. Palmer-Nash inquired about the possibility of Committee members assisting with reporting back on accessibility features at facilities outside of the downtown core to add to the map. Mr. Ochej noted this idea for mapping future parks and facilities.

The Chair provided an opportunity for members of the public to speak. There were no members of the public present.

3. Appointments to Project Teams

Moved by: Ms. Mockler
Seconded by: Ms. Augustyn

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

Carried

1. Aberdeen Street Reconstruction

Dinah Cotter

2. Small Dog Park Areas

Regan Buccioli, Andrea Palmer-Nash

8. Motions

There were none.

9. Notices of Motion

There were none.

10. Other Business

11. Correspondence

There was none.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment

Moved by: Ms. Bucciol

Seconded by: Ms. Palmer-Nash

That the meeting of the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee adjourn at 1:30 p.m.

Carried