

Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee

Meeting held November 18, 2021

A meeting of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee is held this day commencing at 10:00 o'clock a.m. via Zoom video conference, there being present the following members:

Sally Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair
Peter Best, Co-Chair
Councillor Ed Sleiman
Sheila McCabe
Ricardo Pappini
Nicholas Petro

Regrets received from:

Surendra Bagga

Guest in attendance:

Joy Mayerhofer

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Gayle Jones, Accessibility/Diversity Officer
Katie Pavlovski, Community Development Coordinator
James Scott, Manager Parks Operations
Lauren Robinet, Order of Business Coordinator
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

S. Bennett Olczak, Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 10:01 o'clock a.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. Declaration of Conflict

R. Pappini discloses an interest on Item 4.5 as a family member is employed at Huron Lodge.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by R. Pappini,
That the minutes of the minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee
of its meeting held September 14, 2021 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 Alexander Park

James Scott, Manager Parks Operations appears before the Committee and provides the following comments relating to Alexander Park:

- He refers to “Sandy’s Point” (Memorial for Sandra Friesen, former member of WAAC) and the initiative for a commemorative bench
- In terms of adding a bench at Alexander Park, there are two different styles – one is a wood/metal bench and the other is a pure metal bench.
- Three different styles of picnic tables are shown which are all made from recycled plastic material. One has an opening from an accessibility perspective; the second picnic table has side entry, which would be placed on a pad in the northwest corner of the park, and the last one is a metal network, which has an opening for accessibility.

R. Pappini advises that he prefers the circular options of picnic tables as it allows more points of access; is more inclusive and brings people in closer for a sense of community. He adds that there may be more options available to allow for more points of access.

Councillor Sleiman asks if the chosen location will be convenient for everyone.

J. Scott indicates that the sidewalk at that location dead-ends at that point.

P. Best, responds that the pathway at the far northwest corner is clean, open and quiet so consideration was given to this location for the commemorative bench.

The Chair adds that is a beautiful corner of the park with a quiet, peaceful view across the river to Detroit.

G. Jones asks Administration to provide the dollar points for the various options.

J. Scott responds that the cement pad is \$5,000 for 450 square feet of cement, the picnic table option is approximately \$3,500 and the wood/metal bench is \$650 and the pure metal bench is \$1,300.

P. Best refers to a shared agreement with the Parks Department and adds that WAAC would assume the cost of the accessible picnic table and a commemorative bench and would request that the Parks Department provide the installation of the cement pad.

Moved by P. Best, seconded by R. Pappini,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$5,000 from the 2021 WAAC Operating budget for the purchase and installation of a metal commemorative bench with a plaque and an accessible black circular picnic table with umbrella in Alexander Park; that the Parks Department install the bench dedicated to Sandra Friesen at the agreed upon location and further that the Parks Department cover the cost of installing the concrete slab.

Carried.

In response to a question asked by the Chair regarding if signage can be provided that identifies “Sandy’s Point”, J. Scott responds that there is a Council Policy on naming areas.

R. Pappini notes that the proposal for the location is quite a distance from the neighbours to the west, and asks if they need to be consulted as there may be an increase of pedestrians in that area.

J. Scott advises that as a courtesy they will mention this to the neighbours.

P. Best requests that the Parks Department apprise and consult with WAAC on any future developments at Alexander Park.

G. Jones states that at this time, the following accessibility enhancements have taken place at Alexander Park:

- A line has been painted along the sidewalk and signage erected along the rails at the river to remind folks, including individuals who are fishing, to allow space for blind persons walking
- Reflective stripes have been placed around the recycling and refuse containers
- The benches at the end of the pathway have been painted yellow to allow for more colour contrast
- In memory of Sandra Friesen, there will be a commemorative bench and an accessible picnic table and pad.

4.2 Black Oak Heritage Park Accessibility Update

In terms of a rest area at Black Oak Heritage Park, as requested by J. Mayerhofer, citizen, J. Scott refers to a large piece of boulder (the flat side would be the seat) that

would match the natural landscape and could be installed in the park when the ground firms up.

P. Best advises that this is a natural rock which will be located halfway along the trail.

G. Jones indicates that the rock or boulder is of the correct height from an accessibility standard and is a good option for this park given the nature of the trail. She adds that there is no cost to the Committee for the placement of this rock.

Moved by R. Pappini, seconded by S. McCabe,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to the placement of a stone bench in Black Oak Heritage Park, the cost of which to be borne by the Parks Department at a location agreeable to the Parks Department and a WAAC appointed representative.

Carried.

G. Jones thanks Joy Mayerhofer for bringing this accessibility issue to WAAC.

The Chair thanks the Parks Department for their assistance in this matter.

4.3 Audio Pedestrian Signals Update

Background information from Shawna Boakes, Acting Director of Operations is read aloud.

P. Best advises that he was hoping to have more confirmation on some projects. He states there is an example on Lauzon Road at Cedarview where there is a crosswalk where you can push the button and a yellow light for yield comes on indicating that traffic should be aware of a person crossing and that it would be safe to cross. It appears that this system could be viable but are in the process of tweaking it.

4.4 Farrow Riverside Miracle Park – Grand Opening May 14 or 15, 2022

P. Best reports that he has represented WAAC for the past four years on the development of the Farrow Riverside Miracle Park which is a baseball diamond for accessible play, has a track and an accessible playground. This group has had a number of challenges including not being able to open since 2020 due to COVID. He states that the Grand Opening is slated for May 14, 2022 or May 15, 2022 (rain date). The Farrow Riverside Miracle Park is requesting support to kick off this event.

Moved by P. Best, seconded by S. McCabe,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$3,000 from the WAAC 2021 Operating Budget for the sponsorship of the Farrow Riverside Miracle Park Grand Opening.

Carried.

N. Petro asks if a plan is in place for the \$3,000 expenditure should the event be delayed or cancelled.

P. Best responds that this funding will support the Grand Opening when it occurs.

4.5 WAAC 2021 Operating Budget

P. Best reports that the Windsor Public Library (WPL) wants to continue in their support of individuals to acquire accessible material for reading devices. The WPL is requesting financial assistance to acquire.

Moved by P. Best, S. McCabe,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$2,300 from the WAAC 2021 Operating Budget for the purchase of equipment and/or devices as determined by the Windsor Public Library to assist library users with disabilities and further, that a representative from the WPL **BE REQUESTED** to attend a future meeting of WAAC to present on the positive impacts of the donation enhancing accessibility items for users in their facilities.

Carried.

In response to a question asked by R. Pappini regarding if the library disclosed what the funds will be used for, P. Best responds that the funds will be utilized to support their accessibility program.

G. Jones remarks that the pandemic has been very difficult on our Huron Lodge residents, and they do not have extra funds to enhance accessibility in their facility. As one example, she refers to the Chrysalis project which is a person-centred program in order to create a supportive environment to support healthy aging. This project reduces isolation by encouraging social participation of the residents that have a mental health diagnosis or symptoms of dementia. Huron Lodge is looking to expand this project to the rest of the Home by adding door decals to their rooms.

Moved by S. McCabe, seconded by P. Best,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$2,000 from the WAAC 2021 Operating Budget for the purchase of equipment, programs or technology as determined by Huron Lodge to assist residents with disabilities, and further that a representative from Huron Lodge attend a future meeting to present on the positive impacts of the donation for enhancing accessibility for residents at their facility.

Carried.

R. Pappini discloses an interest and abstains from voting.

5. Other Business

In response to a question asked by P. Best regarding the status of the accessible playgrounds, it is suggested that a representative from Parks attend the next meeting.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 11:27 o'clock a.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR