

2018 Annual Report

In addition to fulfilling the ongoing requirements set out in the AODA and the IASR as per the legislated deadlines:

Acknowledgment of passing of 3 Committee members during last term:

- The Committee lost a number of valuable members over this term and they paid honour to the dedication and good work that these members did to advocate and help increase accessibility in our community. The members who passed away during this last term are as follows:

Wayne Meneguzzi– Long time chair and member of WAAC and community advocate (Feb 2016)

Bob Williams – One term member of WAAC and community advocate (Feb 2018)

Sandra Friesen- Long time member of WAAC and community advocate (May 2018)

Built Environment

- Ongoing support to engineering in their work to update corporate accessibility standards
- Providing ongoing support--audits and expertise regarding other City Facilities and properties
- Advocated for future purchase of test /education unit to train/educate individuals on the proper use of APS and the reasons why APS are important and needed in our community. This is as a follow up to our recent development of a City of Windsor APS standard.
- The Committee discussed the concept of including sensory gardens in some of the City parks especially one such as Alexander Park which is located across from the Lions Manor. Sensory gardens allow everyone to enjoy the wonderful features of the garden as they engage and stimulate the senses to enhance the experience. Such gardens utilize additions such as plants that will provide delightful scents and attract songbirds, plants and trees that one can touch, and a tectural surface under foot The purpose is to maximize the sensory impact that the garden has on its visitors. The Committee requested that the Manager, Parks Development or a representative be invited to attend the next meeting of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee to discuss the concept of a sensory



garden along with all accessibility options to be considered for inclusion in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

- Working with the project lead of the New City Hall Project to provide input, advice and funding for 50% of the invoiced work for the installation of twenty-three (23) new door operators, push buttons, wiring, door strikes and programming into the access control system with the location of the doors/push buttons as recommended by the Accessibility/Diversity Officer to an upset limit of \$69,000 from the Capital Project 7086008 (Accessibility Fund) **BE APPROVED** and further, that a plaque acknowledging the contribution by the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee and City Council **BE ERECTED**.
- The Committee requested an accessibility review of the new city hall and they conducted the first portion of that review just prior to their last meeting of the year. They requested an additional tour, conducted by the Project Administrator, be scheduled in the near future to finalize the remainder of the review.
- The committee received an indepth presentation from the Miracle Park Committee and members of administration regarding the Miracle Park project. The vision for the Park includes:
 - accessible pathways
 - accessible washroom/change room facilities with lift and adjustable adult change table
 - new water wheelchairs and chair lift for the pool
 - accessible playground
 - greater park connections to all amenities including accessible markings
 - accessible rest areas throughout park
 - improvements to the parking lots with a new formalized park drop off zone

Administration and the Miracle Park Committee, along with the written support of dozens of community partners, submitted an application for a Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities Accessibility Grant. The committee provided a letter of support and agreed to an expenditure from the Capital Project 7086008 (Accessibility Fund) in the upset amount of \$100,000 **BE APPROVED** for the purchase of accessible amenities for the Miracle Park Project subject to the successful award of the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities Accessibility Grant, that a plaque **BE**

ERECTED acknowledging the contribution by the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee and City Council.

As the grant submission was not obtained, the Committee provided input and advice to the groups regarding the project and one of the co-chairs of WAAC, Peter Best, has attended planning meetings with the group to assist with input and advice regarding accessibility best practices.

The Committee has encouraged that the groups consider future grant applications and to return to the committee in the future with an alternate funding application.

- The Committee provided additional support to the Farrow Riverside Miracle Park project as they matched donations up to an upset amount of \$1500 at the recent event at the Aquatic Centre that celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.



- The Committee provided input to Transit Windsor on accessibility best practices and as a result of relevant input, and a presentation by a Windsor resident, made a motion as follows: That CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN to amending the Corporation of the City of Windsor Winter Control Service Level Policy, subsections 5.7.10 and 5.8.11 as follows “In consultation with Transit Windsor, Priority 1 and 2 bus stops will be cleared for accumulations of over 15 cm (6 inches) of snow” to lower the amount of snow accumulation for removal to assist those of all physical abilities at bus stops and further, that the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee be formally consulted for their input in this matter.



- Following this, Administration responsible for snow removal were to follow up regarding WAAC's recommendation regarding snow removal at bus stops.
- To address ongoing concerns that require immediate attention-Approval of an expenditure from the Capital Project 7086008 (Accessibility Fund) in the upset amount of \$15,000.00 BE APPROVED for the use of accessibility discretionary expenses as they arise, with an upset limit of \$5,000.00 per occurrence.

Information and Communication

- Purchase of Common Look Office and pdf to assist with accessibility remediations
- Ongoing Corporate Web Governance meetings to include Accessibility and planning for legislative requirements
- Additional training for key staff on creating accessible documents
- Review of remaining pdf's on website to develop plan for optimizing accessibility, and meeting Jan 1, 2021 deadline. Determine which pdf's should be eliminated, which ones require ongoing accessible templates and staff training, or one time remediation.

Transportation

- The Committee approved a Transportation Subcommittee to review accessible public transportation, including taxis, and provide required input and suggestions for improvement (including input on the proportion of on-demand accessible taxicabs required in the community).
- Transportation- Advocated for further accessibility improvements for patrons of Transit Windsor and to get disability advocate representation on the Transit Windsor Board.

Employment

- The Committee received a presentation by Kevin McShan and provided input and advice regarding the request to subscribe to the Discover Ability Network. The Committee passed the following motion: That the Corporation of the City of Windsor BE REQUESTED to consider subscribing to the Discover Ability Network for the purpose of hiring people with disabilities as they represent an untapped talent pool that can help fuel innovative growth and a measured return on investment.



- This Committee recommendation received the endorsement of Council and the Human Resources Department is currently working with the company to finalize the subscription.
- The Committee provided funding in the upset amount of \$7,000 to host Mr. Warren Macdonald, Keynote Speaker who in February 2003, became the first double amputee to reach the summit of Africa's tallest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro.
- The City of Windsor Workforce Census was conducted in at the end of 2018 and 1,000 city staff provided responses to the detailed survey. In 2019 the results were summarized and finalized and provided to Council. There were questions in the survey relating to disabilities within the Corporation (including mental health related) and if accommodations were being provided. The responses to this survey now means that useful data is available regarding these areas.

General requirements and Accessible Customer Service

- The Committee had a public discussion and planning session regarding accessibility planning priorities for the Accessibility Plan.
- Adoption of the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative and Multi year Accessibility Plan 2018-2022
- Commenced implementation of Phase one of the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative and Multi-year Accessibility Plan component.
- Commence process for creating Phase 2 of the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative (Community component)
- Continue with required training as per IASR
- The Committee received input as to the accessibility concerns and compliments received through 311 as part of accessibility consultation and input.



- The Committee discussed their desire to acknowledge long term commitment to the committee and they agreed to the purchase of a Commemorative Bench and a Commemorative Tree to honour two deceased members who had a long term commitment and devoted great deal of time and energy to the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee. (Sandra Friesen, former member of WAAC and Wayne Memnneguzzi, former chair and member of WAAC.
- \$5,000 (from the Capital Fund – Accessibility) was provided for the purchase of devices to enhance accessibility and begin the creation of an accessible hub in our library system.
- Encouraging use of recreation facilities by person with disabilities- promotion and education campaign
- Going forward-Determine and implement Project follow up requirements for new funding applications
- Community Development- Review and provide accessibility input for new developments and renovations
- Sport and Leisure- Continued focus on increasing accessibility in city parks (such as Cullen Field and Alexander Park), increase sporting opportunities/programs for persons with disabilities and promote accessibility features that we already have in our parks and facilities
- Providing Support/Sponsorship of Windsor/Essex Accessibility Awards and Community Accessibility events