



Burlington Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: October 10, 2024
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Hybrid meeting- Virtual and Room 247 City Hall

1. Members Present:

Don Prescott, Ken Harris, Cheryl Hurst, Pat Debly, Garth Napier, Deb Strum, Jill Randall, David Quezada, Brian Sylvester

2. Member Regrets:

Councillor Sharman, Adam Spencer, David Owen

3. Others Present:

Kaylan Edgcumbe (Manager, Integrated Mobility), Judi Lytle (Accessibility Specialist), Suzanne Gillies (Clerk)

4. Land Acknowledgement:

The Land Acknowledgement was read.

5. Declarations of Interest:

None

6. Approval of Minutes:

7. Delegation(s):

None

8. Regular Items:

8.1 Downtown Parking project - Kaylan Edgcumbe (Manager, Integrated Mobility)

Kaylan provided a presentation regarding the Downtown Parking plan (presentation attached). Judi confirmed that the link to the survey was previously sent to the committee.

The committee had the following questions and/or comments:

(Q) Is parking during special events included in the scope of the project?

(A) Yes, there are many events taking place downtown. Feel that there is missed revenue opportunities during events since parking is free during many events. Most people are coming from out of town for major events, local residents are encouraged to use shuttles, walking, alternate transportation options. Better wayfinding during events is an option as well, this is not limited to physical signage, but could include online apps that can direct people to available parking near by.

(Q) Is this an opportunity through this review to implement some additional standards in regard to accessible parking, for example the placement and design of automated payment kiosks and having all accessible spaces be type A? (A) Yes, absolutely. Staff is hoping to get standards in place that will be implemented downtown, then potentially implemented city wide.

Judi stated that many of recommendations in the Design of Public Spaces Standards review are things that the City started to undertake in 2016 and have already incorporated them in regular business.

MOTION: Approve the submission on behalf of BAAC of recommendations regarding the Downtown Parking project if the majority of the committee members agree to any of the recommendations in the Design of Public Spaces Standards review related to parking. CARRIED

8.2 Food for Feedback debrief

The committee discussed the Food for Feedback event and provided the following feedback:

- there was not as much traffic in booth area as last year, some additional signage could be helpful to find the path to the booths
- Cheryl compiled comments/feedback received and shared that with Judi who has added the comments to feedback received at other engagement opportunities
- Garth asked about seeing results from the 2023 and 2024 Food for Feedback events. Judi answered that she is waiting for direction on if she is able to release the information.

8.3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)

Cheryl provided the following updates regarding IDPD:

- communication has been sent to all the contacts that she has, but please forward to any connections you have with the school boards

Suzanne has made the request for the flag raising on December 3, 2024, still waiting for the time to be confirmed.

8.4 Workplan working group update

Jill provided the following updates regarding the workplan:

- the working group strategy is to first look at what the community is saying which is what generated some of the questions and emails that you may have been seeing, the voice of the community is critically important to ensure that the committee is doing what the community needs/wants
- looking at reference materials including recommendations made by other formal experts in the area of standards and AODA legislation
- trying to answer the questions: what are we going to do, why are we doing this, what are the steps we will take, what does success look like, what is the impact
- working on a document that will outline the committee mandate, aligns with the priorities of the City, and has the voice of the community
- looking for feedback from all members of the committee once we present the path forward, does it feel right to you? what are your thoughts
- planning to have something to the committee in December/January but working within any deadlines for Council approval

8.5 Request for additional accessible parking in an existing lot - Judi

Judi provided the following information to the committee in response to a members request for information regarding obtaining additional accessible parking in an existing private parking lot (specifically at the at 3465 Fairview Street adjacent to the new Kawartha Dairy).

- the parking for that site was approved many years ago when it was first developed
- the city has no mechanism to require a business to create additional accessible parking beyond what was previously approved

- Judi followed up with the zoning examiner to try to get better language to explain the zoning process for a property, his response was 'When a site is developed or it is expanded (building is increased) or redeveloped, a site plan application is submitted for review, in the instance of 3465 Fairview the site was developed prior to 1985 when there were no requirements for accessible parking whatsoever. We cannot require or force someone to put in an accessible barrier free space outside of the formal application process, where it is technically not required by the zoning by-law and zoning cannot dictate where the accessible spaces go, as there is no regulation in the zoning by-law for that.'
- the committee member has done all the right things by approaching the business owner to express his concerns, yet it has not resulted in a change

Brian asked that as an advisory committee could they not advise Council to make updating accessible parking a requirement when the need increases and exceeds the availability. Legacy should not supersede the needs of people needing access accessible parking. This is not the only parking lot that is older that needs improved accessible parking.

Ken commented that although it would be great if Council would take the advice to update accessible parking in older lots, could it not trigger a domino effect regarding other infrastructure that is older and not accessible, many buildings in the downtown are not accessible to mobility devices.

Pat reminded Brian that he can go to Council to delegate as a resident.

Garth asked if this could be part of the recommendations we are reviewing to forward to Kalyan? Suzanne suggested that they be kept separate as the parking lot in question is not Downtown.

Brian to send a summary on what exactly he would like to see changed, not specific to the 3465 Fairview parking lot, but in general for all out of date parking lots, Suzanne will follow up to see where staff are at in regards to the zoning by-law review project.

The committee is interested in a zoning 101, beginner info session on how the zoning by-law works.

8.6 #RespectTheSpace update

Judi advised the committee that the RespectTheSpace brochure has been updated and looks really great. If you feel comfortable, grab a handful and

keep them handy and help to educate people who are parking in accessible parking spots without a permit. Another positive note, Stephen Camm, Supervisor, Municipal Parking Operations has taken the artwork from the updated brochure to recreate a communication piece that is now being stapled to a ticket when an infraction is being made. Big win!

Judi will bring brochures to the next meeting for members that are interested in taking some.

8.7 Coordinators report - Judi

Judi provided the following update:

- working on providing comments to the zoning by-law review regarding accessibility
- upcoming Ministry of Seniors' and Accessibility AAC forum is back on the table, it was supposed to be on October 4, 2024 but was postponed, date to be determined

8.8 Updates from committees:

a. Seniors' Advisory Committee - Jill

Jill provided the following updates:

- Director of Burlington Transit provided a presentation, issues related to accessibility were 1) advocacy to ensure drivers do not move until riders are safely seated and secured and 2) the city is acquiring two more specialized transit vehicles, booking currently required to be done two weeks prior to the need which can be a barrier for those that need to get to a last minute dr. appointment, or a quick opportunity to attend a social event.

b. Inclusivity Advisory Committee - Don

Don provided the following updates:

- discussion regarding feedback from the Food for Feedback event and what the committee would do with the information
- worked on the 2024 workplan

c. Integrated Transportation Advisory Committee - Pat

Pat provided the following updates:

- talked about a cycling survey the committee is working on

- Food for Feedback comments not specific to accessibility, but in general related to safety
- discussing transportation safety for elementary school children, hoping to send a survey to parents regarding safety around getting to and from school
- Ken asked if Pat could bring it back to the committee the question of if a CNIB card could be used to get approval to use the specialized transit

9. Other Business:

Judi advised the committee that the province silently release the recommendation for the customer service standards changes today. Feedback is being received until January 9, 2025. Judi will send the link to the committee members for review. The tight timelines do not allow for time to have official comments approved by Council.

10. Adjournment:

Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.