



Committee Minutes

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee March 29, 2022 – 1:30 PM

The Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee met on the above date through electronic means with the following members participating:

Present: Dwight Burley, Catherine Sholtz, Christina Schnell, Brooke Sillaby and Andy Underwood

Regrets: Andrew Edgcumbe and Claudia Strel Locke

Municipal Representatives:

Holly Malynyk, Township of Southgate; Carly Craig, Georgian Bluffs; Jen Patton, The Blue Mountains; Melissa Hilgendorff, Town of Hanover

Staff

Present: Kathie Nunno, Administrative and Accessibility Coordinator; Heather Morrison, Clerk and Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator

Other Municipal

Attendees: Sherri Walden and Bev Fisher

Call to Order

Chair Sholtz called the meeting to order.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations made.

Site Plan Reviews

Southgate Office Space Review

Holly Malynyk and Bev Fisher addressed the Committee on the changes made in the Southgate municipal office building department.

Questions were addressed regarding access to the department. It was noted that the lower counter could be used as an accessible counter for those with assistive devices.

Plexi-glass could be installed on both the upper and lower counter.

This matter is coming to the Committee as a courtesy item.

JAAC06-22 Moved by: Brooke Sillaby

Seconded by: Christina Schnell

**That the design of the Southgate Municipal Office Building
Department be supported as designed.**

Carried

Town of Hanover – Playground Retrofits

Melissa Hilgendorff and Sherri Walden addressed the Committee. The Town of Hanover is planning to retrofit two playgrounds, Optimist Park and the Kinsmen Ball Park. The Town has received funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation to support the retrofit of the equipment at both parks.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been released and the Town is asking for feedback from the Committee to consider when reviewing responses to the RFP and during design.

Sensory and active play components will be included as well as stable ground surfaces. The Town is interested in hearing about suggestions for equipment.

The site layouts were highlighted.

It was requested that the Town send pictures to the Committee when the playground updates are complete.

Feedback from the Committee included:

- Considerations around the material used around and underneath the playground equipment to ensure the equipment and pathways are accessible
- Suggestion to reference recently retrofitted City of Guelph parks as a resource for equipment considerations, as the City has had success with recent updates
- Consideration for adaptive swings and swings that accommodate a wheelchair

Reports

CCR-JAAC-05-22 Status Report Multi – Year Accessibility Plan

Kathie Nunno addressed the above report, noting that many changes to service provision and operations during COVID have resulted in accessibility improvements. Some of the improvements are highlighted below.

Training moved online and training and job specific accessibility training charts were implemented.

The Grey County website is undergoing a current revitalization and will focus on being

accessible and compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) requirements.

Grey County staff began using Microsoft Teams just before the onset of the pandemic and work from home policies were developed.

She then highlighted improvements to the GTR service which utilizes multi-use tickets for partner agencies to provide to clients, and phone lines that are staffed rather than using an auto attendant. There are plans to acquire a dedicated wheelchair accessible vehicle for the GTR service.

With regard to the design of public spaces, Grey Roots Museum and Archives is moving forward with a gallery refresh and consulted the Committee on considerations that should be made during the design process.

Kathie Nunno then addressed improvements in Long-term Care. It was noted that amplifiers were used to enhance window visits during COVID restrictions, extensions were made to walking paths, indoor and outdoor visitor stations were implemented to allow for distancing and resident care services were permitted to be done in resident rooms.

Housing has added scooter rooms to some of its buildings which allows the hallways to remain clear. Operational changes have led to applications being available online and the implementation of telephone appointments.

Provincial Offences implemented additional on-line payment options. Justices have been accepting hearings where nobody appears in person and everything is done in writing. Electronic signatures are now accepted on trial requests, court paperwork and court documents.

Sydenham campus is being updated to meet all accessibility requirements. The Business Enterprise Centre is providing virtual training and a tourism ambassador program was established.

JAAC07-22 Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Andy Underwood

That Report CCR-JAAC-05-22 regarding the status of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan be endorsed and posted to the Accessibility page of the Grey County website.

Carried

Other Business

Markdale Hospital Update

Kathie Nunno provided an update. The Ministry of Health indicated that the Markdale hospital does not need to come to the Committee for review and the Ministry is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

Next Meeting Dates

To be determined.

On motion by Councillor Burley and Andy Underwood, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Catherine Sholtz, Chair