



Committee Minutes

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee January 17, 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, Claudia Strelocke, Brooke Sillaby and Andrew Edgcumbe

Regrets: Andy Underwood

Municipal Representatives:

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

Staff

Present: Kathie Nunno, Administrative and Accessibility Coordinator; Heather Morrison, Clerk; Stephanie Lacey-Avon, Intermediate Planner; Jill Paterson, Manager, Grey Roots Museum and Archives; Sim Salata, Curator and Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator

Other Municipal

Attendees: Mike Humphries, Shawn Carey, and Andrew Wilken

Call to Order

Heather Morrison called the meeting to order.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Heather Morrison called for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

JAAC03-22 Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Andrew Edgcumbe

That Catherine Sholtz be nominated as Chair of the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2022.

On motion by Councillor Burley, nominations closed.

Catherine Sholtz accepted the nomination and was acclaimed Chair.

JAAC04-22 Moved by: Catherine Sholtz Seconded by: Andrew Edgcumbe

That Councillor Burley be nominated as Vice Chair of the Grey

County Joint Accessibility Committee for 2022.

On motion by Brooke Sillaby, nominations closed.

Councillor Burley accepted the nomination and was acclaimed Vice Chair of the Committee for 2022.

Catherine Sholtz then assumed the Chair.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations made.

Site Plan Reviews

Arthur Street Municipal Parking Lot – Town of the Blue Mountains

Mike Humphries addressed the Committee on the Arthur Street Municipal Parking Lot in the Town of the Blue Mountains. It is accessed from Highway 26 and is located behind the TD Bank in Thornbury.

The lot will include lighting, consideration for electric vehicles, landscape design, and a pedestrian plaza is also proposed with a leisure area and picnic tables.

He provided a rendering of what the parking lot would look like upon completion.

It was noted that there are 49 standard parking spaces and 3 accessible spaces.

Municipal representatives were asked to remind staff that any site plans come with detailed reports that describe the site plans so that sufficient information is provided to the Committee.

JAAC05-22 Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Andrew Edgcumbe

That the design of the Arthur Street Municipal Parking Lot in the Town of the Blue Mountains be supported as designed.

Carried

Reports

Draft Age Friendly Community Action Plan Discussion

Stephanie Lacey-Avon addressed the Committee and guided the discussion on the draft Age Friendly Community Action Plan.

The Committee specific priorities and actions items were reviewed. They included:

- Ensuring outdoor public spaces are accessible to a wide array of ages and abilities.
- Improve accessibility of public and private buildings.
- Enhance transportation infrastructure safety for all users.
- Develop new and accessible housing units and identify incentives and programs that support housing retrofits, to ensure home quality and safety.
- Promote and strengthen existing and future partnerships with community organizations and groups to enhance socially culturally and community relevant outreach efforts
- Find ways to encourage a variety of people to come out to inclusive social events and activities
- Increase awareness around the value of cultural and social diversity, through the provision of events and education
- Diversify forms of communication and messaging to be accessible and relevant to people of all ages and capacities
- Review of strategies and practices to identify systemic barriers towards access of quality health care and community services for people of all ages and abilities.
- Strengthen partnership and capacities of existing community health and service providers
- Develop and implement strategies to diversify recruitment and retention of People of Colour, newcomers, young people, seniors, Indigenous communities, women, etc. for local employment, volunteer, and civil leadership opportunities

Discussion occurred on the Committee's role within each of the items.

Grey Roots Museum and Archives – Accessibility Considerations in the Gallery Redesign

Jill Paterson provided a presentation on the gallery redesign at Grey Roots Museum and Archives. Staff are working with a design consultant, Origin Studios, to provide a design and map out content for three new sections of the Grey County Gallery. This gallery is located to the left of the main entrance.

Origin Studios has taken their approach from the Smithsonian Guidelines for Accessible Design, the Accessibility Standards for Exhibitions from Ingenium, and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights Inclusive Design and Accessibility Guidelines. The gallery components include:

- Visitor flow and floor plan
- Exhibit walls
- Objects in Casework
- Text Panels and Object Labels

- Digital Experiences
- Hands On Activities

Feedback was provided from the Committee. Consideration should be given to the height of the digital and hands on activities to ensure everyone is able to access them.

It was noted that people can ask for assistance at any time to have a staff member describe and convey information to patrons from the exhibits.

Heritage Square Project

Andrew Wilken addressed the committee on the Heritage Square Project in the Town of Hanover. Currently, there is a concrete stage and bench seating built into the hill which is used for outdoor performances. There is no shelter and because of this, the use is limited. The Town would like to put a cover over the platform/stage to make it into a type of bandshell and perhaps build a walkway from the existing pathways and walkways within the park.

Staff are interested in initial input and considerations from the Committee. The intent isn't necessarily to put a railing around the stage because it is only about 12 inches off the ground so perhaps identification strips could be used to show that the platform ends.

Feedback was provided on what to use to warn visually impaired patrons that the edge of the platform is there.

It was noted that there is lighting for safety and security.

Staff will share upcoming designs with the Committee when they are available.

Election Accessibility Plan Discussion

One of the Grey County member municipalities asked what was needed for election plan consultation with accessibility advisory committees. Kathie Nunno has reached out to the municipal members of ONAP group (Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals) and received lots of great input.

The Township of Brock provided Grey County with a voting location accessibility checklist which is included as a reference document.

The consensus is that election accessibility plans must be presented to accessibility advisory committees for review and comment.

Other interesting approaches include:

- AAC conducts audits of the polling stations
- Consult with the AAC as the election accessibility plan is being developed

- Bradford West Gwillimbury provided: As per the Municipal Elections Act (12.1), the legislation places responsibility on the Clerk to have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities; Further, section 12.1(2) requires that a report must be submitted to Council about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities; Although our AAC discusses potential barriers, actions taken and consideration for future elections, Mrs. Nunno still completes the report and submits it to Council within 90 days of voting.
- City of Toronto shares its election accessibility plan as a living document on its election services webpage. They present the plan to AAC for information sharing and comment but note that the plan is governed by the City Clerk and the Municipal Elections Act. The link can be found [here](#)
- Orillia provided a demonstration of their voter assist terminal to the AAC prior to the election with good response.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Dates

To be determined

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

Catherine Sholtz, Chair