



Committee Minutes

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee July 13, 2022 – 1:30 PM

The Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee met on the above date electronically with the following members in attendance:

Present: Chair Catherine Sholtz; Councillor Dwight Burley; and Members Christina Schnell, Brooke Sillaby, Andrew Edgcumbe, and Andy Underwood

Regrets: Claudia Strelocke

Municipal Representatives:

Holly Malynyk, Township of Southgate; Carly Craig, Georgian Bluffs;
Genevieve Scharback, West Grey; Melissa Hilgendorff, Vicki McDonald,
and Tom Karl, Town of Hanover

Staff

Present: Kathie Nunno, Contract and Accessibility Coordinator; Tara Warder, Clerk;
and Sarah Goldrup, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator

Call to Order

Chair Catherine Sholtz called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There was none.

Election Accessibility Plans

Hanover Election Accessibility Plan (Vicki McDonald and Melissa Hilgendorff)

Vicki McDonald and Melissa Hilgendorff addressed the Committee regarding the Town of Hanover's Election Accessibility Plan and highlighted the assistance available to electors at Help Centres.

JAAC08-22 Moved by: Councillor Dwight

Seconded by: Andrew Edgcumbe

That the Town of Hanover's 2022 election accessibility plan presented for review and comment be received.

Carried

Reports

Hanover Parks: Accessible Playground Equipment Verbal Update (Melissa Hilgendorff)

Melissa Hilgendorff presented a verbal update to the Committee regarding accessible playground equipment for the Town of Hanover's ongoing playground project. Melissa Hilgendorff shared with the Committee that during this project's request for proposal, the organization Open Space Solutions presented considerations for playground accessibility. It was explained that Annex H of the *Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act, 2005*, contains guidelines for children's play spaces and equipment accessible to persons with disabilities, including recommendations for play components, accessible routes, transfer systems, and ground surfaces. Melissa Hilgendorff described how the guidelines increase physical access to play spaces, foster a sense of usability, consider the different developmental stages of children with disabilities, and increase opportunities for diverse types of play.

Melissa Hilgendorff offered to forward a reference document for inclusion with the September GCJAAC agenda.

West Grey Election Accessibility Plan and Election Help Centres Location Accessibility Checklist (Genevieve Scharback)

Genevieve Scharback addressed the Committee regarding the Municipality of West Grey's Election Accessibility Plan and Election Help Centre Location Accessibility Checklist. Genevieve Scharback highlighted the barriers removed by internet and telephone voting and the assistance available to electors at Election Help Centres.

JAAC09-22 Moved by: Councillor Dwight

Seconded by: Christina Schnell

That the Municipality of West Grey's 2022 election accessibility plan and election help centre location accessibility checklist presented for review and comment be received.

Carried

Site Plan Reviews

Hanover Heritage Square Stage Cover (Melissa Hilgendorff and Tom Karl)

Melissa Hilgendorff and Tom Karl addressed the Committee regarding the Hanover Heritage Square Stage Cover. Staff reviewed the project and explained that due to financial restrictions, the Town of Hanover Council provided direction to proceed with the construction of the permanent stage cover and the smoothing of the cobblestone stage surface using concrete, with ramps and other accessibility improvements being addressed in future.

In response to questions from the Committee, the presenters spoke about the construction of the stage cover, considerations for railings, project funding, and future accessibility improvements such as signage, pathways, and ramps. Further, staff confirmed that access to the stage and concrete seating was not accessible to those with mobility issues and that improvements would require significant changes to the site.

The Committee heard comments from its members noting concern about prioritizing the stage covering over accessibility improvements to the site. The Committee requested information on the placement of the stage's future accessibility ramp to confirm it would not be impacted by the location of the covering's posts. Staff talked about the future option of connecting the stage to the boardwalk which are at similar heights. It was confirmed that posts would not be in the way for this to happen. Further, the Committee expressed interest in a commitment from the Town of Hanover to undertake future accessibility improvements, such as signage, pathways, and ramps.

JAAC10-22 Moved by: Brooke Sillaby

Seconded by: Christina Schnell

That the proposed improvement to the Hanover Heritage Square Stage Cover presented for review and comment be endorsed, pending the Town of Hanover's commitment to improving accessibility at the site in future project stages.

Carried

HDR-AF-14-22 14th Street Supportive Housing Build (Anne Marie Shaw)

Anne Marie Shaw addressed the Committee regarding the 14th Street Supportive Housing Build and reviewed the request for tender. The presenter noted that the project would provide 12 units of supportive housing and described the accessibility considerations for the site, including three enhanced accessibility units.

In response to questions from the Committee, Anne Marie Shaw discussed gender-neutral bathrooms and the County's assistance in finding accommodations for those affected by a recent fire at a rooming house in the Town of Hanover.

JAAC11-22 Moved by: Councillor Dwight

Seconded by: Andy Underwood

That HDR-AF-14-22 14th Street Supportive Housing Build presented for review and comment be received.

Carried

Reference Documents

There were no reference documents.

Other Business

Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee Chairs Meeting

Kathie Nunno introduced the request, and Tara Warder confirmed the meeting would be held virtually.

JAAC12-22 Moved by: Andy Underwood

Seconded by: Christina Schnell

That the Chair of the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (GCJAAC) be permitted to attend the September 14, 2022, Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee Chairs meeting in the spirit of participating in a working group rather than acting on behalf of the GCJAAC.

Carried

Re-Appointment to the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee

Kathie Nunno raised that with the current term of Council ending, the Committee would shortly discuss re-appointment for the new period and confirmed the members were eligible for re-appointment. This item will be included in the next meeting's agenda.

Next Meeting Dates

Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 1:30 PM.

On motion by Councillor Burley, the meeting adjourned at 2:27 PM

Catherine Sholtz, Chair