

MINUTES
ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021
1:00 P.M., ONLINE MEETING (ZOOM)

PRESENT: Kelly Elliott, Chair/Council Representative
Jesse Farquharson, Vice-Chair/Community Representative
Michelle Coghlin, Community Representative
Christopher Morello, Community Representative
Rick Nolan, Community Representative
Patricia Rivers, Community Representative
Katy Morrow, Community Representative
Steve MacDonald, Director of Community Services & Facilities/Staff Representative
Sara Henshaw, Deputy Clerk/Staff Resource/Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Tom Heeman, Council Representative

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

1. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

No pecuniary interests were disclosed at this time.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A) **July 15, 2021 regular meeting minutes.**

Moved by: R. Nolan

Seconded by: C. Morello

(Resolution # AIAC-5-2021)

THAT the minutes of the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee (AIAC) meeting held on July 15, 2021 be adopted as presented. Carried.

3. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

None.

4. REPORTS OF STAFF

A) **Mandatory Vaccination Policy (per S. MacDonald)**

The Director of Community Services & Facilities presented a verbal report with respect to the Mandatory Vaccination Policy and provided the following information:

- Council passed Mandatory Vaccination Policy on September 13th meeting – email already sent to committee members about this
- committee members must receive one dose of COVID-19 vaccine by September 30th and second dose by October 30th

- submit vaccination receipts to the Recording Secretary – easy to get by using <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca>
- if anyone has any questions, reach out to CAO Mike Henry

Committee members inquired on the following:

- if no intentions to visit municipal facilities, is proof of vaccination still required?
- if both vaccinations received, send in both receipts or just 2nd dose?

The Chair advised the following:

- if meetings are held electronically and member is able to stay home, then vaccination would not be required
- policy allows for accommodations - this is an eligible accommodation
- if committee decides to meet fully in person and not electronically, then concern would be raised - in order to come to the office, member would have to be vaccinated
- municipality is not keeping any physical records of immunizations – just checking off that it's been provided
- it's fine to only submit 2nd dose receipt – provided it says 2nd dose on it

Moved by: R. Nolan

Seconded by: M. Coghlin

(Resolution # AIAC-6-2021)

THAT the verbal report from the Director of Community Services & Facilities, regarding Mandatory Vaccination Policy, be received for information. Carried.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A) **Annual Budget (per S. MacDonald)**

The Director of Community Services & Facilities presented a verbal report with respect to the Annual Budget and provided the following information:

- October 20th – deadline to submit department's operating budget
- October 27th – deadline to submit capital project
- Accessible Playground Pilot Project (APPP) – need to know how much total project might cost by October 27th
- Councillor Heeman is planning to hold a meeting with APPP subcommittee in early October – will start to talk about ideas of what facility will look like

- due to nature/complexity of project – will not know each little feature and layout in October
- if approved for 2022 budget, then would proceed with RFP process
- in August, accessible playground group did awesome job on their Facebook page, detailing a specific feature of the playground each day, great way to receive feedback on each item which can be discussed at subcommittee level
- different features may not be available, depending on which company is selected as winning bidder – they each have their own catalog of items
- October meeting should focus on creating wish list of included features – staff can then work on getting estimates for those items
- need to also consider installation costs and anything that needs to be done around area to accommodate new feature (paving, etc.)
- timeline will fall under Community Services and Recreation master plan – gathering data/consensus/ideas on what should be happening in the community over next several years

Committee members commented/inquired on the following:

- would be helpful to involve Mill Pond Committee or have some requirement for trees – shade coverage would make park even more accessible and support green initiatives of municipality
- AIAC committee should have small operating budget for 2022 (events, education, etc.)
- washroom accessibility – adult size change tables would be helpful
- Springbank Park has light pole that sprays out mist – to help keep cool in the summer
- garbage can accessibility – no heavy lids, ideal to have no lid at all
- would AIAC committee members be involved in RFP process?

The Director of Community Services & Facilities commented on the following:

- legislation has gotten better with mandating accessible features – an older washroom doesn't have amount of detail for accessibility like newer building does
- for playground, want to make sure washrooms by there meet new standards of accessibility but also beyond
- RFP process has not been finalized, but it makes sense for AIAC committee members to be involved
- for budget, what's provided to Council is based on input and preferences from committee and subcommittee –

- this amount should be for finished product including site work, plantings, etc.
- exact location hasn't been finalized yet – there are different costs associated with each location
- will provide grocery list of costs to determine how to proceed

Moved by: R. Nolan

Seconded by: K. Morrow

(Resolution # AIAC-7-2021)

THAT the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee (AIAC) direct staff to place a \$10,000 placeholder in the budget for the AIAC;

AND THAT staff put a placeholder in the budget for the Accessible Park with dollar amount to be determined. Carried.

B) Creating an Inclusive Community (per K. Elliott)

a) Funding and grants to support diversity at municipal events

- ongoing piece as committee decides on projects or events
- different grants to consider – federal, provincial, etc.
- will place this item in “Unfinished Business” moving forward looking towards possible future events

b) Good Roads – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

i. Report – Infrastructure and Equity

- provided overview of report which details how socio-economic objectives are applied to and inform the built environment, especially pertaining to decisions regarding infrastructure
- intention is to understand how these decisions can be applied to future projects so as to avoid problematic or inequitable outcomes

ii. Joy Ride Project Proposal

- national project – looking at creating accessible and inclusive active transportation
- making roads safer for cyclists and pedestrians
- Good Roads put \$15,000 towards this project
- inquired with Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to see if they would join too

- there are projects happening out there looking at building more inclusive communities
- as committee looks forward and contemplates different projects in Thames Centre, there are other organizations to potentially collaborate with

c) Breakdown of subcommittees and coordination with municipal departments

- looking at how to provide information and work with staff
- ex.) new Sifton subdivision – how that fits in from a walkability standpoint (sidewalks, trails, etc.)
- look at subcommittees in relation to municipal departments
- example – looking at growth and development, there could be planning and development subcommittee that would work in conjunction with Planning department

There was some discussion on the following:

- subcommittees can be intertwined, but AIAC would have more wholesome discussion on everything coming together
- how inclusion and accessibility regulations are met during events
 - if event is private, responsibility lies with organization hosting event, however AIAC could provide feedback on how to improve accessibility
 - municipal property, parks, roads, etc. – essentially this responsibility lies with Council
 - committee can only make recommendations
- if there is something that committee wishes to identify as issue and approach, then coordinate with municipal department so subcommittee can work directly with staff
- there should be subcommittee for mobility and walkability within community – this would impact:
 - planning, infrastructure and transportation
 - health of residents
 - safety – speeding cars, maintenance of sidewalks
 - accessibility for children to walk alone
 - accessibility to community facilities

Moved by: R. Nolan

Seconded by: K. Morrow

(Resolution # AIAC-8-2021)

THAT the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee (AIAC) form the Healthy Mobility Options Subcommittee and support member C. Morello to head the subcommittee and be authorized to create supporting documents and recruit community members. Carried.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) **Dream Park Committee – Fundraising (per S. MacDonald)**

- Accessible Playground Pilot Project (APPP) subcommittee has not had its first meeting yet
- Dream Park Committee has begun fundraising for accessible park:
 - have raised over \$1000
 - have some community sponsors lined up
- in order for them to be able to issue tax receipts, fundraising has to come through municipality – this is not possible without formal permission from Council, with donation receipts not possible and not issued unless the project is passed in the budget
- Dream Park Committee wants ability to start fundraising – when it comes to upcoming budget, they want to show they can fundraise and are serious about this project
- need motion from AIAC to support creation of this park and support APPP subcommittee to start fundraising

Moved by: K. Morrow
Seconded by: R. Nolan
(Resolution # AIAC-9-2021)

WHEREAS the Dorchester Dream Park Committee (DDPC) wishes to begin fundraising in support of the Accessible Playground Pilot Project (APPP);
AND WHEREAS the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee (AIAC) supports the DDPC's fundraising for the APPP;
THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT the AIAC recommends that Council support fundraising for the APPP in principle;
AND THAT the AIAC recommends that Council support fundraising initiatives related to the APPP project. Carried.

b) National Day of Truth & Reconciliation (per K. Elliott)

- Council passed resolution declaring September 30th as National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
- this is now a statutory holiday within Thames Centre - municipal office and arena will be closed

There was some discussion on the following:

- how to honour this day through recognition and education
- potential ideas for future years – running out of time this year to plan
- looking at bigger ways next year to ensure this day is being properly recognized in Thames Centre

9. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS

The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, it was:

Moved by: R. Nolan
Seconded by: J. Farquharson
(Resolution # AIAC-10-2021)

THAT the meeting adjourn at 2:15 p.m. Carried.