



MINUTES

FORT ERIE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date, Time, and Location

Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room #1 at Town Hall

Members

Dennis Hernandez-Galeano, Chair
Bev Ferris, Vice-Chair (regrets)
Gary Kooistra
Barbara McLeod (to 6:43 p.m.)
Tammy Clark
Lori Brant
Veronica Sparling
Steve Gucciardi, Transit Representative (regrets)
Councillor Ann-Marie Noyes

Staff Resources

Keegan Gennings, Chief Building Official (to 6:38 p.m.)
Sean Hutton, Facilities Supervisor
Bev Bradnam, Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Guests (to 6:17 p.m.):

Michael Barker, SHIFT Landscape Architecture
Signe Hansen, Manager, Community Planning
Lindsay Richardson, Senior Community Planner

Previous Vice-Chair, Adam McLeod, attended to 6:43 p.m.

1) Call To Order

The June 4, 2019 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 5:14 p.m.

2) Approval of Minutes**Recommendation No. 1:**

Moved by: Gary Kooistra
Seconded by: Councillor Noyes

THAT: The April 30, 2019 Minutes of the Fort Erie Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved as printed.

(CARRIED)

3)

Douglas Park and Albert Street Park Master Plan Projects

Consultant Michael Barker, from SHIFT Landscape Architecture, and Town staff Signe Hansen and Lindsay Richardson were present to provide details and solicit ideas from the AAC members on the Douglas Park and Albert Street Park Master Plan projects. Signe also provided an update to the Committee which included future replacement of the Stevensville Mini-Park, construction of the Beaver Creek Park,

Phase 2 of the Crystal Ridge Park, and waterfront accessibility improvements that will be inventoried this summer followed by open houses for proposed improvements. Signe also noted the Active Transportation Master Plan taking place, led by Chris Millar, the Affordable Housing Needs Study led by Lindsay Richardson, the Crystal Beach Secondary Plan and long range Parking Study led by Chris Millar and the Parks and Open Space Master Plan nearing completion.

Michael Barker was introduced. Michael explained that he is working on the Douglas Park and Albert Street Park Master Plan projects, which includes looking at associated programs and opportunities for each site and the relationship between them.

Michael provided 4 concepts for the Albert Street Park for AAC members to consider and provide comment on. The Albert Street designs included such things as rain gardens in some, bocci ball/pickle ball and game courts in others as well as teen areas to create an element to draw teenagers into the park. All of the concepts showed some type of looped path system and Dennis asked what type of surface the paths would have. Michael advised that any pathways would be concrete, cement or crushed limestone (rail trail that gets hard). A number of AAC members stated their preference for Concept No. 2.

The 3 Douglas Park concepts showed an amazing connection to the hospital and nursing/long term care homes in the area with family gardens and pathways. Some of the concepts showed a stage and seating on the slanted slope that is at the south end of the park. The consultant was encouraged to ensure that the play area was close to the family garden to ensure inter-generational interaction. Dennis questioned how much smaller the soccer field would be in the park and Michael advised that the field would be approximately 10% less in size. Lori questioned where curb cuts would be for the park and Michael advised that formalized crossing/queued to cross would be located at the south east corner. Dennis also noted that there would be a curb cut at the entry to the north east. Michael remarked that the concepts will go through many iterations and wherever the formalized entry is placed there would be dropped curbs. Dennis questioned if there is a sidewalk on the side of the field and Michael advised that there conceptually could be and Signe said that it could be part of the design. Signe confirmed that all accessibility requirements will be met and Michael advised that they are very familiar with AODA requirements but would also like the experiential information that AAC members can provide to raise the quality of the project.

3) **Douglas Park and Albert Street Park Master Plan Projects, continued**

Gary questioned what size of park determines the need for a washroom? Signe responded that the two parks are viewed as neighbourhood parks and based on that people have access to return home more easily.

Councillor Noyes stated that the concepts are a great idea that recognize the hospital and Maple and Crescent Park lodges, providing something for seniors in that area to do. She asked that consideration be given to shading as many patients/residents have difficulty with heat and may be on medication that requires them to stay out of the sun. The Councillor noted that with its locality it will be the best used park in this area.

Signe advised that she has attempted to connect with someone from the NHS but has not yet received a response. Bev advised that she would provide her with a contact name/number and Dennis advised that he can also follow up with his NHS AAC contact. Councillor Noyes suggested that Signe also contact Charlene Heckman from Maple Park Lodge.

AAC members also noted that when contemplating a teen area, the space should not be in close proximity to the children's play area as there may be foul language.

In closing, Signe stated that the next steps will be to finalize the development of the Master Plans through August-September and then bring them to Council for approval. Signe noted that the funding for the playgrounds is already in place for 2020 but the completion of the Master Plans are a requirement. Michael also noted that open houses will also be taking place once the concepts are refined.

Before leaving, Signe and Lindsay were acknowledged and thanked for the extraordinary work that they have done at Bay Beach and with the opening ceremonies. The video made by Lori of her travels down the beach mats was shown and she noted that this is the first time in 22 years that she has been on the beach and she didn't want to leave.

Dennis questioned the type of stone used between the pavilion and the back of the deck, noting that it is very uneven and he bounced along it. A person with a mobility issue or walker would have difficulty. Signe advised that they were looking to differentiate the space.

Dennis questioned why they consider the mulch used in the playground to be accessible. Dennis noted that he was there with a friend who was also in a wheelchair and even he would not attempt to enter the playground. Signe advised that she followed up on this issue and was told that too much of the engineered wood fibre was placed in the playground, which made it spongier.

3) **Douglas Park and Albert Street Park Master Plan Projects, continued**

Dennis noted that the ramps are great and the two family washrooms were very spacious but requested that a lower hook be installed in each so that items could be hung easier. Dennis also questioned the placement of the hand dryer so close to the toilet and also questioned where the adult sized change table was located as he did not see one. Signe advised that the wrong model was brought in.

It was noted that some education is needed to ensure that people do not use the accessible beach mats to sit on or put their wagons/strollers on. Councillor Noyes noted that staff needs to be trained to ensure that blocking access does not occur.

Lori stated that the element of the beach is so stepped up and totally transformed and creates such pride in the community.

Dennis questioned if there will be food trucks available and was told that local restaurants requested that food trucks not be allowed. Sean confirmed that you are able to bring in non-alcoholic beverages and food but no barbeques. Dennis thanked Michael, Signe and Lindsay for the consultation and Signe encouraged anyone with further comments to feel free to contact her. The group left at 6:17 p.m.

4) **Site Plans**

Site Plans were moved up on the agenda to allow Keegan to attend to other business.

Keegan provided the site plan for the old Rose Seaton school site, the south side which has been severed off. The site plan covers a 4 storey, 40 unit - 2 bedroom apartment building and Keegan confirmed that a certain percentage of the units would be accessible. Concern was raised about the storage lockers as there are only stairs shown on the plan. Keegan advised that there are other storage lockers located in the garage area but he would confirm. Dennis recommended that the elevator be placed more central in the building and that any accessible units be as close to the elevator as possible. Councillor Noyes questioned the need for two elevators as she recently thought new legislation was passed requiring two. Keegan advised that he would look into this but noted that the requirement may be related to the height of a building.

5) **Outstanding Matters**

1) Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee

- New Intersection at GFESS – follow-up with Region of Waterloo, the Province and Kelly Walsh – nothing new to report.
- Accessible Bus Demo – nothing new to report.

5) **Outstanding Matters, continued**

2) Parking Concerns

- Walmart Accessible Parking Space - nothing new to report
- Bev advised that a request was received through Councillor Butler regarding the need for accessible parking in downtown Ridgeway. The request will be discussed at the upcoming June 26th Traffic Coordinating Committee meeting.
- With respect to parking in Bay Beach, it was noted that the pay machines for parking are not accessible so at this time those with accessible parking permits will not have to pay. As the Committee has noted previously, if they are going to the beach they should have to pay like everyone else unless the machines are not accessible. Councillor Noyes noted that it may be several years before new machines are installed. By-law Enforcement Officers will also be reminded that individuals with accessible parking permits can park in any spot if the accessible spots are all filled and still not be ticketed. Lori noted that she is able to park anywhere in Toronto for free and there should be consideration for seniors and those who cannot walk that want to visit the beach frequently.

3) Fort Erie Active Transportation Committee (FEAT)

The Committee will be participating in Ridgefest on July 6, 2019.

4) Letter to 660 Garrison Road re Life Labs

Bev advised that the parking lot has been repaved and relined but she did not see a ramp. Dennis and Gary advised that they would visit the property and advise. *(Following the meeting, Gary called to advise that the ramp has not yet been constructed and the present two curb cuts are insufficient – Bev F. wouldn't even attempt to access the sidewalk from the curb cut near the Economic Development office when we visited the site in the spring).* Remain on outstanding.

5) Community Theatre – Greater Fort Erie Secondary School

Keegan advised that he recently met with the School Coordinator who advised that the contractor should be installing the guide rails over the summer. Remain on outstanding.

Keegan left the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

5) **Outstanding Matters, continued**

6) Accessible Taxi Cabs

Councillor Noyes advised that her motion was passed unanimously at Council to approach the Region of Niagara and make information available to the public and address the lack of taxi cab service in Fort Erie. At the Council meeting, Councillor McDermott spoke about his struggle in trying to get some service in Fort Erie. Councillor Noyes noted that she has a client who was quoted \$50.00 to get from Ridgeway to Sobeyes by taxi cab. At the community hub luncheon held earlier today Bev mentioned the motion to Regional Councillor Insinna and also to the Niagara Regional Police Staff Sergeant who advised that the police have now turned over taxi cab licencing to the Region. Councillor Noyes will advise the Committee of any information provided from the Region. Remain on outstanding.

7) Stop Gap Ramp Project

Bev read an email message from the Town's insurer *"I will run it by the Insurer's Risk Manager but the first thing that pops into my head is that we may need to make some sort of by-law to handle the encroachment. The businesses that sign up for it would provide us with a certificate of insurance and add us as an Additional Insured"*. The Town's Manager, Procurement, Finance and Risk further stated *"For those businesses that do sign up, who can manage the review and collection of the insurance certificates, to ensure that these annual certificates are kept current?"* Bev also noted that the Town's solicitor has commented that the ramps could be a liability for the Town. Lori asked if we could begin with some type of by-law for consideration and Bev advised that she would follow-up with her counterpart in Stratford/Perth County to see what type of agreements their businesses entered into. Remain on outstanding.

8) Albany Place Parking

No response has been received to the initial letter. A follow-up letter will be sent. Remain on outstanding.

9) 238 Bertie Street – Request for Funding

The request for funding for renovations at the Medical Centre located at 238 Bertie Street included comments on behalf of the AAC related to the accessible washroom. Councillor Noyes had support from Council on including the requirement as part of the funding. Committee members questioned the recent funding provided to Dr. Teal and Councillor Noyes explained that the funding was for a piece of equipment that will help attract Dr. Teal's replacement. It was noted that Dr. Teal is a specialist and in order to attract her replacement more up to date equipment is needed or the Town would lose this specialized eye care service. Remain on outstanding until accessible washroom is constructed.

6) **Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2019-2023**

Bev will join the FEAT Committee at Ridgefest and will discuss details at the June 25th meeting for those that may wish to assist.

7) **Other Matters**

Bev played the Rick Hansen Video – everyone, everywhere and will send out the link for the video related to unique signage/communication.

8) **Date for Next Meeting**

The next AAC meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room #1.

9) **Adjournment**

Recommendation No. 2:

Moved by: Tammy Clark
Seconded by: Veronica Sparling

THAT: The June 4, 2019 meeting of the Fort Erie Accessibility Advisory Committee does now hereby adjourn at 7:04 p.m.

(CARRIED)

Minutes recorded and prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

Bev Bradnam, DPA
Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Dennis Hernandez-Galeano
Chair