Committee Members in Attendance: Devin Sisak (Arrived at 2:25 p.m.), Gary Racine, Sarah Dodds, Shannon Adshade, Alison Fitzpatrick, and Barb Schutz

Regrets: Sue Ricketts, Michele Gilman

Staff Members in Attendance: Michael Oliveri, Council Committee Services Coordinator; Yesenia Torres, Accessibility Coordinator; Stephen Aboagye, Supervisor of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility; Jamie Croft, Manager of Infrastructure Engineering

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge was held virtually via zoom. The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. and the meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

There are no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Approval of May 27, 2024, Advisory Committee Minutes

Moved by: Sarah Dodds

Seconded by: Shannon Adshade

THAT the minutes of the May 27, 2024, Cambridge Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried
Curb Ramp at 10 Westgate Cambridge: Emily Moore, Client Experience Consultant, Region of Waterloo; Cameron Wilson, Project Lead, Region of Waterloo; Jennifer Walker, Program Manager, Client Experience, Region of Waterloo, Elisia Neves, Architect, Fabrik Architects Inc; Scott Giles, Architect, Fabrik Architects Inc.

- 9 and 10 Westgate Court are Regionally owned housing units in West Galt. The buildings were built in 1973. Seniors live in the buildings and there are sixty tenants in each building.
- Project is to design and replace the ramps at the main entrance of each building as they do not meet current accessibility guidelines.
- The proposed ramp design plan for 9 Westgate Court is a drop-off area to the side of the ramp, a flushed concrete bottom landing that transitions up the ramp. An intermediate landing that continues up to the final landing at the entry point. The walkway or access to the building's entry point is split into two spaces with one being an accessible access and the other continues to be a pedestrian access. The pedestrian walkway has a slope of 1 to 10 slope to the final landing and the accessible ramp has a slope of 1 to 20. A guard detail has been added along the sides, and edge protection where it meet grass and there is a grade change.
- The proposed ramp design for 10 Westgate Court has a different condition as the existing condition has windy ramp condition, with a landscape buffer in between the paths and a bigger slope. A longer path is needed to get into the entry. Like the design at 9 Westgate, a vehicle drop off has been added with a bottom lading at grade with the parking level. Sidewalk flanking is depressed at the bottom of the landing. The path is also split with two accesses. The accessible path has two intermediate landings to the entry point. The pedestrian pathway to the entry point has 6-inch gradual steps. A slight ramp was added to accommodate garbage access. Not for accessibility but to manage garbage area. Slope to accessible ramp is designed at a slope of 1 to 20. Guard place in between pathways and curb edge protection throughout. Will continue to allow a bit of landscaping to enhance the approach to the entry point.

Recommendations:
- Although, two type B accessible parking spaces are required consider changing both accessible spaces to a Type A “van” accessible spot with an access isle, so that it can accommodate both cars and vans.
The Lions Canamera Splash Pad: Jamie Croft, City of Cambridge, Manager of Infrastructure Engineering, Rick Bogaert, AECOM

- Project is in early stages of conceptual designs and is being primarily funded from development charges to the development around this area and the park is experiencing more demand. It was identified as an opportune place for a new splash pad and is directly adjacent to the Clemens Mill public school and in this is Sagen Parkway and Cohen Boulevard area. The existing bathroom building near the proposed splash path and parking adjacent to the Clemens Mill public school. The existing bathroom building is not part of the scope of this proposed project. When the washroom renovation comes due to a capital project, accessible improvements would be considered.

- Reviewed existing park features and conditions. Two propose conceptual designs:
  - Concept 1: move the slope to the east to accommodate an area that could be flattened and install the splash pad on the far-right hand side or east side of that walkway. The walkway is two meters wide, so there's room there for proposed benches as well as armor Stone tucked at the edge of the walkway providing an option for people to sit. On the left-hand side, there is a proposed shade structure with picnic tables or benches.
  - Concept 2: Not much different than concept one, it has just been flipped around. The shade structure has been moved to the east side between the berm and splash pad. Proposing adding either picnic tables or benches under the shaded area. The shade structure is semicircular with an angled roof. Proposing a sphere bollard instead of standard pipe in the ground and the armour tucked to the right against the edge of the hard surface. Benches along the pathways.

- The splash pad pole is wide open, and anyone can move freely within the splash pad. Would cause no impediments to anyone with accessibility needs. Buttons are positioned in a way that is accessible to a young child, or anyone seated on a mobility device or mobility issue. All buttons reachable height. Buttons are hand triggered.

- Will also be going out and presenting plans to the public and will forward plans to the committee in case AAC membership want to provide additional comments on the specific splash features. Public consultation will be in September, tendering and detail design in the fall and construction in 2025.
Idea Exchange: Jamie Kamula, Idea Exchange, Director, Public and Digital Services

- Provide an overview of the project timeline, history and the challenges experienced such as the rising cost of construction which resulted in having to rescope the project. The original focus of the project was driven by occupational health and safety concerns based on the deterioration of the exterior and significant infrastructure issues.

- The rescoping of the project was presented to the AAC in 2022, and due to budget constraints, scope of project had to be scaled back and had to just choose what items that were going to be addressed.

- Provided overview of the items that were addressed in the rescoping of the project. Replaced broken and falling exterior tiles, replaced deteriorated wood slats on exterior, replaced broken and uneven pavers on pathway, add tactile indicators on stairs, replaced doors actuators with more accessible actuators, expand with of pathway, and the trench basin, which originally not part of the scope of project. Could not change the location where the sidewalk was, the location of the stairs, library entrance, where slope of the pathway started and did not do anything to the interior of the building. Parking lots were also not part of the scope of the project.

- The slope of the pathway had to work with the existing grading, the drain cover was originally no part of the project but was added later in the project. Since concerns received about these conditions, working with City staff to address the pathway, and determining what else could be added. For example, adding handrails. Timelines and costs have not been determined yet. Regarding the concern about the raise corner and the drain cover creating a tripping hazard. Originally not going to be able to replace it but during construction it was determined that it was deteriorated, and contingency money was allocated to get it replaced. On May 27th, 2024, when the concern was received, staff reassessed and realized that the drain had moved. The concern has been addressed and replaced so that it does not stick out.

- Reexamining parking lots and looking at how to make accessible parking spaces possible and working with the City to add accessible parking to the facility.

- CAAC requesting to send a delegate to the Idea Exchange Board of Directors meeting on June 26, 2024.
THAT the CAAC send the Chair of the committee to delegate to the Library Board at their upcoming meeting on June 26, 2024, on the subject of the Preston Idea Exchange.

Carried

Treat Accessibility: Yesenia Torres, Accessibility Coordinator, City of Cambridge

- Provided an overview of the Treat Accessibility’s history, goal and mission and partners involved.
- Provide an overview of the logistical challenges experienced including the printing of the lawn signs and distribution of signs across the City.
- A potential partner is interested in supporting the initiative with the printing of the signage and looking to the committee for guidance on keeping the initiative as it is, involving new partners and extending pick up locations.

Recommendations:

- More promotion is required to enhance initiative awareness. Commence promotion at the end of September and make signs available to the community two weeks prior to Halloween. Include more visual in promotion materials to enhance knowledge and awareness on how to make a home accessible for trick-or-treaters.
- Inquire with RE/MAX whether they have capacity to print signage by end-of-September and if not, reach out to other partners to print the signs.
- Reach out to Idea Exchange to extend pick up locations to all five library locations
- Continue providing the community with lawn signs and post cards.
- Postcards to be part of initiative promotion and are used to highlight lawn signs and pick up locations.
Subcommittee Update: Devin Sisak, Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair, City of Cambridge

- Review site plan to provided recommendations on the addition of a new ramp, which would include handrails and tactile warning surfaces indicators where there is a grade change.

Staff Liaison Update: Yesenia Torres, Accessibility Coordinator, City of Cambridge

- The Design of Public Space Standards Development committee is seeking the public's assistance in providing feedback regarding the 127 recommendations on how to make design of public space more accessible for people with disabilities. Feedback deadline is on August 29th, 2024. Website link will be sent to the committee after the meeting.
- Yesenia away from the office June 25 to Jul 2, 2024. Inquiries requiring immediate response during this time to be sent to Stephen Aboagye, EDIA Supervisor.

Council Representative Report: Councillor Helen Shwery

- Hopes that the CAAC delegate can attend the Idea Exchange board meeting.

Chair's Report: Devin Sisak, City of Cambridge

- Thanked everyone for ongoing engagement in the committee. Acknowledge the effects of accessibility being in the media recently and reiterates that everyone's opinions are valued and are important to making the community inclusive and accessible. Connected to councillor Hamilton to discuss the newspaper article. A good conversation was had, and councillor Hamilton is an ally for accessibility. Councillor Hamilton was invited to CAAC meetings.
- Visited the soccer complex during its opening day. The building is beautifully designed for accessibility with a nice ramp to get up to the changing rooms and the washrooms. Beautiful landscape with a full-size change table in the washroom. Able to wheel down to the bleachers with spaces to sit beside each other and not behind as experienced in other facilities.
- West Galt development park opened and attended a grand opening. The City has done a great job with accessibility features such as the splash pad that rolled up, censored operated sprinklers. There is also an accessibility swing, plenty of benches with concrete space beside for a mobility device, and accessible bathrooms.
Other Business

- Shannon Adshade inquired what the process is for the community to apply to become a member of the CAAC.
- Councillor Shwery indicated that all councilors support the work of the CAAC.
- CAAC chair welcomed new committee member Alison Fitzpatrick.

Adjournment

Moved by: Alison Fitzpatrick
Seconded by: Gary Racine

THAT the Cambridge Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of June 24, 2024, be adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

CARRIED

Next Meeting:

Monday July 22, 2024, 1:30pm-3:30pm Zoom

If you require any accommodations to participate in this meeting, please email torresy@cambridge.ca

Chair

Devin Sisak

Council Committee Services Coordinator

Michael Oliveri