

MIDDLESEX ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 10:00 AM
Middlesex County Building
399 Ridout Street North, London
Virtual Meeting

Members Present Councillor Brennan
 Councillor Mayhew
 Michele Ivanouski
 David Sitlington
 Mary Jane Steele
 Leslie-Anne Steeper-Doxlator
 Alison Warwick
 Sarah Savoie, Accessibility Coordinator
 Marci Ivanic, Legislative Services Manager/Clerk

Also Present Robert Lilbourne, Director of Community Services for the
 Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brennan called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

2. PROVISION FOR DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None.

3. MINUTES

3.a Minutes of the December 8, 2021 Meeting of the Middlesex Accessibility
 Advisory Committee

Moved by Michele Ivanouski

Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

THAT the Minutes of the December 8, 2021 meeting of the Middlesex
Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.a Accessibility Status Report

Moved by David Sitlington

Seconded by Leslie-Anne Steeper-Doxlator

THAT the Joint Annual Accessibility Status Report for 2021 be deferred to a future meeting pending finalization by staff.

Carried

The Committee will look to meet again in February to review the final report.

5. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

5.a Upgrade at Salusbury Park

Presentation from Robert Lilbourne, Director of Community Services for the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc. A copy of the presentation is attached.

5.b Dorchester Accessible Playground RFP

S. Savoie asked for the Committee for any further comments on the RFP. The Committee had no further comment.

5.c Accessibility Compliance Report Update

Presentation from Sarah Savoie, Accessibility Coordinator. A copy of the presentation is attached.

5.d Joint Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2022-2027

Presentation from Sarah Savoie, Accessibility Coordinator. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Moved by Alison Warwick

Seconded by Councillor Mayhew

THAT Items 5.a. to 5.d. be received for information.

Carried

6. INQUIRIES

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.a Accessible Playground Consultation Guide

Overview from Sarah Savoie, Accessibility Coordinator

Moved by David Sitlington

Seconded by Alison Warwick

THAT the Accessibility Coordinator request a list of 2022 accessibility projects from each of the local municipalities and determine which projects require consultation with the Committee.

Carried

7.b Membership Changes to MAAC

Mary Jane Steele has resigned from the Committee. The Committee is required to review current membership to ensure composition of the Committee continues to meet the legislated requirements. S. Savoie to send anonymous poll to Committee.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by David Sitlington

Seconded by Leslie-Anne Steeper-Doxlator

THAT the meeting adjourn at 10:54 am.

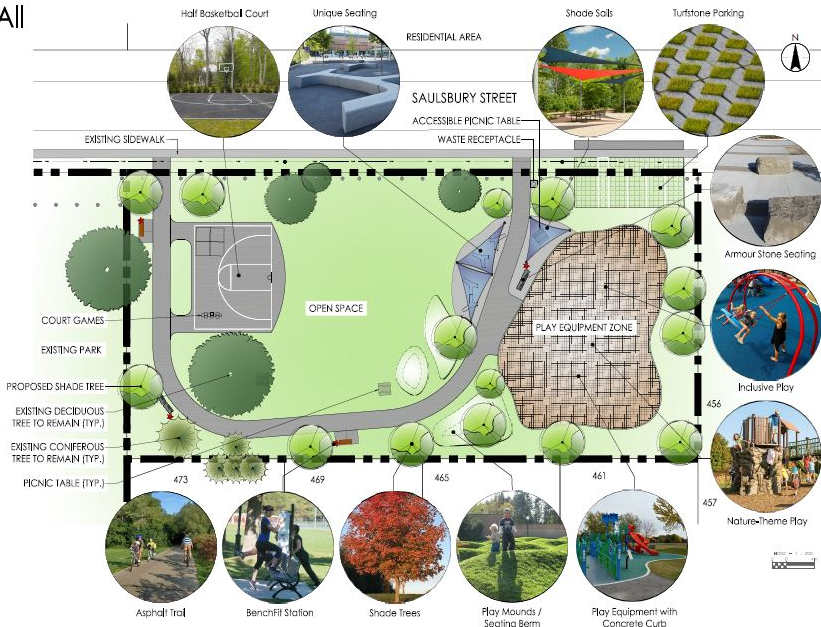
Carried

Marci Ivanic, County Clerk

John Brennan, Chair

Nature-Themed Park For All

- New natural-theme play equipment integrated with re-use of existing play equipment.
- Engineered wood fibre surface, concrete edging, and accessible play area entrance.
- Seating node with shade sails and armour stone seat blocks and accessible picnic table.
- Possible unique seating features.
- 2.5m wide asphalt pathway with BenchFit fitness circuit and bench seating.
- Half basketball court with court games.
- Play mounds / seating berms.
- Open green space for passive use.
- Natural planting layout with shade trees.
- Turfstone parking close to play equipment, approximately five spaces.



SAULSBURY PARK - PREFERRED CONCEPT

PLAY EQUIPMENT & PARK UPGRADES



JUNE 2021

Accessibility Projects and Updates

Sarah Savoie
Accessibility Coordinator
January 18, 2022



Annual Accessibility Status Report

- Middlesex County and the Local Municipal Partners have created a joint Status Report for 2021
- The Status Report includes information on **Continuous Achievements in Accessibility** and **Accessibility Highlights** of 2021
- It is a requirement under the IASR and is intended to highlight progress made in regards to the Joint Multi-Year Accessibility Plan
- **Are there other projects the JAAC did in 2021 to include?**
- **Any other feedback or comments?**



Accessible Playground in Dorchester RFP

- At the December meeting to the Middlesex Accessibility Advisory Committee a report and a Request for Proposal was presented regarding the new accessible and inclusive playground at Dorchester Park
- Is there any further feedback regarding the RFP?
- Feedback provided to Thames Centre was as follows:
 - Put fencing along space between playground and parking lot –look into adding more fencing around playground if issues arise with safety
 - Ensure rest areas (benches and accessible picnic tables) are included around the park
 - Look into different options for signage:
 - Application on phone that can be used to help locate the park
 - Braille and audio button for people with vision disabilities
 - Place along routes to park and at entrances



Accessibility Compliance Report Update

- All Local Municipal Partners and Middlesex County submitted their Accessibility Compliance Report to the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility before the December 31, 2021 deadline
 - Several LMPs reported compliance with Question 14 on web accessibility
 - Middlesex County's website will be compliant in Q1 of 2022
 - Next Compliance Reporting period will be in 2023
 - New Compliance reporting may begin under the Accessible Canada Act – more information will be provided to the MAAC once it is made public



Joint Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Current Progress

- The Joint Multi-Year Accessibility Plan will be created between Middlesex County and its Local Municipal Partners
 - It will lay out progress made in the last 5 years, and the goals and timelines for accessibility initiatives for the years 2022-2027
 - There will be a transportation section added for Middlesex County Connect under the County of Middlesex section
 - So far the following LMPs have provided their sections:
 - Municipality of North Middlesex
 - Municipality of Thames Centre



Joint MYAP Survey

- The survey was sent out to LMPs, and is posted on the Middlesex County website and social media pages
- **Responses will be collected until January 31, 2022 (extended)**
- Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/middlesexmultiyearaccessibility>
- Questions for the survey address the following topics:
 - Barrier-free inclusive customer service and communication
 - Support animals and support persons
 - Feedback process and response times
 - Accessible formats and communications supports requests
 - Accessibility of the website and web content
 - Ensuring a barrier-free recruitment and application process for jobs
 - Access to public spaces and accessible parking
 - Municipally owned facilities and accessibility
 - Providing barrier free transportation



Joint MYAP Survey Responses

- 30 responses, with 30% being a person with a disability
- Responses come from a variety of municipalities in the County with Middlesex Centre making up the majority of respondents
- Age of respondents range from 21 – 66+
- Recommendations for improvement:
 - When providing permits, need to make sure the area it is used in is accessible
 - Need more adult change tables and recreational opportunities for wheelchair users (ex: ice skating or ensuring outdoor trails are accessible)
 - Language on website can be made more inclusive (ex: do not use the words 'click' or 'below' etc. for links)
 - Parking areas at parks could use some maintenance to fix potholes and see about updating park entrances to include ramp not just stairs
 - When upgrades are made to a path of travel or road, minimize use of gravel surfacing
 - Allow payments to be made with cash and visa/debit/credit cards
 - Make bus schedule more clear for residents and improve advertisement of service

MAAC Feedback on MYAP

- Per the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation the Middlesex Accessibility Advisory Committee must be consulted when establishing, reviewing and updating the MYAP
- The MAAC has been sent a draft to review as of January 2022
 - Will provide the final draft for feedback in February 2022
 - Please send feedback during meeting or via email

Looking for the MAAC to give input on the MYAP, including:

- **Progress**
- **Goals**
- **Timelines**



MYAP Approval and Timeline

- Will seek approval from Middlesex Accessibility Advisory Committee around March 2022 before submitting plan to County Council

Timeline for Completion:

- January 18, 2022: MAAC presented with most recent draft to review
- January 31, 2022: **LMPs to provide final draft for their sections**
- February 2022: MAAC to receive copy of MYAP via email for further feedback
- March 2022: MAAC to provide final feedback of MYAP
- March 2022: MYAP to be presented to Middlesex County Council
- Final MYAP posted online on County and LMPs websites



Consultation Requirements for MAAC

- Consultation must be done on the following:
 - When establishing, reviewing and updating their multi-year accessibility plans
 - When developing accessible design criteria in the construction, renovation or placement of bus stops and shelters
 - When determining the proportion of on-demand accessible taxicabs required in the community
 - On the need, location and design of accessible on-street parking spaces when building new or making major changes to existing on-street parking spaces
 - Before building new or making major changes to existing recreational trails to help determine particular trail features
 - On the needs of children and caregivers with various disabilities in their community when building new or making major changes to existing outdoor play spaces
 - On the design and placement of rest areas along the exterior path of travel when building new or making major changes to existing exterior paths of travel



Accessible Playground Consultation Guide

- Currently there are several consultation guides for LMPs to use:
 - Accessible On-street Parking Standard
 - **Accessible Playground Consultation Document**
 - Recreational Trails Consultation Document & Guidelines
- The guides provide a breakdown of the AODA and IASR requirements but is not overly clear about when the MAAC needs to be consulted
 - The understanding for the Accessible Playground guide is that it would replace consultation

Accessible Playground Consultation Guide

- LMPs were notified that the guide cannot replace consultation and they would need to consult the MAAC
- Two challenges arose:
 1. It would create more work for the Local Municipal Partners and the MAAC
 2. It would slow down the process especially for construction projects

As a solution, I propose that the LMPs send a list of accessibility projects that are going on in their municipalities, and certain projects can be selected for consultation if a need is identified

 - Consultation with the public and persons with disabilities is still required

Membership Changes to MAAC

- The IASR states that the majority of MAAC members need to be persons with disabilities
- All Committees of Council disband when a new Council is elected
- This will occur in October/November 2022
- Anyone interested in rejoining can reapply at the end of 2022 to be on the new MAAC in 2023



Next Middlesex Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

Next meeting will be held in February 2022 -date TBD

Will provide updates on ongoing accessibility projects and present final draft of the 2021 Accessibility Status Report for approval at the next meeting

