



**Adam A. Donaldson** @adamadonaldson

Oct 24, 2023 · 92 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1716941926874952153](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1716941926874952153)

Coming up at 6:30 pm, it's this month's regular council meeting. This is the Politico preview of the meeting:



**City Council Preview – What's on the Agenda for the Meeting on Octob...**

Apparently, city council is taking Halloween off. The final meeting of October is a week early, but that fact probably hasn't had too big of an impact on the list of items for this regular me...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2023/10/13/city-council-preview-whats-on-the-agenda-for-the-...>

Mayor Guthrie has called the meeting to order.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof? Nope.

We start with two community recognitions tonite:

1. National Ball Hockey Championship - Gold Medalists Guelph Cyclones - U15
2. North American Powerlifting Championships Winner Kafui Hotsonyame



**5.1 Emergency Management By-law and Program Amendments - 2023-342**



**Recommendation:**

1. That staff be directed to bring forward a by-law for Council's consideration to repeal Emergency Management Response By-law (2019)-20358 and to implement a new Emergency Management Response By-law, updating the Municipality's obligations in providing an Emergency Management program as set out in the Emergency Management By-law and Program Amendments Report dated October 3, 2023.

**5.2 Community Grant Policy Update - 2023-353**



**Recommendation:**

1. That the Community Grant Allocation Panel be dissolved and that the authority to award Community Grants be delegated to the Deputy Chief Administration Officer of Public Services, as outlined in the Community Grant Policy Update report dated October 3, 2023.
2. That the Community Grant equity-related policy changes outlined in the Community Grant Policy Update report, dated October 3, 2023, be approved and added to the Community Grant Policy.

**5.3 Public Art Policy Update - 2023-359**



**Correspondence:**

\*John Fisher, Guelph Hiking Trail Club

**Recommendation:**

1. That the Public Art Policy Update dated October 3, 2023 be approved.
2. That Appendix A of the General Reserve and Reserve Fund Policy be amended to reflect the change to the Public Art Reserve Fund (#356) sources of funds to include Council approved transfers from the operating budget and approved surplus allocations from the operating budget at year end and amend the authority/timing to include capital budget.
3. That costs associated with the Public Art Policy update be referred to the multi-year budget process.
4. That the potential future relocation of the City Hall clock be referred to staff, in consultation with the Public Art Advisory Committee and the Guelph Museums Advisory Committee, for costing and consideration as part of commemorative celebrations in 2027.

**5.4 Culture Plan 2030 Staff Report - 2023-358**



**Recommendation:**

1. That Culture Plan 2030 be approved.
2. That costs associated with the implementation of Culture Plan 2030 be referred to the 2024-2027 multi-year budget process.

5.4 Culture Plan 2030 Staff Report - 2023-358

Recommendation:

-That Culture Plan 2030 be approved.

-That costs associated with the implementation of Culture Plan 2030 be referred to the 2024-2027 multi-year budget process.

Motion to approve Emergency Management By-law and Program Amendments - 2023-342 and Community Grant Policy Update - 2023-353 passes unanimously.

Klassen has question about Public Art Policy Update stemming from John Fisher correspondence. Specifically, the historical artifacts in storage and appreciation of public spaces. DCAO Clack-Bush says his points should be covered in all 3 cultural plans tonight.

Public Art Policy Update approved unanimously.

Next, Parks and Recreation Master Plan redux.

No further update from staff, so we go straight to the delegates. Linda Jeffrey withdrew her delegation, so we're going to Dr. Hugh Whiteley to kick things off.

Whiteley says he's aware how historic this meeting is because it takes 3 decades to review the P&MMP. (♥♥) He would like to hear why there was a delay, he also disappointed that there's no open space plan.

Next, is Morgan Dandie Hannah, who confesses that she's now an older adult. She notes that wood chips and wheels don't go together (this is reference to a motion that Caton will be bringing later under this topic).

These are Caton's motions:

1. That the final PRMP include a requirement that all new playgrounds in Guelph include a minimum of two wheelchair accessible features, and that talk tubes are not considered one of those features.
2. That the final PRMP include a requirement that all new playgrounds in Guelph include at least one play structure that is wheelchair accessible to the lowest deck.
3. That recommendation 33 in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan be revised to read "Apply a service level target of one rubber surface playground within 2.5 kilometres of residential areas until 2025, moving to a target of one rubber surface playground within 1.5 kilometres of residential areas starting in 2026.
4. That the final PRMP include a recommendation that areas of economic need will be a factor in determining the location of playgrounds with rubber safety surface.
5. That the final PRMP include a recommendation to work with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to establish a target ratio of playgrounds that have rubber safety surface.

5. That the final PRMP include a recommendation to work with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to establish a target ratio of playgrounds that have rubber safety surface.

Next, Maureen Oesch would also like to speak to Caton's motions saying that she's taken note of the City playgrounds with accessible options, and seen how it's fostered understanding and participation. Plus pandemic pointed out difficulty finding accessible outdoor places.

She points out the butterfly playground behind Bishop Mac, it's a beautiful playground and very accessible... once you get there. It's not an accessible park to get to.

Guthrie asks Caton asks about the appearance by Lorelei Root, Chair of Accessibility Advisory Committee. He says that he knows about the amendments coming, so thinks now might be the best time for Root. Caton says it is and she's prepared to answer Qs too.

Guthrie notes that this is a little tricky because they don't have delegations in the middle of debate about additional motions. He invites Root to join the meeting for a five minute delegation.

Root says she's always excited when she can rep for the AAC at council because they're an "easy audience" to talk about accessibility with. Root says they've talked about P&RMP for several months at AAC.

Allt asks to have the motions on screen, which haven't been put not the floor on yet. Guthrie notes again that he's navigating a procedural minefield because they don't typically have delegates in the middle of the motion. Guthrie asks Root to offer comments about the motions.

Root says that talk tubes, which are mentioned in rec #1 have been talked about in the AAC as a feature that's not accessible. Rubber surfaces have also been discussed several times at the AAC and the need to promote have more on playgrounds.

Allt asks about specific motion about distances between rubber surfaces. Root notes that at the April meeting there was a motion to approve the 2.5km radius, which incl the addition of 2 new parks so long as it was a starting point and not endgame.

Caton asks about transfer stations vs ramps. Root says that came up at last week's meeting, and it was a difficult discussion. It pertained to Dovercliffe and Howitt Park designs, which they didn't think were accessible despite the presence of transfer bench.

Basically, the transfer station didn't transfer people anywhere, it was just a set of stairs.

O'Rourke asks about #4 about economic need. She says staff are doing an equity lens on parks. Root says there's been limited discussion about the economics and staff told them that the only measure was geographic. Not a bad thing for equity seeking groups a consideration.

O'Rourke asks about the heat concern of rubberised surfaces. Root says it's been discussed but it was noted that it doesn't get much hotter than asphalt, and there are a lot of issues with wood chips like mould or allergies.

Goller asks about why wood chips aren't considered accessible. Root says it's always been a concern for the AAC, and while she knows some accessibility standards say they're okay, as a chair user herself, Root knows that she finds them unusable.

Downer/O'Rourke move the main recommendations:

That the Master Plan dated August 2023 be approved.

That the funding requirements for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan be referred to future operating and capital budgets in order to implement the recommendations of the plan.

Caton moves her motions, seconded by Goller. Caton asks to go through them individually starting with #1:

"That the final PRMP include a requirement that all new playgrounds in Guelph include a minimum of two wheelchair accessible features, and that talk tubes are not considered one of those features."

Caton says that this will ensure that even on playgrounds w/o rubber, this should allow kids with a disability some access to the playground.

Downer asks staff how they interpret this motion since they say they're already doing this. Parks GM Gene Matthews says he sees it as a step to more rubber surfaces, standards now include a number of accessible features like ground level play structures.

Matthews says that they're aware that there are issues with wood chips and they're trying to add rubber surfaces where they can. Downer confirms that each playground goes thru AAC. Matthews says yes.

Downer asks if it would be proper for these motions to go through the AAC. She also notes that there are budget considerations since we're changing service levels.

Matthews says staff take the time with having meaningful convos with the AAC, but they stand by the recommendations in the master plan. Budget impacts will be felt more on some of the other motions, he adds.

Matthews says that they are committed to updating the P&RMP every 5 years. So improving standards is really kind of an ongoing thing.



Clack-Bush says the challenge is that these are motions not vetted through the public forum or committee of the whole. Credits staff for taking this to AAC four times, and doesn't want to recommend that council \*not\* approve it tonite, and let it move forward.

Clack-Bush says that staff will not be able to revise the capital budget before next week, and there are some considerable budget impacts. Instead of 3-4 updates, there may be 2-3, that could be the impact of these changes.

Allt asks about definition of accessible play amenity. Caton notes that AODA says wood chips are accessible, but many wheel chair users say that it's not. If an accessible amenity is on wood chips, it's not really accessible.

Allt asks the same question to staff. Matthews says ground level play is an example for people with wheel chair needs, but there are a wide variety of accessible needs that have to be met.

Allt asks Caton if these motions are meant to be considered for the current budget year. Caton says these are intended to be new metrics as playgrounds are redesigned. This is about placement, which should have less of a budget impact.

Richardson says that Guelph has been a leader in accessibility for a long time. Goller suggests that council focus on referring things maybe with more of a budget impact. Doesn't want to refer them all without discussing them first.

O'Rourke asks if a referral delays implementation. Matthews says they would move forward with the playground replacement and in spirit of co-operating they would look at the motions at the deliverable level.

O'Rourke asks if economic need is already a factor in service delivery. Matthews says it's a factor with a lot of capital work in parks.

Guthrie asks Downer and/or Richardson want to move a deferral motion. Downer says yes, because there's a lot of specificity required. It would be a motion to defer all five and have staff report back if any changes are required.

Guthrie's now reading out the five motions:

1. That the final PRMP include a requirement that all new playgrounds in Guelph include a minimum of two wheelchair accessible features, and that talk tubes are not considered one of those features.

(cont'd)

2. That the final PRMP include a requirement that all new playgrounds in Guelph include at least one play structure that is wheelchair accessible to the lowest deck.

(cont'd)

3. That recommendation 33 in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan be revised to read "Apply a service level target of one rubber surface playground within 2.5 kilometres of residential areas until 2025, moving to a target of one rubber surface playground...

...within 1.5 kilometres of residential areas starting in 2026.

4. That the final PRMP include a recommendation that areas of economic need will be a factor in determining the location of playgrounds with rubber safety surface.

5. That the final PRMP include a recommendation to work with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to establish a target ratio of playgrounds that have rubber safety surface.

Caton asks to separate that one out since it's already talking about being referred to the AAC. Guthrie says he agrees, but it's a matter of referring the whole slate.

Caton asks if AAC sees the value of proceeding with this work, will staff. Matthews says they will. Guthrie double checks with Matthews who says they will do the work to figure out how best to operationalise those motions, but there may be unintended impacts.

Caton asks about an information report and a timeline. Clack-Bush says they can look at doing an info report, but step one is getting in front of the AAC, but by the time that it comes back the budget will be passed, and at that point they can only make service level changes.

Caton says she'll endorse the referral.

Guthrie adds that he wants to know the financial impacts prior to 2025 budget, so could they get that in a report? Clack-Bush says they can get a report back before 2025 fiscal.

This is the referral motion:

**Parks and Recreation Master Plan - 2023-320**  
Councillor Downer



1. That Motions 1 to 5 be referred to staff to continue to work with the Accessible Advisory Committee and report back to Council if any new service levels are required.

Billings asks if this won't have to come back to council for approval if there are operational changes. Clack-Bush says that if there are budgetary or service level impacts it will have to come back to council.

Referral approved.

Back to the main motion. Billings asks if the recommendation shouldn't be approved in principle given the referral. Clack-Bush says "principle" leaves a lot of ambiguity and that they would like to get the approved al that it's clear we're moving forward along w/ work on the 5.

Busuttil asks about where the responsibilities of the old River Systems committee lie. Matthews says that's environmental planning.

O'Rourke asks why we're not looking for sponsorship opportunities before 5-9 year timeframe. Cultural manager Danna Evans says they're ready to have those conversations anytime, but putting staff time into soliciting those connections is the longer time frame.

O'Rourke asks if it could be accelerated. Evans says it depends on the "gas pedal" meaning budget.

Gibson says he likes using local associations for data about sports and park use in the city. Also, working with the private sector is nothing to be scared of. It's a good document.

Parks and Rec Master Plan approved unanimously.

Next, a motion from Klassen about Guaranteed Livable Income.

MOTION:

**Recommendation:**

1. That City Council directs the Mayor to write a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, MP Longfield, the Premier of Ontario, and MPP Schreiner, calling on these orders of government to work collaboratively towards implementing a National Guaranteed Livable Basic Income to eradicate poverty and homelessness, and ensure everyone in Canada has sufficient income to meet their basic needs.

Klassen says that she knows that there's a housing crisis, affordability crisis, healthcare crisis, inflation, et al. GLI is under consideration in the senate right now, and when you provide people in poverty with assistance, they spend it in the community on basic needs.

Klassen says that she hopes to add council's voice to the increase call for these measures.

Two delegates on this stating with Teresa McKeeman. She says she's been working in poverty for 30 years and the current system is broken. We're in crisis, and the system piecemeal with a lot of gaps and duplications. It's a myth people on social assistance don't want to work.

Delegate #2 is Elizabeth Snell. She says that GLI will help address the growing systemic inequalities and take some of the pressure off charities that are presently under desperate pressures. There could also be savings in the justice and healthcare systems.

Allt says this is good political advocacy that benefits Guelph, the cost to the City is zero and the return on investment is priceless.

Richardson says she's not sure what a guaranteed income would be. Wants an amendment to ask the upper levels of government to "explore" instead of "implement". Gibson seconds.

Gibson says this is a good idea to debate, if the idea is to reduce OW or other social welfare systems and replace with GLI. Is concerned about making work optional, b/c it creates a working class and non-working class.

Goller encourage colleagues to have the courage to pass this motion. If they believe that people are lazy and don't want to work, that's on them, but would rather vote straight up rather than weaken the motion.

Gibson asks if Goller was insinuating that Gibson was calling people lazy. Goller says he was just asking council to go from the strongest position, since council will not be the ones to implement LGI.

Klassen says that they need to be bolder, and it's okay to ask for what people need.

Busuttil says she wants to be bold and won't support the amendment. O'Rourke says she supports the idea of UBI, but is concerned about implementation, which is where things get difficult.

Richardson amendment fails 5-8. (Caton, Caron, Klassen, Allt, Goller, Busuttil, Downer, and O'Rourke oppose)



Motion approved 10-3 (Guthrie, Gibson and Richardson against).

Back to Culture Plan 2030 Staff Report.

Busuttil/Caton move the recommendation:

-That Culture Plan 2030 be approved.

-That costs associated with the implementation of Culture Plan 2030 be referred to the 2024-2027 multi-year budget process.

Busuttil says that she wanted to work with staff to capture some concerns her constituents have about cultural heritage in Ward 4. Starts by asking about remains of Mitchell farmhouse.

Clack-Bush says she and DCAO Holmes are starting a review of all artefacts in storage, and are working with museum and heritage staff to come up with a singular inventory, but don't take that to mean we don't have a storage system.

As for farmhouse, the materials were reserved and preserved for a use to be identified later. It will be part of the consolidation work staff are undertaking.

Busuttil's motion seconded by Downer:

**Culture Plan 2030 Staff Report - 2023-358**

Councillor Busuttil



1. That staff be directed to consider an additional recommendation for inclusion in the Culture Plan regarding City owned cultural, archival or heritage artifacts that considers incorporating such artifacts into public display for adaptive reuse and place making, in alignment with the existing public art policy and museum collections policies and report back to Council no later than Q2 2025.

Caron says she'll second because she wishes it was sooner and she wishes it was stronger. There's a big policy gap that needs to be closed. Downer says ditto.

Amendment approved unanimously.

Main motion as amended approved unanimously.

Bylaws of the week pass unanimously:

**\*7.1 By-law Number (2023) - 20825**

A By-law to amend By-law Number (2009)-18855, as previously amended, being a By-law respecting the licencing of businesses operating within the City of Guelph, in respect of short-term rentals



**\*7.2 By-law Number (2023) - 20848**

A by-law to amend By-law Number (2021) - 20655, as amended, being a User Fees or Charges By-law.



**\*7.3 By-law Number (2023) - 20849**

A by-law to confirm the proceedings of a meeting of Guelph City Council held October 24, 2023.



Mayor's Announcements:

-Guthrie congratulates council for one year since Election Day. Thanks council and staff for a consequential year.

-Budget town halls! Continued on next tweet.

Mayor/CAO + Chamber: Nov 8

Ward 6: Nov 9 @ 7 pm. Location TBD

Ward 5: Nov 16 @ 7 pm. Harcourt

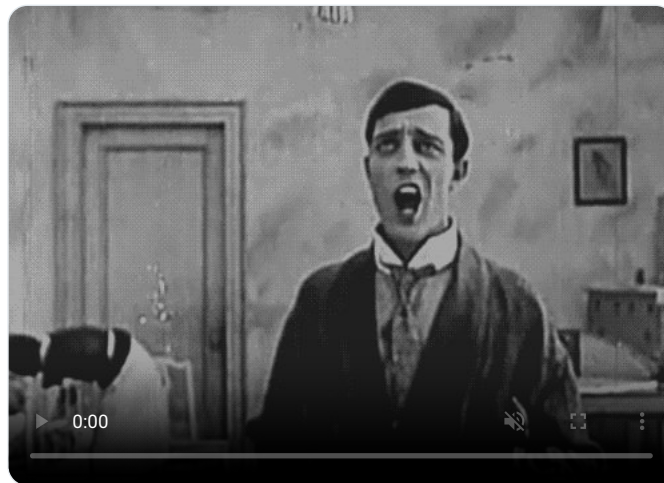
Ward 4: Nov 23 @ 7 pm. WECC

Ward 3: Nov 13 City Hall

Ward 2: Nov 20 City Hall

Ward 1: Nov 20 @ 5 pm in VRRC

And...



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

...