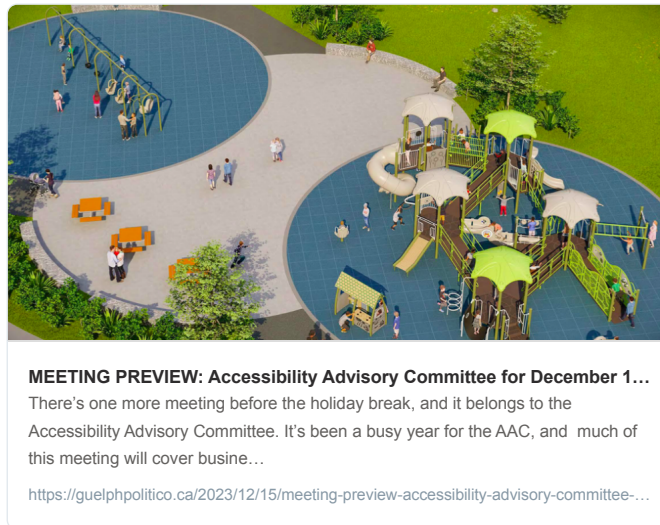




Adam A. Donaldson @adamadonaldson

Dec 19, 2023 · 60 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1737197269651267971](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1737197269651267971)

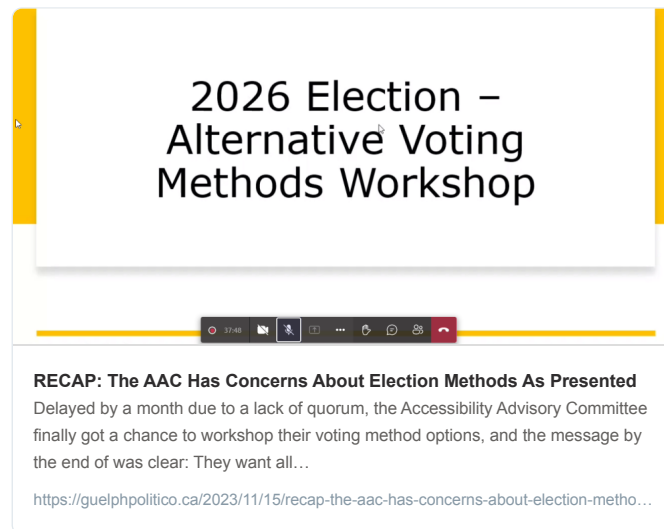
Coming at 3 pm, it's this month's Accessibility Advisory Committee. (The last meeting of the year btw.) This is what's on the agenda:



We have quorum, so Chair Root has called the meeting to order!

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof? Nope.

The first item, 2026 Municipal Election: Voting methods and accessible voting service enhancements. You may recall that there was a special meeting dedicated to this just last month:



City staff is looking for direction from the committee about the proposal for voting methods. Root says that the notes provided were not reflective of the conversation, which was the

concern they had. It's why they insisted that the meeting be recorded.

Root has put together a pair of recommendations with the help of staff, one that directs staff to look at a breadth of options of alternative voting so that as many disabled people are as covered as possible, and another to disregard the facilitator notes from the meeting.

Item 2.1: 2026 Municipal Election: Voting methods and accessible voting service enhancements



Motion

1. In order to accommodate independent voting for all residents of Guelph, the AAC recommends that the city offer Online/Internet Voting, Remote Accessible Vote by Mail, Vote by Phone, Vote by Mail, and door-to-door vote from home options for upcoming municipal elections. The AAC feels that leaving any of these options out will leave some disabled voters without access to a confidential and independent way to mark their ballot. Providing all options will help the city meet their duty to accommodate those individuals under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Furthermore, the AAC would like to highlight the importance of specifically RAVBM and Internet voting as the most universally accessible options, which would solve service gaps that have been present in the past two elections for many disabled individuals who have not had access to independent voting.
2. Regarding the facilitated accessible voting discussion the AAC requests the city disregard the point form notes provided entirely and only use the meeting recording verbatim to reflect the opinions of the AAC on accessible voting.

On internet voting or remote accessible voting, Root says that running with one of these is important since they allow disabled people to vote independently.

Member Popkey suggests an amendment noting that it say "significant" service gaps noting that these options still don't catch everyone, but it will catch as many people as possible. Root notes that it's important for council to see the AAC's work.

Clerk O'Brien says staff have a question about "door to door" is wondering how close that was to the "vote from home" pilot ran by the clerks last election. Root says the term "vote from home" was confusing b/c a lot of these alt methods let people vote at home.

O'Brien says there's no one definition, so they will take "door-to-door" to mean the vote from home program. He says the clerks' job now is to take that recommendation and back and look at sourcing. He thinks the motion gives good clarity.

Member Stienstra adds that it would be interesting to look at similar program were voting is done in a mobile van.

Recommendation #1 is approved!

Item 2.1: 2026 Municipal Election: Voting methods and accessible voting service enhancements



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As for rec #2, Root says that she was deeply frustrated with how that meeting went, especially listing pros and cons for the various options (bad form). Members of the committee didn't like having someone filter their feedback back to staff.

Member Stevens says "deep six" the notes, and agrees that it didn't reflect what the AAC was trying to say. Member McMurdo asks if the AAC might develop their own notes about the meeting, might lose something watching the full video.

Root says she's worried about putting it in the hands of someone to decide what's important. Staff asked to have that workshop so it's okay to them to watch the video. Doesn't want people using the doc as some "Coles Notes".

Jennifer Slater from staff says that they wouldn't want to be the ones to summarise anyway, and will gladly take on the work of watching the video, and well as receive other info from the committee.

Recommendation #2:

Item 2.1: 2026 Municipal Election: Voting methods and accessible voting service enhancements



Motion

Regarding the facilitated accessible voting discussion the AAC requests the city disregard the point form notes provided entirely and only use the meeting recording verbatim to reflect the opinions of the AAC on accessible voting.

That recommendation is approved.

Root asks if staff need anything else on this topic. O'Brien says no, this represents a lot of good work and they will continue the discussion in the new year with staff's formal recommendation, which will then go to council.

Next, Solid Waste Letter to the Federal Government. Staff prepared a letter to the federal government for feedback about their single-use plastic regulations.

Heather Connell, Manager of Technical Services, Environmental Services in Solid Waste Services notes the court case about the regulations where the court agree with the plastic manufacturers. The Fedgov will appeal, but in the meantime the City bylaw passed 09/22 stands.

Connell says that the letter is well timed considering. This is the letter here: <https://pub-guelph.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=43241>

Root proposes that they should include some language about proceeding with work between the AAC and the City, which was paused when the Fedgov announced their policy. Connell says that's good addition, but they can do that once court stuff is settled.

Member Cameron says that he thinks they can move this forward and staff know that the AAC wants more feedback once the court case is settled.

Motion That the AAC support and recommend that the Singe-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations advocacy letter be submitted to the Director of Plastics Regulatory Affairs Division, Environment and Climate Change Canada is approved.

Next, College Avenue Protected Cycling Infrastructure. Following up on the last meeting about this topic:

College Ave cycletracks project

Previous AAC motion:

"That more information be provided before the committee supports the design, and consideration for year-round weather maintenance be included, as well as yielding for cyclists to pedestrians and bus users, and more information about disability aids getting through the protected intersection safely be included."

Staff report follow up to that motion. Here are the highlights:

- Year-round maintenance **can be achieved** within this design through the use of new equipment and through existing Operations services.
 - The designs have been **modified to mitigate potential conflicts** between users at transit stops. Staff, including Guelph Transit Staff, are reviewing for all challenges.
 - Staff have:
 - Consulted internally and with other municipalities, reviewed provincial guidelines, and visited protected intersections in other cities.
 - Made adjustments to ensure the protected intersection is safe and easily navigable for all users.
 - Plans to host an on-site focus group with interested members of the AAC once the intersection is built to further understand how the intersection functions and feels, and what modifications may be required for future intersections.
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- Plans to host an on-site focus group with interested members of the AAC once the intersection is built to further understand how the intersection functions and feels, and what modifications may be required for future intersections.

It terms of changes, the cycling tracks will narrow as it approaches the transit stops, which is a similar type of traffic calming used on the full roadway, so that design will create more awareness. Transit will be keep on eye on visibility in case they can't see ppl waiting.

In terms of the intersection, they're making some small changes to widen the corner and make sure there's room. Once the intersection is open, staff will holding focus group to look

at how it works b/c this will be the City's 1st protected intersection.

Stienstra thanks staff for their work and volunteers for the site visit. McMurdo says there needs some signage to help identify the new features for drivers.

Popkey asks about when improvements might take effect if there are concerns about accessibility. Benita van Miltenburg from Transportation Planning says it might depend on severity of concern. Of course all accessibility issues are important, but it depends on ease and safety.

Clerk McMahon says that it's only first rec that AAC needs to vote on, but Root would like to proceed with the second and add that there should be compensation as this is a little outside the normal workload.

McMahon notes that while the City is looking to make those changes to allow for the compensation, but right now there's no budget for that. Root would like to get so more feedback about that, but it's good to have it on the record.

van Miltenburg adds that there will be numerous opportunities for members of the AAC to offer feedback, even if it's just an email.

The amended motion is moved, seconded, and approved.

Item 2.3: College Avenue Protected Cycling Infrastructure



Motion

1. That the AAC support the College Ave cycletracks project.
2. That the AAC be invited to visit the completed site with staff to discuss potential improvements for future projects and that AAC members be compensated for this additional work required for the site visit.

Next, University Village Park Playground. Stefan Ilic, Park Planner will present.

Artist concept designs for the playground:





Amenities:

Rubber safety surfacing throughout the entire play area

Wheelchair access to all play elements and components

Abundance of shade incorporated throughout the play equipment

Various sensory features throughout including roller slide

(cont'd)

Multiple accessible swings

Multiple areas for seating including sunshade structure with accessible picnic tables

Accessible signage and wayfinding

Committee members praise the design, it's a big improvement and is a great design. Root says that she's hopeful that the City will continue to engage the AAC on the other park design and also touts improvement.

Next, Central Station: New Construction. Amir Bhatti, Project Manager of Facilities and Energy Management will present. This will be an additional building at GCS with an indoor waiting area, ticket counter and washrooms.

Root says that she's had other concerns, and its one of those situations where disabled people are forced on one side and disable people are on the other. Doesn't want to get into a situation where we're denying access b/c asking for key means someone determining access.

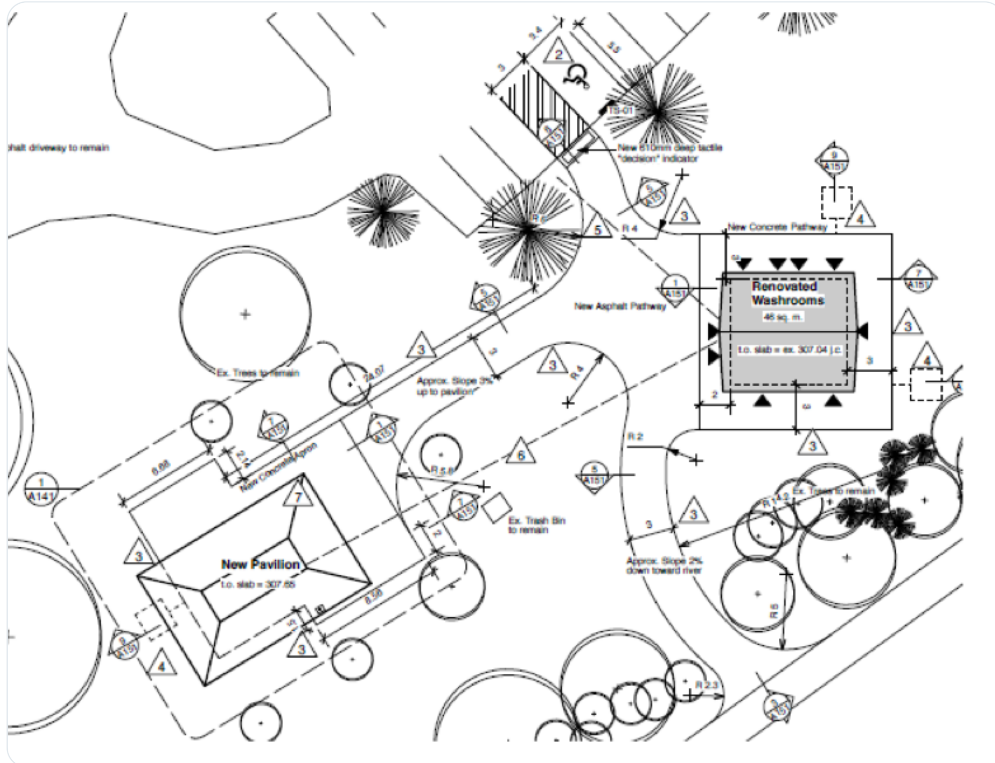
Ashkewe asks if the toilets installed will be the ones attached to the floor or if they're attached to the wall. Staff says they're not there yet, but they will be using the FADM to inform the design and will bring it back to the AAC before the final design.

This motion approved:

Recommendation

That the AAC recommend the design of the new Central Station include adult changing stations, and that access to the washroom centre dignity and equity for all individuals, and look forward to the design meeting the FADM.

Next, and last, Silvercreek Park: Washroom Renovations & Picnic Shelter. Jean Starchuk, Program Manager of Facilities and Energy Management is presenting.



This is how the site looks like right now, not much in the way of accessibility. The land is owned by the GRCA and Starchuk is working thought the planning process with them right now. Doesn't anticipate any big change to what she's presenting.

The scope of work includes FADM compliant renovations to the existing washrooms which will now be heated/open year-round, an accessible parking spot, trail improvements/connections, a replacement pavilion and accessible seating.

Example of new seating:



Lytle asks if the public washrooms will be gender neutral. Starchuk says yes. Lytle asks if there will be any kind of alert if someone's in distress. Starchuk says yes to that to and they're working out what that will look like exactly.

Root says that this space is pretty accessible for her with the long picnic tables, so she hopes that the will be maintained with a variety of other seating at the park.

Lowenger asks about hand washing stations. Starchuk says she can take that back to parks as a possible additional amenity in the design.

Motion:

Item 2.6: Silvercreek Park: Washrrom Renovations & Picnic Shelter



Recommendation

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee supports renovations to the existing Silvercreek Park washrooms, the replacement of the pavilion, the new trail design, new fixed seating, the new accessible parking spot and supports the overall design, with the additions of the modifications mentioned at the December 19, 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

The motion is approved.

Announcements:

Site Plan Review - Only a few applications coming in right now, so notice will go out to AAC when there's some more work.

Also, Happy Holidays to everyone! Root says it's been a good year, and she appreciates the engagement and efficiency of the AAC members.

Warren says that there will be some incredible stuff coming in 2024, there's going to be a lot of the committee to chew on.

And that's a wrap for the last meeting of 2023!



@threadreaderapp unroll please!