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Feb 20, 2024 · 62 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1760029154899059198](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1760029154899059198)

Coming up at 3 pm, it's this month's Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting. There's \*a lot\* on this agenda!



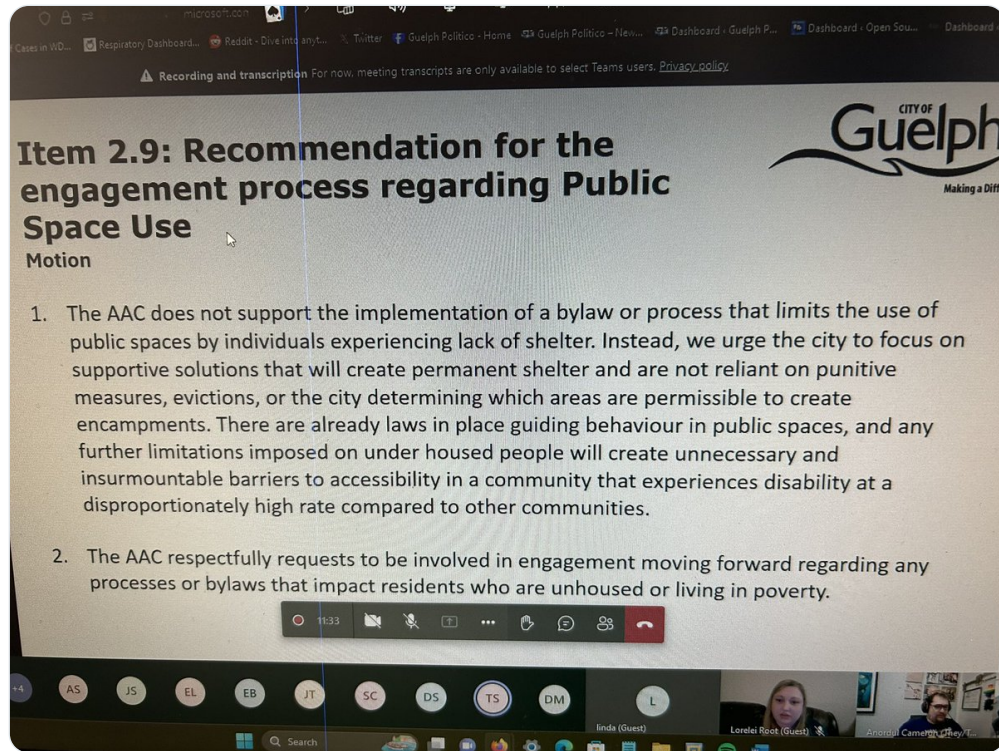
Chair Root calls the meeting to order.

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest and General Nature Thereof? Nope.

First item is actually the last item, Recommendation for the engagement process regarding Public Space Use. This is in response to last week's meeting about the Public Spaces Use Bylaw, which has been deferred until certain court cases are resolved. No set time for return.

Deputy Clerk McMahon says that the bylaw will \*not\* come back in the same form it was presented. He notes that one of the motion from the meeting was the collection of public feedback, and the will take place closer to summer, sometime after April meet of the symposium.

Proposed motion:



Root says that she thinks its in-line with what the feedback was at the meeting, and with the report released by the Canadian Human Rights Commission last week. She also said that it makes the point that we don't need bylaws for stuff that's already against the law.

Obviously, there's also the part about creating "unnecessary and insurmountable barriers to accessibility in a community that experience disability at a disproportionately high rate."

Member Popkey asks about whether the balance about people's concerns around safety is being discussed. Root says that public spaces should be open to public use, but if someone is using that park as a shelter of last resort should be left alone will be have more real shelter.

Popkey says her son has agoraphobia, not that she's trying to personalise it, but what if he doesn't feel safe at home when it backs out onto a park. Root says that's good feedback. McMahon reminds the committee that any bylaw will come back to AAC for full debate.

Svehla says she loves the motion, but is not sure everyone agrees with it as it is, so perhaps clause #1 can be amended. Ashkewe asks if they're able to consult with other outside agencies. Moves to adds a friendly amendment to that effect.

Member Cameron says they're not really interested in changing the motion, since his main point was not overly regulate behaviour. Popkey offers to amend the motion to say "use of \*current\* public spaces" but Cameron doesn't want to open the door to restrict certain areas.

Svehla seconds the motion and it's approved with only Popkey opposed. She says she supports the spirit of the motion, but not the current wording.

Next, Addition of Consent Agendas on Future AAC Agendas. McMahon explains that other ACOs and council meetings use this, a list of fairly routine or uncontentious items that can moved in one motion. Of course, members can still pull and item if they like.

Member Beitz asks about what kind of topics will be on the consent agenda, because accessibility issues are rarely simple. McMahon says if staff or the chair believe that something's going to generate a lot of discussion it won't be a consent item.

Something like "closing the loop" like when the Fed. gov't sends back a letter on their concerns about single-use plastic. Root says the idea is to try and pack more into the meetings, members can still send work in advance if they want to pull something.

Next, election of the chair and vice-chair for this year!

Root is nominated to chair again by Stienstra. Ashkewe seconds saying that she's provided great leadership.

Root is unanimously elected chair again.

Vice-chair? Ashkewe nominates himself to re-up as vice. He says he's been very involved in the community, and wants to learn to make Guelph the best possible place it can be for people with all abilities.

We've got a race! Root nominates Cameron saying that they've been very involved in learning the mechanics of being chair, plus representation for the non-binary community. Cameron accepts the nomination.

Cameron is named the vice-chair. "I got crushed," says Ashkewe with gentle good humour.

Motion to approve Cameron is approved unanimously.

Next, up ACOC Governance Framework - Phase 2. If you've been following this thread recently you know that staff are reviewing ACOCs and updating their operations. This is the first of 2 meets as phase 2 of the work is underway.

All changes are on the table, and nothing's been decided yet. Some ACOCs may have their mandates expanded, retracted or changed, others may be merged and disappear. Since the ACOCs will be supported with council-approved resources, there'll only be 7-10.

No matter what happens, the AAC will definitely be sticking around though b/c it's statutory:

## Current City of Guelph Advisory Committees

1. Accessibility Advisory Committee\*
2. Committee of Adjustment\*
3. Guelph Economic Development Advisory Committee
4. Guelph Museums Advisory Committee\*
5. Heritage Guelph
6. Municipal Property and Building Commemorative Naming Committee
7. Natural Heritage Advisory Committee
8. Planning Advisory Committee\*
9. Property Standards Committee\*
10. Public Art Advisory Committee
11. Tourism Advisory Committee
12. Transit Advisory Committee
13. Waste Resource Innovation Centre Public Liaison Advisory Committee
14. Water Conservation and Efficiency Public Advisory Committee

\* statutory committee required by provincial legislation or regulation

Clerks will be coming back to the ACOCs in late summer/early fall with the general outline of the changes, and then it will go to council before the end of the year for approval.

First, where does the AAC fit into the strategic goals? What goals could they potentially fit into?

The Strategic Plan	Future Guelph Strategic Plan Themes	Future Guelph Strategic Plan Theme Objectives
	Foundations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be an employer of choice</li> <li>2. Advocate for our City</li> <li>3. Lead with accountability</li> <li>4. Maintain the City's healthy financial position</li> </ol>
	City Building	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve housing supply</li> <li>2. Grow and care for our community spaces and places</li> <li>3. Make it easier to get around</li> </ol>
	Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be a leader in climate action</li> <li>2. Empower the community to help create a sustainable city</li> </ol>
	People and Economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grow Guelph's economy</li> <li>2. Make downtown a vibrant place for everyone</li> <li>3. Support community well-being</li> </ol>

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Root notes that she would hate people to think we should speak on less topics, but if important items can't fit on an agenda, there are ways they can address that and come up with creative solutions, which they've been pretty good at finding.

Svelha says she would not attach the AAC to any specific item. Doesn't want to limit the AAC to set areas because then they might miss something. Root says she feels like the mostly contribute to some of the same things over again, but they have opinions on other things.

McMahon says that it does seem like the City is good at bringing routine matters on certain topics to the AAC, but what he's hearing is that there's an accessible lens to all these things. The AAC can "improve housing supply" through the lens of creating more access. housing.

Stiestra says it's not just an accessible lens, but an inclusion lens. Something like growing the economy, and asking the question about why there aren't more entrepreneurs with disability is about inclusion not access.

And what about the Community Plan?

<b>The Community Plan 1 of 2</b>  Q1: Which strategic goals does your ACOC currently contribute to?  Q2: Which goals could it potentially contribute to?	Community Plan Themes	Future Guelph Strategic Plan Theme Objectives
	We are home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have housing that works for us</li> <li>Keep Guelph a safe City</li> <li>Love our neighbourhoods and keep them strong</li> <li>Keep our big, small city vibe</li> </ul>
	We protect the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and sustain what we have</li> <li>Reclaim what might otherwise be wasted</li> <li>Go further than any other city</li> <li>Prepare for the future</li> <li>Steward our resources</li> </ul>
	We create value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be a global innovation leader</li> <li>Support collaboration and tell our Guelph story better</li> <li>Leverage our unique character</li> <li>Foster inclusive prosperity</li> <li>Harness our discovery engines</li> </ul>
	We are community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We understand community</li> <li>Build and sustain strong, meaningful and reciprocal relationships</li> <li>Make truth and reconciliation a reality in Guelph</li> <li>Work within and across systems to eliminate discrimination and barriers</li> <li>Respect, pace and the 'fierce urgency of now'</li> <li>Create and hold safe, inclusive spaces</li> <li>Stories and information belong to the people who share them</li> <li>Use intentional and shared language and understanding</li> </ul>

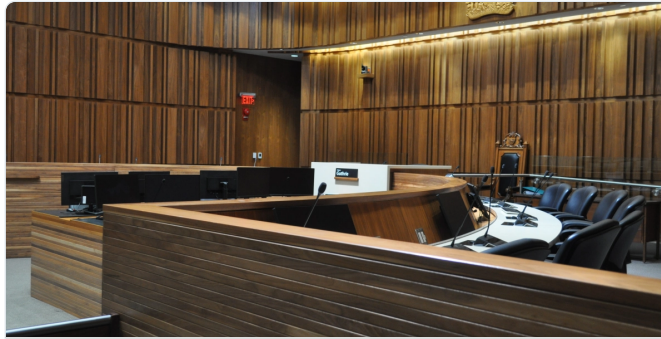
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<b>The Community Plan 2 of 2</b>  Q1: Which strategic goals does your ACOC currently contribute to?  Q2: Which goals could it potentially contribute to?	Community Plan Themes	Future Guelph Strategic Plan Theme Objectives
	We feel well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give children and youth a great start</li> <li>Foster good mental health</li> <li>Ensure that everyone feels they belong here</li> <li>Create a nourished community</li> <li>Build health infrastructure for the future</li> </ul>
	We play and explore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play everywhere</li> <li>Grow talent</li> <li>Explore and make sense of who we are together</li> <li>Invest and innovate</li> </ul>
	We move around freely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate easy movement within our city</li> <li>Facilitate active transportation, and connection to nature, via natural trails</li> <li>Embrace future-ready infrastructure</li> <li>Connect regionally</li> </ul>

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It seems like the committee has nothing to add on this one.

Next item: Playground Accessibility- Special Meeting. Back in October, council deferred some points of accessibility interest in the Parks and Rec Master Plan.



#### **This Week at Council: Livable Income; Accessible Playgrounds!**

Nothing really scary at this pre-Halloween council meeting, unless you're devoid of compassion. Council revisited the Parks and Recreation Master Plan from Committee of the Whole with a wider...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2023/10/29/this-week-at-council-livable-income-accessible-pla...>

It's staff recommendation that the AAC set a special meeting date on May 21 to talk out these ideas. Mallory Lemon, Manager of Park and Trail Development, notes that they need a motion from the AAC to take the time and have a special meeting on this.

Popkey moves the staff recommendation, Cameron seconds.

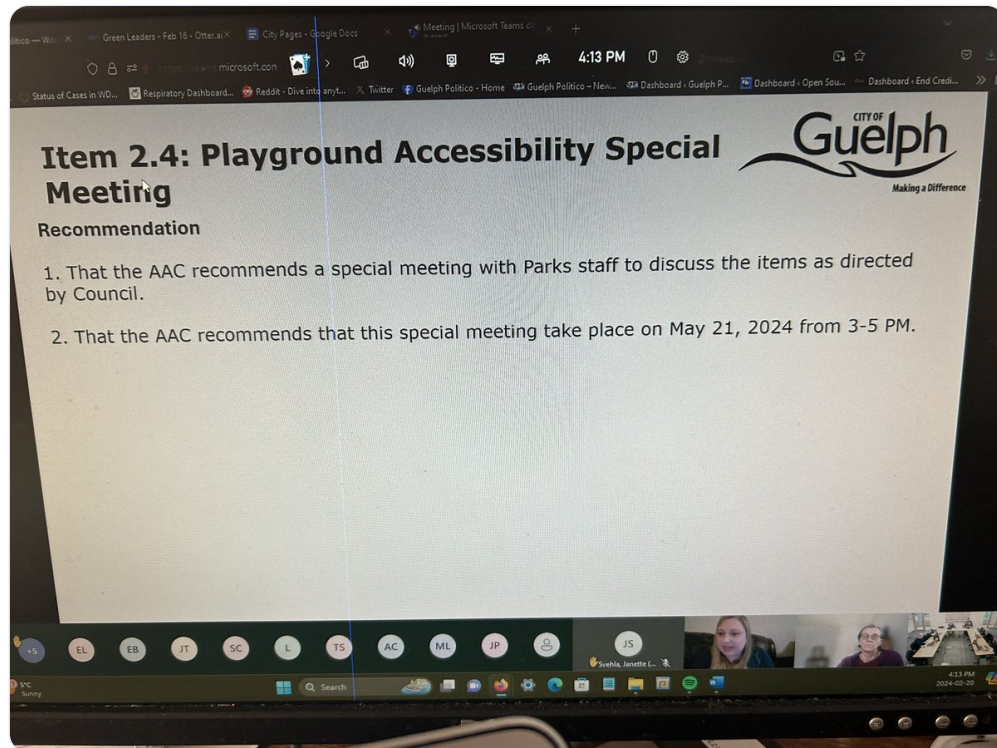
#### **Recommendation**

1. That the AAC recommends a special meeting with Parks staff to discuss the following items, as directed by Council:
  - That the final PRMP include a requirement that all new playgrounds in Guelph include a minimum of two wheelchair accessible play equipment, and that talk tubes are not considered one of those features.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
2. That the AAC recommends that this special meeting take place on May 21, 2024 from 3-5 PM.

Stienstra says that she's concerned about the level of detail included in the recommendations and needs some more time to think about them. Would rather there be a simpler motion, like consider council motion in special meeting.

New motion is approved:





2024-25 Play Equipment Lifecycle Project: Colonial Drive, Holland Crescent and Highview Parks. Jude Gaboury, Project Manager for Park and Trail Development, is here to collect feedback from the AAC about the improvements they would like to see.

Overview:

## 2024-25 Play Equipment Lifecycle Project

[Colonial Drive, Holland Crescent and Highview Parks]

- Phase 1 community engagement is currently available until March 3, 2024.
- Recommendations received from residents, stakeholders and the AAC, along with guidance from the [Creating Inclusive Playgrounds Playbook](#), will inform the design for the project.
- Phase 2 community engagement will include voting for the preferred two (2) playground designs prepared for each park.
- We will return to the AAC to review and discuss the preferred playground designs and park design details.
- Construction in Spring/Summer 2025.

So what types of elements should they be considering? Gaboury, who's been with the City for 5 months, says that he's still getting up to speed with local standards. Ashkewe asks about lighting, but that's not covered in the scope of this project.

Root says that she would like to hear back if the AAC's feedback is being incorporated. There was a playground that came to the committee in October that they were pretty not-okay with and haven't heard any follow-up. Would like to know if feedback is not being take too.

Svehla says that it would be a real "lessons learned" opportunity for committee to learn a reason why staff didn't follow through on recommendations.

Motion, with additional wording to direct staff come back to the AAC with a follow-up on their feedback:

## Recommended motion(s):

1. That the AAC receive the information provided regarding the 2024-25 Play Equipment Lifecycle Project.
2. That the AAC share their recommendations regarding the proposed scope outlined within the report.
3. That the AAC participate in the Have Your Say public engagement that is currently available until March 3, 2024.

Amended:

The screenshot shows a presentation slide from the City of Guelph. The slide title is "Item 2.5: 2024-25 Play Equipment Lifecycle Project: Colonial Drive, Holland Crescent and Highview Parks". Below the title is the heading "Recommendation". The slide lists four recommendations:

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee receive the information provided regarding the 2024-25 Play Equipment Lifecycle Project.
2. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee share their recommendations regarding the proposed scope outlined within the report.
3. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee participate in the Have Your Say public engagement that is currently available until March 3, 2024.
4. And that the City will come back to this committee to demonstrate how their recommendations were utilized or not utilized and the rationale therein.

The slide also features the City of Guelph logo in the top right corner. The background of the slide is a light blue and white pattern. The presentation is being displayed on a screen, and a video conference interface is visible at the bottom of the frame.

The amended motion is approved.

Next is Sport Field and Court Strategy. Tiffany Hanna, Park Planner, notes that staff are developing a strategy on this specific area of facilities management. Public engagement will start later this year, draft coming to council in 2026.



## Outdoor Sport Field and Surface Strategy

We're here to provide our project objectives, project timeline, and ask you to provide feedback.

We would like you to tell us:

1. How you use outdoor sport fields and surfaces? What improvements are needed to improve user experiences?
2. Are there specific accessibility needs for sport fields and courts (for users and spectators) that we should be aware of?
3. What emerging trends or sports we need to consider in our strategy (e.g. wheelchair baseball)?



Ashkewe says that he met with someone that wanted to do an accessible skate park. He notes that there is an extreme sports community among people in wheel chairs and they're looking for space. Not quite the scope of this, but good feedback staff say.

Root asks for an addition to the recommended motion to reach out to stakeholders because there are specialists in wheel chair sports in Guelph who might have some ideas.

Motion THAT staff continue to engage the AAC throughout the Outdoor Sport Field and Surface Strategy at key milestones (amended with Root's comments about targeted engagement) is approved!

That brings us to Municipal Election Follow Up. Jennifer Slater - Manager Information, Privacy and Elections/Deputy City Clerk and Carrie Murray-Sprague - Council and Committee Coordinator, City Clerk's Office are here to present.

Root asks for the motion to move past 5 pm to that they have a fulsome discussion, but it seems like we would lose quorum at 5. Root suggests have a special meeting to discuss this item.

Root says she's been pushing to have equal time in the executive planning meeting, and doesn't want to start something without being able to finish it Stienstra says that they've all been through the deck and wants to have her say b/c the issues previously raised not addressed.

Root asks for a motion to schedule an additional special (time sensitive) meeting for this topic. Svehla says she would be interested in moving that. Warren says that they could also defer this topic to the top of the agenda in April.

Cameron seconds an additional meeting for this topic. No one seems to be opposed to the idea. Warren asks about timing. Stienstra says it seems like a lot to have a meeting per month for four months. She adds that she's dispirited by this item.

It seems like there's some confusion about what motion is where. Root says she's concerned about this getting squashed in a regular meeting agenda. Svehla says that she would like staff to explain in a report why they didn't adopt AAC's recommendations.

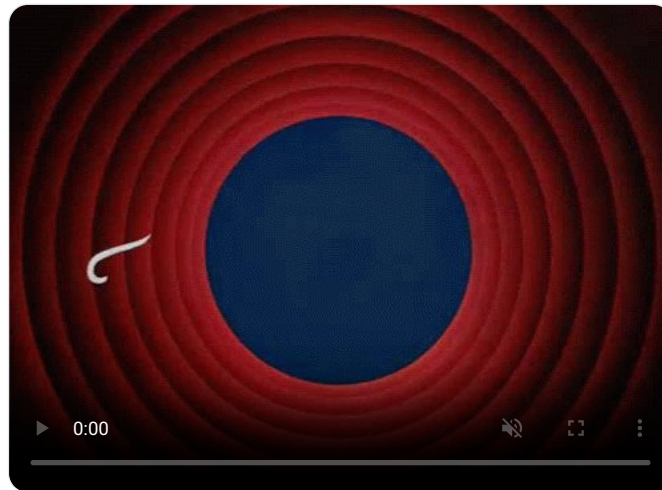
Staff are suggesting that agenda items can be moved from the April meeting and attached to the special May meeting. Root wonders if the committee might trust her to do some agenda management, but we're talking about blocking off 45 minutes for this one item, which is a rarity.

Stienstra suggests budgeting 2 minutes per person and you get 35 minutes for staff presentation and debate.

So we're back to figuring out a motion. Member Stevens suggest proceed with attaching that to the April meeting and getting a break down of time, and then anything they can't get to in April could potentially be looked at for the May meeting.

Motion to move this item to the April meeting for 10 minute staff presentation and 25 minutes of debate is approved. Root adds that she wasn't alleging any skullduggery, but she wants to give this matter a full and fair hearing.

Meeting adjourned!



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

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