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May 21, 2024 · 53 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1792990765347430676](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1792990765347430676)

Coming up at 3 pm, it's a special meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. This is what's on the agenda today:



**MEETING PREVIEW: Accessibility Advisory Committee for May 21, 2024**

Yes, it's May, but accessibility matters do not take a holiday even when it's one of the Accessibility Advisory Committee's usual months off. Unlike most AAC joints, this one will...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/05/10/meeting-preview-accessibility-advisory-committee-...>

We may have a quorum issue. There are seven members in attendance, but we need eight.

Looks like we got number eight, so Vice-Chair Cameron calls the meeting to order!

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

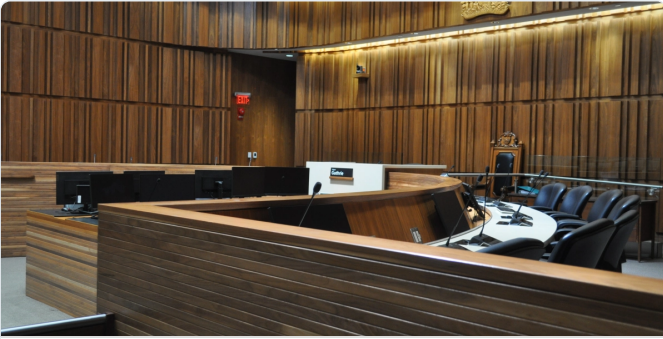
There's one item for today, Playground Accessibility! This is a discussion about five motions referred to the AAC by city council last fall. They are:

1. 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.
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 km of residential areas until 2025, moving to a target of one rubber surface playground within 1.5 km 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.

Root asks a question: Is it appropriate for the AAC to discuss the scope of budgeting or about how ramps take up a lot of space? Staff says she's right and Mallory Lemon, Manager of Park and Trail Development says she can adjust on the fly.

Root says that her point is that it's the AAC's job to present the best possible recommendations to increase accessibility. Working out budget and logistics is in the realm of city council.

Lemon takes over to present. Notes that the Parks and Rec Master Plan was approved last year with these five items referred by council to get AAC feedback. To recap:



**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...

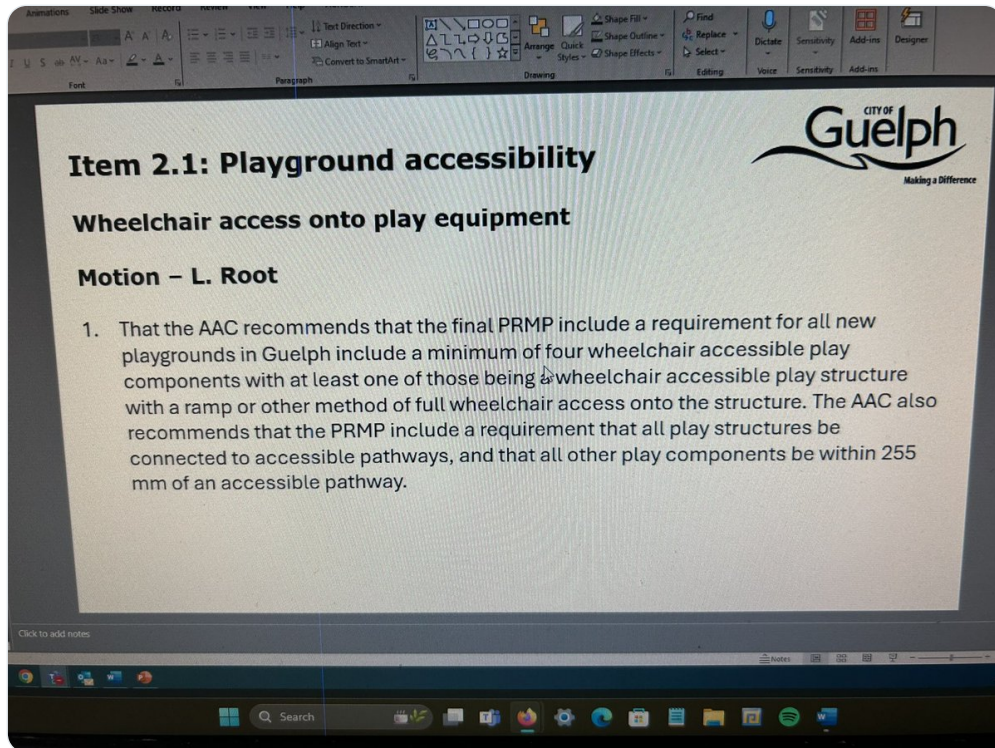
<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2023/10/29/this-week-at-council-livable-income-accessible-pla...>

First item: Requirement for two wheelchair accessible play equipment not including talk tubes. Root says talk tubes mention was driven by the desire not to slap a talk tube and call it an accessible feature, prefer a number and not name any specific items in motion.

Member Ashkewe says he went out with the staff last week and noted there's trouble even getting to the playground sometimes in a wheelchair.

Lemon says she believes that the councillor that originally brought the motion wanted there to be 2 playground equipment options for kids in wheelchairs, and perhaps the motion can make that explicit.

Root's proposed motion for item one and two:



Member points out that the City might not have the budget, so this might come back for further recommendations. Root says it's her understanding is for council to decide hope to implement this so it shouldn't come back to the AAC. The member notes he's being cautious.

Root says it's always going to be an ongoing conversation about what can be afforded or constructed, but the idea is to have this aspirationally enshrined in the PRMP. Member Lyle says he gets that, but this is a concern he has in the back of his mind.

Ashkewe says he saw some cool stuff at Riverside Park, and hopes that they do more than swings. He was surprised how much was successful at Riverside, and feels good about what can be done.

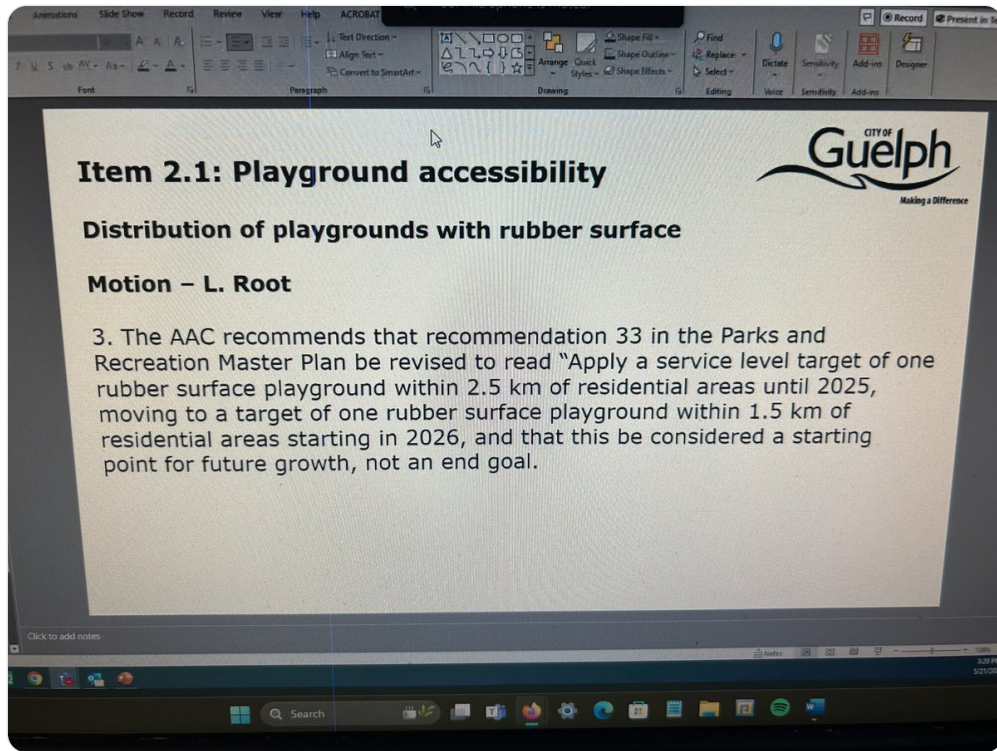
Lemon says next steps after feedback from AAC is that there will a report from Parks staff to council. Just wants committee to be aware.

The motion is approved.

Since that motion takes care of #2 we move on to #3: That recommendation 33 in the PRMP be revised to read...

“Apply a service level target of one rubber surface playground within 2.5 km of residential areas until 2025, moving to a target of one rubber surface playground within 1.5 km of residential areas starting in 2026.”

Root proposes another recommendation. She says it is based on previous discussions that the AAC has had and is a starting point for conversation.



Lemon says that staff were asked if they will continue to apply the 2.5 km service level as the city expands as a minimum and the intention to do better. Root says the convo at council was not the same as the one at AAC, the motion was tabled as a means for more clarification.

Root adds that she doesn't want to make it seem that she's pitting staff against the AAC, she's just trying to make sure that the intentions of both sides are clear, which is why she's trying to be as detailed as possible in her motions. Lemon says no offence was taken.

That motion is approved too.

Next, a discussion about #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.

Root moves the recommended motion: That the AAC recommends that economic need be a factor in determining the location of playgrounds with rubber surface.

Member McMurdo ask how need is determined. Lemon says that they use census data. First they look at distribution, and anywhere they see a gap they look at the census data mapping and see where the need it.

Ashkewe asks how recent the census data. Lemon says the data is released every four years, so they're currently looking at 2023 numbers.

Lemon asks if there needs to be something in the motion about the distribution model. Lemon says if the AAC feels this motion is clear enough, they can proceed. Root feels like there should be a line added about the distribution gaps than the needs.

"Noting that city-wide distribution gaps will be considered first, with areas of economic need being identified with those gaps" is added to the motion.

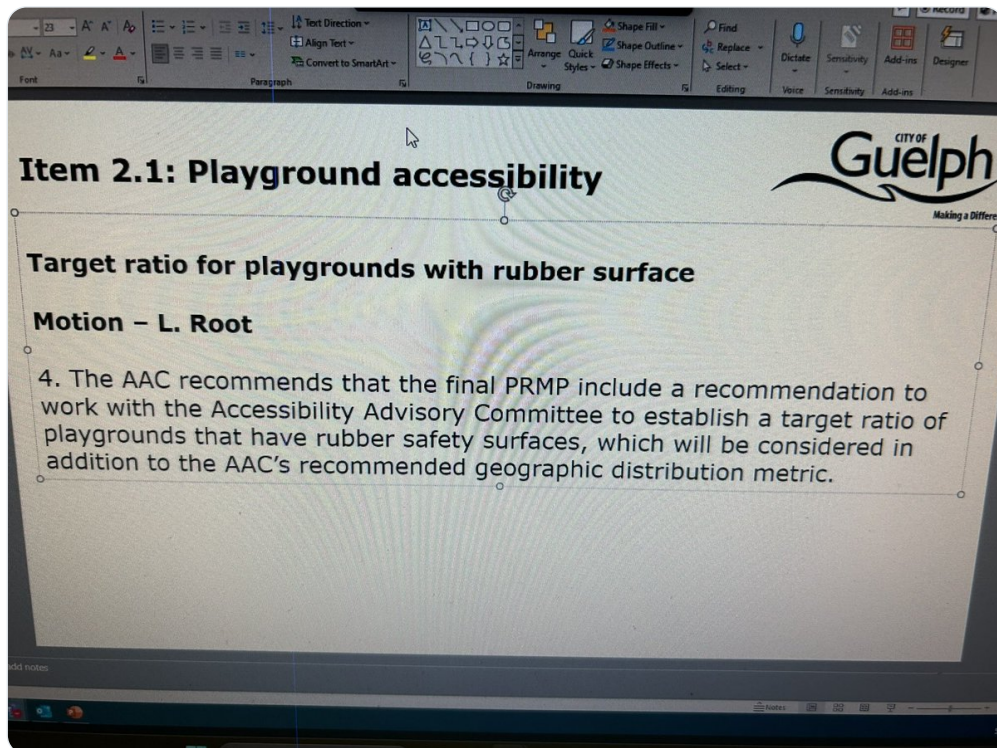
The amended motion is approved.

Now the last recommendation: 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.

Lemon refers to be presentation. She says this is challenging b/c they already have a distribution method, so it's redundant. May end of up with rubber surfaces concentrated in one area and the current target is measurable and equitable. Staff recommends to stay the course.

Root says she agrees with Lemon and thinks this was the AAC's original intention. Council was looking for a target like 50-75% accessible. Would like to have that discussion at some point, but agrees it wouldn't be helpful in this moment.

Root's proposed motion:



Root asks Lytle if the wording of this balances the council recommendation and the staff one. He says target ratio and distribution are together are tight, and thinks the motion should be paired down. Motion is too dense right now.

Lytle notes that these seem like two different things, and Lemon agrees adding that she doesn't understand the motion as written. Perhaps they should say what the target is. Root says the convo at council pointed out how many parks there should be beyond figuring out where.

Perhaps a changing the recommendation to have future discussion/engagement. Lytle says they can look at geographic for the first four years, and then refine plan when new census data come out and then reconsider.

Lemon notes there's a five-year update for the PRMP, so that could be a natural place to revisit the idea of a ratio. Root says they could come up with a ratio, sees not problem says 50% of new parks having rubber with placement determined by the metric.

Member Svehla says she likes the idea of setting a target, and wonders what comparators are doing. Also "new parks" why not say 100% since developers have to set aside land for parks in subdivisions?

Root says she's fine says 100% of all new parks, and realises that the City has said they can't do that, but for reasons mentioned before this is an aspirational ask.

Popkey asks if insufficient drainage would be a reason not to build a park. Staff says that they do investigations into the best places to have a park, and Lemon says that drainage should not be a barrier to a rubberised surface.

Lytle says he wants the motion to be clear and leave the numbers out. Svehla says that she thinks they're getting a little too far into what ifs, and there are whole teams putting together optimum plan for any development. The work is happening now vs. existing parks.

Root amends motion, The AAC recommends that a target ratio of 100% of new playgrounds have rubber surfaces in addition to the geographic measurement. She worries about leaving it too nebulous. Ashkewe seconds again.

Lytle asks if there's ever a reason a rubberised safety surface would not be feasible. Lemon says there are some when it comes to existing playgrounds, but not so much with the new ones.

Root says last year there were a lot of AAC meetings to talk about playgrounds getting retrofitted, wanted them all to have rubber, but there were logistical issues. Praise parks dept. for working to accommodate.

The amended motion is approved.

Lemon thanks the AAC. Says next step is to take feedback and report back to council. When is that? Not sure. Lemon says council agenda is full and is looking for a time when they might fit it in. They'll let the AAC know in advance.

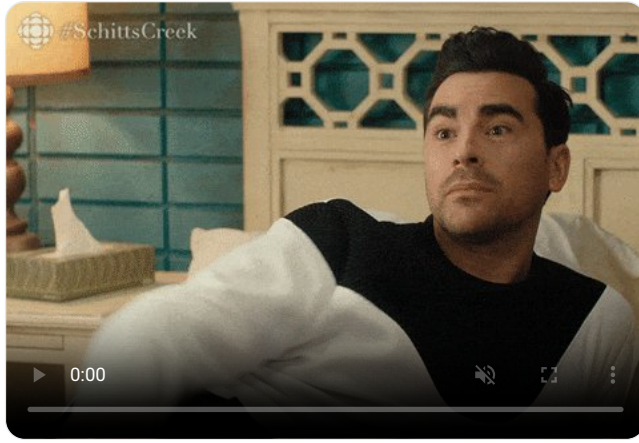
Staff note that now would be a good time to appoint someone to speak at that meeting. They have the time now.

Ashkewe recommends Lytle, who seems willing. Root asks if the chair and vice-chair should have to pass first. Lytle says "If you want it, you got it!"

Staff note that the chair is the representative for the committee unless they're unable to appear in which case they can designate someone. Also, the chair or their designate will be included as a presenter along with staff when designation is coming from ACOC advice.

Lemon says she expects that this will likely go to council late 2024 or early 2025, so there's turnover to consider. Root agrees saying that she might not be chair so why not recommend that the chair present at the council meeting on this. It's moved, and approved.

That's a wrap for this meeting!



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