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Aug 20, 2024 · 59 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1825967893034475800](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1825967893034475800)

We interrupt your summer vacation for this month's Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting. Here's what we're doing this month:



MEETING PREVIEW: Accessibility Advisory Committee for August 20, ...

Not everyone is getting August off. The Accessibility Advisory Committee will take a break from the summer break to have their bi-monthly meeting and tackle several different topics around local ac...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/08/13/meeting-preview-accessibility-advisory-committee-...>

We're just waiting to see if there's quorum. Stand by.

With quorum achieved, Chair Root calls the meeting to order!

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

Agenda approved.

Minutes from last meeting approved.

One item on consent: Update on Accessibility Renovations at Silvercreek Park. That's approved!

First presentation Finding Your Way: Walking, Cycling and Rolling (Active Transportation Wayfinding Strategy). Kate Berry - Project Manager, Transportation Planning - will present.

The breakdown:

Design a user-friendly system of wayfinding signs and other information tools

Existing trails & cycling routes throughout the city

Help people to find their way more easily:

plan their trips

estimate their travel time

choose the best route for their needs

(cont'd)

Public engagement through Have Your Say: Summer to early Fall 2024

Engagement Summary Report expected November 2024

Final strategy report February 2025

Berry notes that there's currently an online survey on the Have Your Say page. The aim of today's presentation is to get AAC feedback on sections and routes that need better signage, important destinations in Guelph, and helpful accessible features.

Member Stienstra says that the best signage she's seen on trails is in Brantford. They have maps every few hundred metres with clear distances from one location to another, and they gave you possibilities.

Stienstra notes that there are trails in Guelph that need info about steep grading in some locations, and she also finds some of the signage confusing.

Member Ashkewe asks about using apps. Signs could have QR codes that can give people a heads up about potential barriers and issues along trails. He also notes that Pokemon Go uses topographical map, why not Guelph?

Member Lytle notes that there should be information out front at the start of a trail about potential barriers and difficulties so that people don't get halfway down the trail and then run into issues.

Lytle adds that seasonal awareness would also be good, and Ashkewe adds that risks of areas getting washed out after rain is also good info to have. Stienstra adds noting where places intersect with traffic would also be nice.

Root says that when she's on an accessible path, she's stuck on their till she gets to the next curb cut, so accessible points of exit would be good info to have. She would also like more information about what "accessibility" means specifically.

Berry asks about priority sections. Ashkewe says there's a trail near Riverside Glen near Victoria he uses that need some signage, lots of hard-packed dirt paths there. Also, at the U of G, there's call boxes, could that be an option? Berry says she's not sure about that one.

Lytle notes the diverse environments in Guelph. It would be interesting to think about all the different usages, and how that would impact signage and way finding.

Stienstra says her priorities are the Royal City trail, and the Riverside Park at Woodlawn crossing.

Recommendation to receive the report and receive the advice from the AAC. Vice-Chair Cameron adds his recommendation, which is to use accessible fonts, something that can be used by near-divergents. Also, make any software open source.

Berry adds that staff will be able to come back in the first quarter of 2025 to talk about the plan incoming along.

The recommendations are approved.

Next, Orin Reid Park Development Project. Stefan Ilic - Project Manager, Park and Trail Development - will be presenting.

Orin Reid Park is getting a facelift with a new splash pad, washroom building, shade and seating areas, trails, parking areas, and cricket pitch. The committee will be asked for their feedback about how best to make these improvements to the park accessible to everyone.

Orin Reid Park Development Project



- ① Accessible parking upgrades
- ② Cricket pitch upgrades
- ③ Shaded seating area
- ④ New splash pad
- ⑤ Path connection to the trail system
- ⑥ Washroom building

Ilic says that this is very early in the design process, and is looking to get some feedback from the group. Jean Starchuk - Project Manager, Facilities and Energy Management - notes that washrooms will be heated and gender neutral.

Stienstra notes that parks come up often at meeting, and wonders if there's a way that they don't have to keep resisting the same feedback, like an adult change table.

Ashkewe says he wants to make sure they're thinking about picnic tables that wheelchair accessible, and making sure that there's proper clearances for a wheelchair van. He also asks if EV is an AAC jurisdiction matter?

On that last part, Ilic says that it's not typically in their scope, but that doesn't mean that they can't look at.

Root dittos adult change tables, and she agrees that there should be a living document about AAC feedback for park. She also notes that there should be some opportunity at a splash pad to decide how wet you get.

Ilic says that they do have a list of things requested by the AAC for splash pads, and they've been working off that. They've also been making sure that all commentary is reflected in the minutes.

Stienstra wonders if there's an example of an accessible cricket pitch. Ilic says they've been looking at that, all they know is that it requires accessible entry/exit and artificial turf, but research is underway.

Root asks about flexible seating, should be enough room so that someone can lay down if necessary, or even just stretch. Also need some flexibility with the arm rests.

Recommendation to receive the report, support the design goals and objectives, and submit comments approved.

Next, Additional Residential Dwelling Unit Incentive Program: Accessible Design Component. Lucas Mollame - Policy Planner II, Planning and Building Services - is presenting.

As part of the housing accelerator funds received by the City, they have to look at incentive programs. Staff are looking at the program criteria and the best options for creating incentives, including ones for accessible features.

DEETS:

Aim is to balance construction costs w/ more housing

Can be entry-level housing in est. neighbourhoods w/lower costs.

Can come in many forms.

Would be a voluntary program component.

But: Building Services cannot enforce compliance through building permit.

Recommendation: To receive the report, receive the draft list of design features (), and make further recommendations. <https://pub-guelph.escibemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=51002>

Would this just be new construction? Yes, if people are interested in renovating basement or adding an addition, it would be made available. They're looking at financial incentives right now, as in cash.

Root adds that people should be putting in permanent ramps, not just renting a ramp, levers are better than knobs on fixtures, mirror height to change angle, and need enough clearance in bathroom to close door.

Root: Also need entrance from the street, and transition-free showers don't work for everyone, some people like a bench so that should be flexible.

Lytle asks if there's any selection process, basement apartments present more challenges. Mollame says it's a tricky balance, if the goal is provide more units, then they want to make sure it can be done in short order. Wants applicant to help determine what works best.

Recommendation approved.

Next: Guelph Museum: Renovation Feedback. Tammy Adkin - Manager, Museums and Culture - and Jean Starchuk - Project Manager, Facilities and Energy Management - are presenting.

The Museum is renovating three existing areas:

- The Families Gallery – a hands-on, interactive space for children from birth to 10 years old and their grown-ups, envisioned to provide playful learning experiences

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- The City Gallery – an engaging space intended to reflect through artifacts and multi-media installations the stories of the people and the place we now call Guelph
- The reception lobby – a welcoming, enticing, accessible reception area.

This is aligning with HVAC improvements that are being made to the museum building. Also, they're looking for AAC recommendations for stories to best reflect life in Guelph – past, present and future, and the lived experiences of people with disabilities.

Lytle says he goes to the museum often with his kids, one of whom is on the spectrum. He says it's historically been a fantastic spot and very family friendly. Also, the outer area with the McCrae statue is nice. Atkins says the Family Gallery will remain where it is.

Cameron suggests Robert Munsch as an example due to his mental health struggles, and Jean Little who was legally blind. Applied Biomechanics, a Guelph company, may also be a source of good stories about disabled athletes.

Root notes that the Georgia Aquarium is one of her favourite spaces because of their sensory pods, which can provide all kinds of relief for people.

Recommendation to receive the report and also to receive the AAC feedback is approved.

Next, AAC Member Handbook Appendix A Review. es, there is a handbook for being a member of the AAC, and it gets reviewed every year.

The biggest change this year to the handbook, at the request of the committee itself, is a definition of intersectionality:

“What is intersectionality:

“Intersectionality is a way of understanding how a person’s different identities – such as race, gender, class, sexuality, disability, etc. – can affect the way they experience life. It’s like looking at life through many different lenses at the same time. It helps us understand that people’s experiences can’t just be split into separate categories.

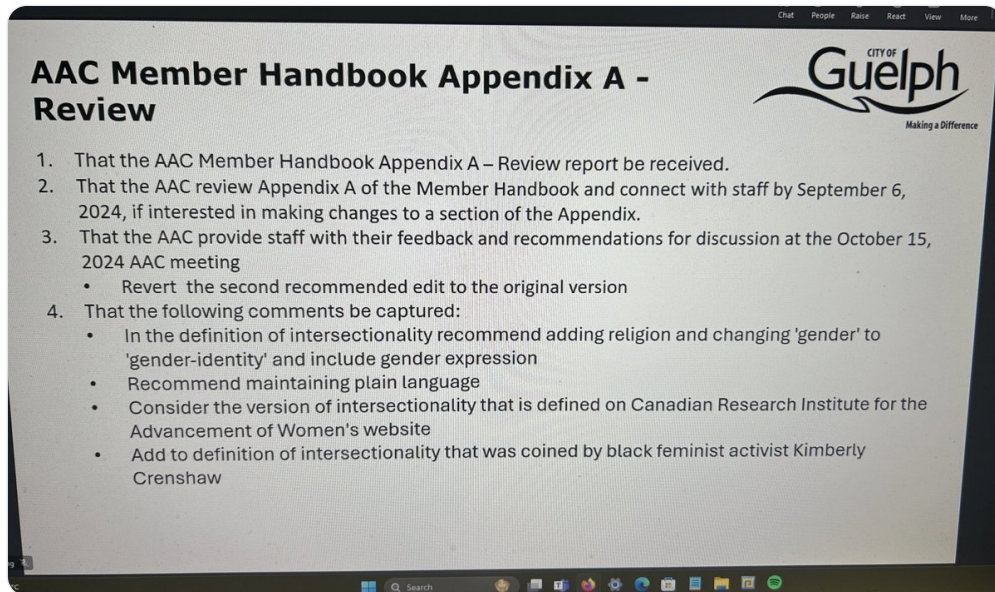
“We now include disability when we talk about intersectionality because people with disabilities face unique challenges. When you mix disability with other parts of a person’s identity, it can change the way they experience discrimination or privilege. This helps us understand that everyone’s experience is different and more complex than just one part of their identity.

“Today, intersectionality is used to study how different social categories, including disability, combine to shape people’s lives and opportunities. This broader view helps us analyze social justice issues more thoroughly and inclusively.”

Why is religion not mentioned in the definition? Staff says that's an oversight, but it can be added.

Stienstra says that the definition misses a point about the power dynamics, and sometimes there's a lack of understanding about how power can influence unequal treatment.

Motion for this item:



Roots asks to add a definition for intersectionality as coined by the Black Feminist author Kimberle Crenshaw, and how the word has it's origins in that work, plus the work of Indigenous scholars.

The motion is moved and approved!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Feedback is presently being collected for the recommendations brought by the Design of Public Spaces Standards Development Committee. The feedback deadline is August 29, 2024.

(cont'd)

The Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA) is planning an AAC Forum that will be taking place on Oct 2.

2 members, Zehava Jacobs and Donna McMurdo, have tendered their resignations from the AAC.

Committee Liaison Sarah Boghossian will be on maternity leave effective Oct 2.

That's a wrap for this meeting!



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

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