



**Adam A. Donaldson** @adamadonaldson

Oct 17, 2024 · 72 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1846987657345167827](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1846987657345167827)

Coming up at 3 pm, it's this month's Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting. This is what's on the agenda:



**MEETING PREVIEW: Accessibility Advisory Committee for August 17, ...**

Don't worry, the October Accessibility Advisory Committee has not been cancelled, it's just been moved to another day of the week. This special Thursday meeting of the AAC will cover a ...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/10/11/meeting-preview-accessibility-advisory-committee-...>

It appears that we're waiting for one more person to achieve quorum before we begin.

Okay quorum achieved. Chair Root calls the meeting to order.

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest and General Nature Thereof? None.

Agenda change alert: 3.6 Committee edit to Appendix A of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Member Handbook 2023 is now part of the consent agenda with Additional Residential Dwelling Unit Incentive Program – Final List of Accessible Design Features

Agenda approved.

Minutes from the last meeting approved.

Consent agenda approved.

First item: AAC Processes - Public Space Use Bylaw Example. Root says a number of members wanted to raise this. This not about the bylaw itself, this is about the discussion btw staff and AAC and working towards good working relationship.

To recap: AAC asked for staff discussion about the PSUB after the Feb. council meeting. Staff committed to engagement when the bylaw would come back, but then it was put on a council agenda at end of August w/o that engagement.

Root says that the staff did not feel this was an appropriate topic for a public meeting, but they can't pass motions or ensure transparency unless the meeting is public. She says staff will not speak to this item.

Root says that at the end of the day, the AAC controls its own agenda and motions.

Member Svelha says there's been a lot of disorganisation with this meeting, didn't get quorum check email, felt like the options for a re-schedule weren't all kosher. Root says the quorum check was a tech issue, but we need to be mindful we're all on the same time, AAC & staff.

Root says she's going to be harsh on anyone that speaks ill of staff here. She and the vice-chair did not cancel the regular Tuesday slot, but they both had conflicts and wouldn't be able to attend, which was an issue b/c staff didn't want to present this item

Root says should would have bought a different plane ticket home to be back in Guelph on time for the regular Tuesday meeting if a reschedule wasn't possible, but she never said "cancelation"

Member Ashkewe says there's been some comms breakdown, but what they want is a collaborative relationship with staff, and b/c they're a marginalised community they have to be aware of not just being given a voice, but having a voice. These processes have to be honoured.

A motion from Ashkewe, essentially asking staff to do outreach in the case of promised engagement opportunities being cancelled. VC Cameron seconds.

### **Item 3.1: AAC Processes**

#### **Motion by Member Ashkewe**



1. The AAC requests that staff review the engagement process to add measures that ensure that when completion of promised engagement is not possible, staff will communicate that to the AAC as soon as it is known, and that staff be available to answer questions about the situation at a subsequent AAC meeting.

In the event that completion of promised engagement is not possible, the AAC requests that staff make efforts to contact AAC members via email or alternate means to provide opportunity for alternate forms of engagement.

Ashkewe motion approved.

Next, a motion from Cameron. It asks that the orientation docs and manuals be revamped to reflect provincial mandates and not just city ones.

## Item 3.1: AAC Processes

### Motion by Vice Chair Cameron



2. In order to address a current gap, the AAC wishes to be involved in reworking the AAC orientation documents and manual to include information that reflect the roles, responsibilities, and rights of members as laid out by the province and not just the city. This information should include the AAC's right to have final say over our own agenda and meeting content even when staff disagree, as well as information about city mandates not being allowed to guide members in contravention of provincial mandates. This will ensure that AAC members can be as effective as possible.

Ashkewe says it's important that future AACs have the most up-to-date information, and to make sure they're well trained to be as effective possible. Also need to assure that as many voices are heard as possible.

Member Beitz asks if this is just a strong recommendation, they can't twist staff's arm, right? Root says the AAC doesn't just exist as a city committee, it exists by ONgov mandate. She wasn't aware that the chair/vice have final say on agenda, need to be aware of that.

Root adds that no one is accusing the City of withholding, they have a solid recommendation 99 times out of 100, but it's important to understand that the mandate comes from the province, which supersedes City in conflict.

That motion is approved too.

Third motion from Svehla about authority to schedule and cancel AAC meetings. Ashkewe seconds.

## Item 3.1: AAC Processes

### Motion by Member Svehla

City of Guelph



3. The AAC requests that the city change the process of scheduling AAC meetings to include authority and approval of the AAC in those decisions. Since contents of meetings and agendas fall under the authority of the AAC through the chair, having decisions about cancelling and rescheduling meetings fall under the authority of the city provides opportunities for unnecessary conflict if staff do not approve of the contents of a meeting agenda.

That motion is approved too.

Last, a motion from Cameron to have AAC confer with council about appointments to the AAC. Root says this is not a matter of trust, but it's an opportunity to be more collaborative.

and ensure representation in how best to reflect the disabled community.

## Item 3.1: AAC Processes

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### Motion by Vice Chair Cameron

4. The AAC requests that council revisit the processes through which AAC members are appointed to include transparency for and involvement of AAC members in the decision. AAC members would like to have the opportunity to make recommendations to council about membership the same way staff do, and to be made aware of the recommendations of staff. This would protect members' abilities to do our work unrestricted by fear of repercussions in the event of disagreement from staff and will also ensure that membership best reflects the diversity of the disabled community.

Root adds that the fear of repercussion exists even if it's not rational. Ashkewe agrees saying again, "nothing about us without us... We know our community and absolutely have to be involved" every step of the way.

Svehla seconds and the motion is approved.

Root thanks everyone for having these difficult discussions and she appreciates everyone being present.

Next, Housing Affordability Strategy 2024. Lucas Mollame, Policy Planner in Planning & Building Services, will present. This follows up on the presentation to council on this project last week. He's going to focus on the draft actions most relevant to the AAC.

They now working towards a final recommended strategy which will include a monitoring and evaluation framework so the City can chart progress over next decade. It will also help staff sort quick wins and long-term goals. Final strategy will approved Dec 10.

The goals:

## Draft Goals

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The draft HAS is guided by the following three goals:

1. Our community is able to access housing that is affordable throughout the City
2. Our community can contribute to diverse and inclusive housing options for everyone; and
3. Our community knows and shares the importance of long-term housing options
  - The actions associated with Goal 2 (in Attachment 1) is what we can focus on today



Recommendation for the AAC:

## Recommendation.

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) receive staff report entitled "Draft Housing Affordability Strategy – a focus on Goals and Actions"
1. (a) That the AAC receive the draft actions, included as Attachment 1 of this report, to be included in the final recommended Housing Affordability Strategy in Q4 of 2024
- (b) And recommend the following be included for consideration:

No questions from the committee, so motion to receive the report for info is approved.

Next, Public Space Use Bylaw: AAC Engagement. DCAO Clack-Bush will present, and GM of Operations Godfrey is here too.

Clack-Bush is covering some of the same ground that was presented to council in August. This doesn't ban encampments, but mere establishes the best places for them. People who are unsheltered are having to make a difficult choice to camp and this is meant for their safety too.

Fully permissible locations vs Time restricted locations:

## Fully permissible locations

- Locations where there is no competing public use, space booking, sensitive area
- Temporary shelters permitted 24/7
- Examples include open park space that is not programmed or designated as a sports field
- Protections in place to prevent removal of encampment or shelters by others

# Time restricted locations

- Locations where space is programmed or designated for other purposes
- In general public spaces, temporary shelters are permitted one hour before sunset to one hour after sunrise. Examples include public squares, outdoor areas of City facilities
- In reservable public spaces, temporary shelters permitted when not booked. Examples include unbooked sportsfields, picnic pavilions

## Not permitted locations

- Locations specifically designated or sensitive
- Temporary shelters not permitted at any time
- Examples include splash pads, playgrounds, community gardens, sidewalks, trails
- City Council designated Market Square and St. George's Square as sensitive spaces

Clack-Bush adds that the City is presently taking an education first approach and there are no set fines.

Svelha asks why this was so urgent, because early collaboration is best practice and w/o it there's conflict. Were these communities not safe before? Clack-Bush says it's not appropriate why and how the meeting was scheduled, that's council business.

Svelha says none of the briefing materials explains why this was so urgent. Clack-Bush says she can only speak to the direction staff was given and the timeline they got from the mayor and council. As for safety, CCB says there need to be some provision for the allowed use of PS.

Ashkewe have been asked about safety inspections, he doesn't see someone in a wheelchair being able to use an open field. CCB says they were measured on general terms like playgrounds, sports fields and open spaces because there's too much park to inventory.

Clack-Bush says they have been trying to stay on top of all the encampments and people living they are trying to connect people to places that fit their unique needs.

Root says that she's heard a lot from people impacted downtown, and she says she's heard about a lot concerns. Some permissible spaces are asphalt, or even in the river, and many feel that this is doing more damage than good & creating isolation. Incl. 1 person with seizures.

Root notes that the permissible locations don't include being close to pathways, which is a BFD if someone is using a wheelchair. She's looked at the map and doesn't believe that



there's anywhere she could camp if needed.

Clack-Bush says the map is not the bylaw, they came up with it quickly, so the borders are not well reflected. The map is just a guide, the rules are the bylaw wording itself though they do want to improve map and make it a useful tool.

Root asks if there's any wiggle room on permissible locations. Clack-Bush says the bylaw is in effect, so any changes will have to come through a council motion. Godfrey adds that they're working with individuals and agency partners to assess their needs.

Ashkewe says this needs to be urgent because it's getting real cold, real fast.

Root adds that she was told that the raised flower beds make it easier for people to transfer into their wheelchairs, and there's definitely a need for that kind of assistance.

Proposed motion written by Root, moved by Ashkewe and seconded by Member Stienstra.

#### **Motion by**

1. The AAC requests that permissible spaces be expanded, as the current locations do not reflect accessibility for disabled individuals, and do not meet the city's goals for safety and dignity of encampment residents. Areas in wooded areas, far from accessible pathways, in rivers, along riverbanks, with unsuitable surfaces for wheelchairs and mobility devices, isolated from access to community supports, and with high grade slopes are not accessible.

Member Popky asks if the expansion would include other spaces not owned by the city. Root says no, but council would have to take this up anyway. Popky says that it could be interpreted as to mean that they want to open all areas.

Svehla suggests adding the wording "expanded to include more accessible spaces" in order to be more specific.

#### **Motion by Member Ashkewe**

The AAC requests that permissible spaces be expanded to include more accessible spaces, as the current locations do not reflect accessibility for disabled individuals, and do not meet the city's goals for safety and dignity of encampment residents. Areas in wooded areas, far from accessible pathways, in rivers, along riverbanks, with unsuitable surfaces for wheelchairs and mobility devices, isolated from access to community supports, and with high grade slopes are not accessible.

The amended agenda is approved with Popky against.

Next, Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan (CIP). Christine Chapman, Manager of Economic Development will present.

This is a sister program to the ADRU program that will have additional funding to include accessibility features as outlined in the report approved in the consent agenda.

### Vacant Residential Unit and Vacant Space Conversion Grant

To encourage the conversion and rehabilitation of underutilized existing building stock into affordable rental residential units.

Eligible projects can receive \$100,000 per affordable unit and up to an additional \$20,000 for accessibility features beyond the building code requirements.

#### Eligible Projects

- Renovation of existing residential units that are not currently habitable into an affordable rental unit.
- Conversion of vacant existing commercial or office space in a multi-unit building into an affordable rental unit.
- Unit in a multi-story, multi-residential or mixed-use building that is mid-rise.
- Unit must contain full private culinary, washroom, sleeping and living area space.

About \$3.2 million of the over \$21 million received by Guelph earlier this year from the Housing Accelerator Fund is going to the CIP. Some money will fund renos to existing units, other money will go to creating new ARDUs.

Chapman says this will be going in front of council on November 13. \$100k will be made available plus an additional \$20k if developers build accessible features beyond what's mandated in the Ontario Building Code.

Next steps:

### Next Steps

- November 13 – Council Planning Meeting (public meeting)
- January 21 – Council Planning Meeting (approval)
- Early 2025 - Expected program launch

Root says she was happy with the level of engagement for the list of accessible features and the engagement was well reflected.

Stienstra asks who is going to vet these applications? (There are always surprises with renos.) Chapman agrees about the challenges, but not all projects will be right for these programs. Non-profit developers thinks this hits the spot, this about incentives.

Motion but on the floor by Stienstra and seconded by Member Ferguson. Motion approved.

Last item, CNIB and PAL card holders transitioning to OnYourWay Fare card. Jessica Taylor from Transit Marketing and Sales Specialist and Courtney McDonald who's the Manager of Transit Business Services is presenting.



This one of the recommendations from the Transit Fare Strategy, moving everyone to OnYourWay (sans the U of G students). For CNIB and PAL, they would need to be renewed ever 5 years, PAL program members would get 2 cards, and they would be encouraged to get OYW but not required

Motions:

## Draft Motions:

- That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) receive the staff report "CNIB and PAL card holders transitioning to OnYourWay Fare card".
- That the AAC provide the following recommendations regarding:
  - a) CNIB card holders obtain an OnYourWay fare card
  - b) PAL card holders obtain an OnYourWay fare card
- That the AAC recommend key barriers and/or benefits to these groups if transitioning to the OnYourWay fare card is recommended.

Ashkewe asks to confirm 5 year renewal. Taylor says that would just be about making sure info is up-to-date, not replacing the card. Ashkewe says it seems like an unnecessary step.

McDonald notes that it's also meant to keep up to date info about users. They have the same 5-year renewal with veterans now.

Cameron asks about making sure people who are visually impaired don't get confused. Taylor says there's brail on the card, though they may need education about where to tap.

Beitz agrees that the five-year renewal seems like a barrier, and wonders if there are ways to make that process simple on people. Root also has concerns. McDonald says people can still use their CNIB card if they want.

Root adds that any level of bureaucracy is a barrier. She notes that it's kind of a joke when she has to renew her disabled parking pass and having to confirm that she's still disabled. Hopes there's no proof of disability at renewal.

McDonald says this renewal is about making sure that people's info is up-to-date, and that they're still using the service. Root says she just wants to make sure I someone misses that call or email that their card doesn't expire. McDonald say it won't.

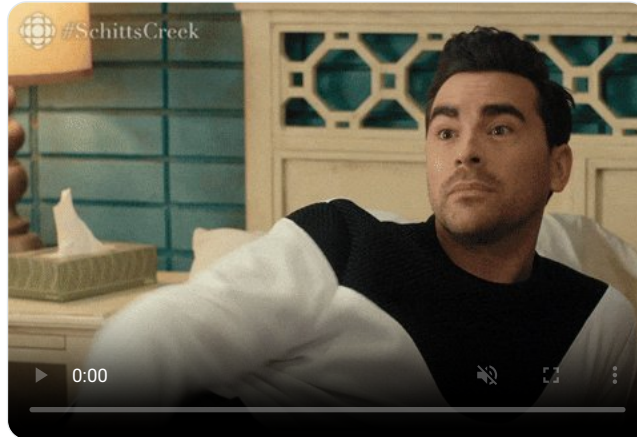
Ashkewe asks if they don't already have that data when people book a mobility ride. McDonald says that not everyone uses regularly or forgets to update their address. This could be beneficial to the user too.

Motion with the addition that 5-year check-in not be a requirement and that renewal is lead by the City. Ashkewe and Stienstra move it. It's approved.

### **Motion**

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) receive the staff report - CNIB and PAL card holders transitioning to OnYourWay (OYW) fare card.
2. That the five-year check-in not be a requirement.
3. That the transition to the OnYourWay fare card not be a requirement

And that's the meeting adjourned!



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

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