

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting 01-2022

Date: Thursday, February 10, 2022

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Virtual Location: MS Teams

Chair: Kai Crites

**MEMBERS**

Anne Antenucci  
Tom Brownlee  
Kai Crites  
Dawn Hamilton  
Todd Kennedy  
Councillor Rebecca Johnson  
Tara Lennox  
Brian Spare  
Randy Sponchia

**SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE**

Parent to a Child with a Disability  
Caregiver to a Person with a Disability  
Mental Health Representative  
Speech Impairment Representative  
Service Agency Representative  
Council Representative  
Learning Disability Representative  
Hard of Hearing/Late Deafened Representative  
Developmental Disability Representative

**OFFICIALS**

Krista Power	City Clerk
Dana Earle	Deputy City Clerk
Flo-Ann Track	Council & Committee Clerk

**RESOURCES**

Jessy Bogacki	Program Supervisor, Adult Fitness, Wellness & Inclusion Services
Darrik Smith	Mobility Coordinator, Infrastructure & Operations

**GUESTS**

Werner Schwar	Supervisor – Parks & Open Space Planning
Cory Auger	Coordinator - Parks Services
Lindsay Joseph	Manager, Inclusive Play Programs - Canadian Jump Start Charities

## AGENDA

### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Kai Crites called the meeting to order and a roundtable of introductions followed.

New member, Todd Kennedy was welcomed by the Committee. Todd will serve as the AAC's Service Agency Representative for a 4-year term, expiring November 30, 2025.

### 2. COMMUNICATION PROCESS

Chair Kai Crites explained the communication process.

### 3. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOVER: Tara Lennox  
SECONDER: Randy Sponchia

WITH RESPECT to the February 10, 2022 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, we recommend that the Agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

### 4. PRESENTATIONS

#### 4.1 Boulevard Lake Inclusive Playground – Site Plan

Document entitled "Boulevard Lake Playground Concept (Feb 10 2022 AAC)" and companion document entitled "Boulevard Lake Inclusive Playground Site Design Description Feb 10 2022 AAC" was provided for information.

Supervisor – Parks & Open Space Planning Werner Schwar appeared before Committee via MS Teams audio, provided an overview relative to the above noted and responded to questions.

The following information was provided:

Replacement of the Boulevard Lake playground equipment was scheduled and budgeted for 2022 as the existing playground structure has reached end of life.

Canadian Jump Start Charities approached the City of Thunder Bay last year to determine if there was a suitable site available for a new accessible playground and asked if the City was interested in a partnership.

The City of Thunder Bay and Canadian Jump Start Charities have partnered, Canadian Jump Start Charities will be providing the structure and the City of Thunder Bay will be developing and designing the site around it.

The playground site will be located south east of the main beach parking lot and west of the existing beach area, the site will include the following features:

- Inclusive playground area with inclusive playground equipment for a range of abilities provided by Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities.
- Adult fitness area to accommodate a range of abilities.
- Beach Volleyball Court will include a sand surface and be located north of the play area.
- Shade structure to be centrally located will provide shaded area for accessible picnic tables.
- Fencing on east side of playground to provide a barrier from playground directly into beach area.
- Walkways will connect parking lot, existing multi-use trail and all site elements on an accessible grade, and accessible mat in place to access beach area.
- Landscape Works – utilizing excess excavation material from the site, a low berm will be created for informal seating and play on the south of the playground and adult fitness area. Green infrastructure infiltration/retention area will filter and clean run-off prior to reaching the lake. Trees will be planted around the site for shade and as a buffer, and planting along the shoreline, south and east of the playground, will provide increased habitat and deter wildlife.
- Accessible indoor washrooms will be located in the existing pavilion building during the open-season and will be accessed from new and existing walkways. Portable accessible porta-potties will be available during the off-season.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted, including:

- Are the benches in the Adult Fitness area accessible?
  - Yes, and accessible seating will also be available at the picnic tables under the shade structure.
- Does the Sun Sail remain all year?
  - No, due to snow loads in this area they will need to be removed for the winter season.
- Is the volley ball net adjustable for children and seated participation?

- There is some adjustability but may not be enough for seated participation. This option may be available, Administration to follow up.
- Several user groups would benefit from an adjustable net.
- When will the playground be open to the public?
  - Site grading is scheduled to start late May 2022.
  - Playground structure will be installed by Jump Start Charities in July and August 2022.
  - Labour Day weekend 2022 is the tentative opening.
- Clean, Green & Beautiful Emerging Project Fund may assist with some of the costs relating to signage or an interactive art piece. Applications will be available shortly. What would it cost to include a welcome sign from the AAC or an interactive, participatory art piece at the entrance or another location at the site?
  - Estimated starting point \$5,000, the cost is variable, dependant on design, and will require further consultation.
  - A sign or interactive art piece does not need to be tied to construction this year, an additional feature could happen next year.
- How far from accessible parking is the play structure?
  - Approximately 40m.
  - Accessible Parking spots will be marked and monitored.
  - New paint and signage will be installed.
  - Asphalt pad will be repaired.

#### 4.2 Boulevard Lake Inclusive Playground

Document entitled “Accessibility Committee Presentation – Thunder Bay” provided for information.

Manager - Inclusive Play Programs - Canadian Jump Start Charities Lindsay Joseph appeared before Committee via MS Teams, provided a PowerPoint presentation relative to the above noted and responded to questions.

The following information was provided:

Working with key partner organizations, many community partners, experts from all three levels of government and academia across Canada, to inform the approach, Canadian Jump Start Charities assessed market needs and developed a customized approach to ensure that the Inclusive Play Project has a meaningful impact within the play space for persons of all abilities. Setting a standard for inclusivity by creating imaginative and accessible spaces which promote physical, sensory, cognitive and imaginative play for children of all abilities. Thirteen inclusive playgrounds have been opened across Canada, the goal is to provide an accessible inclusive playground in every province and territory across Canada by 2022.

Overall Inclusive Design Features include:

- 11,000 square feet of playground area

- Sun Sail – Shade structure
- Unitary Surfacing – poured in place rubber surface which offers a seamless transition from concrete pathways to the playground surface
- Double Wide Ramps – room for multiple individuals utilizing or pushing a mobility device to change direction while on the ramp to access play elements along the ramp
- Rhapsody Collection – includes a combination of drums and chimes in an arched design that allows for easy roll-up access
- We Saw – offers 4 moulded seats and a centre platform providing varying degrees of support and spacious enough to accommodate teens and adults as well
- Swings – there are a variety of swing types: The Friendship Swing allows 2 people to use at the same time, easy transfer from a mobility device, spacious enough to accommodate teens and adults as well; Molded Bucket Swing with Harness, provides additional support for children requiring additional trunk support while swinging
- Sway Fun Glider – spacious layout provides sufficient space for multiple users requiring mobility devices as well as additional occupants to enjoy a social gathering point where children can rest and still play
- Roller Slide – provides a tactile and auditory experience, eliminates static electric build-up, wide enough for children to slide down together, does not interfere with cochlear implants, transfer bench located at bottom of the slide
- Cozy Dome – fun climber with round openings for hand and foot placement, cozy place inside to escape and observe other playing
- Sensory Play Centre – numerous features that provide stimulation and visual play
- We Go Round – interactive play structure, room for multiple individuals utilizing mobility devices, ground level access, centre handhold, roof structure provides shade
- Educational Panels – introduce children to various forms of communication

Discussion was held relative to the above noted, including:

- What is the slide made from, will the surface be hot?
  - The largest slide is metal, and will not be located in direct sunlight.
- Does the Sun Sail remain all year?
  - No, due to snow loads in this area they will be removed for the winter season.
- Is there an opportunity for an additional shade structure within the playground?
  - Not within the structure, possibility that additional shade trees could be planted around the structure – follow up with Parks & Open Spaces.
  - Administration will follow up internally with Departments to ensure Committee Members are, advised of their ability to inform design decisions when information is being presented, or if it is being provided for information only.
- Is the structure easy to maintain and clean?
  - Yes, a power washer can be used on all surfaces.
  - Some Cities utilize UV sanitization.
- Will the structure hold up to Thunder Bay winter's and can it be used during the winter?

- Yes, the structure is strong and most of the structure comes with a 100 year warranty, certain parts have less. Some surfaces may be slippery in the winter dependant on conditions, users play at their own risk. There is additional commitment by the City to maintain and remove snow during the winter months.
- Are ramps available for access to the slides for individuals utilizing mobility devices?
  - Yes, but support may be required to transfer to the slide from a mobility device and to return a mobility device to the bottom of the slide, where a transfer bench will be located.

The Chair thanked Guests for appearing before the Committee and providing the presentations.

The meeting recessed at 2:45 pm

The meeting reconvened at 2:56 pm

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting 09-2021 Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on November 18, 2021, to be confirmed.

MOVER: Tara Lennox  
SECONDER: Brian Spare

THAT the Minutes of Meeting 09-2021 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on November 18, 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

6. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

Deputy City Clerk Dana Earle provided an overview of the Chair and Vice Chair responsibilities and of the electronic, anonymous voting process. Council & Committee Clerk Flo-Ann Track will contact the members to administer the electronic vote.

Kai Crites, Anne Antenucci, and Tara Lennox were nominated for the position of Chair, and agreed to let their names stand.

Kai Crites, Anne Antenucci, and Tara Lennox were nominated for the position of Vice Chair and agreed to let their names stand.

MOVED BY: Tara Lennox  
SECONDED BY: Dawn Hamilton

WITH RESPECT to the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair, we recommend that an electronic, anonymous vote be conducted and the results presented at the next meeting.

CARRIED

## 7. 2022 BUDGET

Deputy City Clerk Dana Earle provided an overview relative to the AAC's 2022 Operating Budget and the 2022 Capital Budgets approved by City Council and responded to questions.

The following information was provided:

The Annual Operating Budget is used for expenses relating to monthly meetings, the annual open house, transportation and advertising.

In 2021 the majority of the Operating Budget was spent on video production services for the Annual Open House, the videos are posted online and have approached 100 views. The Operating Budget for 2022 is unchanged at \$12,700.

The Capital Budget is used to address and remove barriers identified in City facilities and services. The City is required, under the AODA, to provide an annual status report on the progress taken to improve accessibility in its facilities, services, and programs. Facility audits were conducted in 2019 to determine the work required to improve accessibility at city facilities. The Capital Budget for 2022 is \$300,000.

In 2021 Capital Budget was used to complete the following projects:

- Canada Games Complex – stationary exercise equipment and accessible loading area at main entrance
- Fort William Gardens – Handrails
- Current River Arena – Handrails
- Churchill Pool – Family Washroom
- 55+ Centre – Handrails
- City website – Accessibility Remediation

The following projects are scheduled in 2022:

- Delaney Arena – Accessible viewing area
- Fort William Gardens – Accessible viewing area
- Westfort Playfield – Accessible washroom
- Canada Games Complex – Pool lift

8. TRANSIT DRIVERS APPRECIATION DAY – MARCH 2022

Deputy City Clerk Dana Earle provided an overview relative to the above noted.

MOVER: Tara Lennox  
SECONDER: Tom Brownlee

WITH RESPECT to Transit Drivers Appreciation Day being held on March 18, 2022, we recommend that a \$5 Coffee Gift Card be given to each of the City of Thunder Bay Transit Driver's, in recognition of their public service, from the AAC.

CARRIED

9. ROUNDTABLE OF ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Members reported on accessibility issues encountered in the community:

- It has been difficult to travel with a mobility device on sidewalks covered in slush, making it necessary and dangerous to travel on the side of the road.
- Overall, snow removal and access to crosswalk buttons has been well done this season
- Snow has been painted blue, is the paint used to mark areas that require snow removal or for an alternate purpose?
  - Administration provided the following response after the meeting, for information: Blue paint is used to locate underground utilities. If there is blue paint marked on a snowbank, then it is possible it is getting removed, or some other type of work may be happening that requires the underground utilities to be located.
- 2022 Municipal Election
  - The Election Planning Team will attend a future meeting

10. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Built Environment Working Group

- Fort William Gardens – Handrail installation has been completed. Members to schedule post installation visit.

11. 2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be scheduled from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the following dates:



Thursday, March 10, 2022

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Thursday, June 9, 2022

Due to Covid 19 and current health guidelines, meetings will continue to be held virtually utilizing MS Teams for January, February and March 2022, respectively. Administration will continue to monitor and reassess to determine future meeting options.

Committees of Council will not meet from July - December due to the 2022 Municipal Election. A meeting may be scheduled if Administration needs to review projects or provide information.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.