

Minutes

Grey County Joint Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee

July 17, 2025

Present: Catherine Sholtz, Andrew Edgcumbe, Brooke Sillaby, Christina Schnell, Councillor Greig

Regrets: Claudia Strelocke, Pamela Matheson

Staff Present: Tara Warder, Clerk, Kathie Nunno, Accessibility Coordinator

Call to Order

The Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee met electronically on the above date. The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. with all members present with the exception of Members Pamela Matheson, Claudia Strelocke and Ray Whitfield.

Committee Present: Chair Catherine Sholtz, Councillor Scott Greig, Members Andrew Edgecumbe, Christina Schnell and Brooke Sillaby

Staff Present: Tara Warder, Clerk; Kathie Nunno, Accessibility & Contract Specialist; Olivia Yale, Digital Communications Specialist; and Brittany Rier, Deputy Clerk

Others Present: Mason Bellamy, Pam Coulter, Jackie Groves, Eckhard Pastrik, Jennifer Patton and Jodi Ward

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Delegations

Items For Direction or Discussion

CCR-JAAC-07-25 Accessible Customer Service Policy Update

JAAC10-25

Moved by: Member Sillaby

Seconded by: Member Schnell

That Report CCR-JAAC-07-25 regarding the updated Accessible Customer Service Policy be received; and

That Policy 5-1, the Accessible Customer Service Policy be amended as outlined in this report by amending the policy statement, including Grey Transit Route considerations, incorporating assistive devices and noting expanded training requirements.

Carried

CS-25-078 New Playground Designs at Comm-er-ette Park and Owen Heights Park

Eckhard Pastrik, Manager of Parks and Open Space for the City of Owen Sound, noted the potential accessible playground options suggested for each park within the City. He noted that there were two open houses hosted at each of the parks to invite members of the public for feedback.

The Committee asked for information on locations of accessible swings within the City and ways to find accessible swings and playgrounds in the area. Kathie Nunno, Accessibility and Contract Specialist for Grey County, noted that there is an interactive GIS map on the County website of accessible municipal spaces in the County, but noted that it does need updated. <https://www.grey.ca/news/grey-county-launches-municipal-accessible-spaces-map>

Councillor Greig shared the Accessible Playgrounds Ontario website where the public can look for information on locations for accessible playgrounds in the area.

The Committee sought clarification on the product that will be used on the ground of the playgrounds. Eckhard noted that the playgrounds will use engineered wood fibre. He noted that according to the CSA standard, this does meet accessibility requirements.

JAAC11-25

Moved by: Councillor Greig

Seconded by: Member Edgcumbe

That in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-078 respecting Playground Replacement at Owen Heights and Comm-er-ette Park, the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee review the proposed playground replacements and provide advice to the City of Owen Sound in respect to accessibility of the proposed layout and design of the two new playgrounds.

Carried

Flesherton Connecting Link

Grey Highlands staff Jackie Groves, Manager of Human Resources, and Mason Bellamy, Manager of Infrastructure, noted that critical improvement needs were

reviewed to update the main intersection in Flesherton including meeting requirements of the Ministry of Transportation for truck turning radius. With the close proximity of the main street buildings to the road, no rest areas were able to be included in the upgrades as well as accessible parking was not able to be accommodated.

Kathie Nunno noted item 80.31 in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and spoke to the exemptions from certain requirements under the legislation.

The Committee asked if proper audible crossings were able to be included where staff from Grey Highlands confirmed this was done as part of the project.

The Committee suggested posting a sign on the main road directing the public to the nearest accessible parking spaces.

JAAC12-25

Moved by: Member Sillaby

Seconded by: Councillor Greig

That the report “Flesherton Connecting Link” be presented to the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee for review and comment and provide input on the need for and design and placement of rest areas.

Carried

Lorne Street Sidewalk Addition

Grey Highlands staff shared the proposal of a new section of sidewalk in Markdale down Lorne Street. The project is to complete an entire sidewalk network that is lacking, including repairs and correcting some deficiencies. Staff noted the increase of pedestrian traffic in the area due to travel to and from the Chapman's building.

The Committee sought clarification on the length of the sidewalk and where it leads. Staff noted that the project includes 160 metres of sidewalk running down a residential street.

There was no recommendation to add a rest area along this sidewalk.

JAAC13-25

Moved by: Member Schnell

Seconded by: Councillor Greig

**That the report “Lorne Street Sidewalk Addition” be received; and
That the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (GCJAAC)
provides input on the need for and design and placement of rest areas for the installation of the new concrete sidewalk.**

Carried

The Town of The Blue Mountains - Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2025-2029

JAAC14-25

Moved by: Member Sillaby

Seconded by: Councillor Greig

That The Town of The Blue Mountains Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2025-2029 be presented to the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee for review and comment.

Carried

Correspondence

EASE Grant Funding Announcement

Kathie Nunno shared the opportunity to apply for grants through the Ontario Building More Accessibility Communities Ease Grant program where she encouraged members of the Committee to apply. She noted that the Ontario government is investing \$2.2 million in this project and noted that there can only be one application per organization.

D25-005 Site Plan Approval at 2261 9th Avenue East

JAAC15-25

Moved by: Councillor Greig

Seconded by: Member Schnell

That the City of Owen Sound staff report DA-25-005 be received for information.

Carried

Other Business

Member Resignation

Jacob Morris-Wheeler submitted a letter of resignation effective June 18, 2025. Member Morris-Wheeler expressed fulfillment in being a member of the committee. His resignation is a result of a very full workload and volunteer schedule. Staff expressed gratitude for his participation and contributions to the committee.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion of Chair Scholtz, the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee adjourned at 2:48 p.m. to the call of the Chair.