

# Accessibility Advisory Committee Report

The 3rd Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee  
November 26, 2020  
Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting - during the COVID-19 Emergency  
City Hall is open to the public, with reduced capacity and physical distancing  
requirements.

Attendance                      PRESENT: J. Menard (Chair), T. Eadinger, N. Judges, P.  
Moore, P. Quesnel and K. Steinmann and J. Bunn (Committee  
Clerk)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor S. Lewis; A. Husain, L.  
Livingstone, C. Saunders and M. Stone

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM; it being noted that  
the following Members were in remote attendance: T. Eadinger,  
N. Judges, P. Quesnel and K. Steinmann

## 1. Call to Order

### 1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

## 2. Scheduled Items

None.

## 3. Consent

### 3.1 2nd Report of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 2nd Report of the Accessibility Advisory  
Committee, from its meeting held on February 27, 2020, was received.

### 3.2 Letter of Resignation - J. Madden

That it BE NOTED that the letter of resignation from the Accessibility  
Advisory Committee from J. Madden, as appended to the agenda, was  
received.

### 3.3 Letter of Resignation - M. Dawthorne

That it BE NOTED that the letter of resignation from the Accessibility  
Advisory Committee from M. Dawthorne, as appended to the agenda, was  
received.

## 4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

None.

## 5. Items for Discussion

### 5.1 Representative of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the Community Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (CDIS) Leadership Table

That Jay Menard BE APPOINTED as the interim Accessibility Advisory  
Committee representative to the Community Diversity and Inclusion  
Strategy (CDIS) Leadership Table; it being noted that a permanent  
representative will be appointed in early 2021.

5.2 General Discussion - Advisory Committees

That it BE NOTED that the Accessibility Advisory Committee (ACCAC) held a general discussion with respect to the role of Advisory Committees and concerns of the Members of the ACCAC.

5.3 City of London 2021 Budget Update

That Jay Menard, Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee (ACCAC) BE GRANTED authority to draft a summary of comments from ACCAC members with respect to the City of London 2021 Budget Update for submission to the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee.

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 PM.

# Accessibility Advisory Committee

## Report

The 2nd Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee  
February 27, 2020  
Committee Room #4

Attendance                      PRESENT: J. Menard (Chair), M. Dawthorne, N. Judges, J. Madden, P. Moore, P. Quesnel, D. Ruston and K. Steinmann and J. Bunn (Committee Clerk)

ABSENT: A. Bueschleb, T. Eadinger and G. LaHay

ALSO PRESENT: T. Hitchon, K. Husain and M. Stone

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM.

### 1. Call to Order

#### 1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

### 2. Scheduled Items

#### 2.1 Dundas Street - Old East Village

That it BE NOTED that the presentation, as appended to the agenda, from M. Pletch, Dillon Consulting, with respect to Dundas Street - Old East Village, was received.

#### 2.2 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Training

That the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Training BE DEFERRED to the March 2020 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

### 3. Consent

#### 3.1 1st Report of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 1st Report of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on January 23, 2020, was received.

#### 3.2 Notice of Planning Application - Zoning By-law Amendment - City-wide Amendment to Section 4.11 (Household Sales) of Zoning By-law Z-1

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Planning Application, dated February 5, 2020, from C. Parker, Senior Planner, with respect to a Zoning By-law Amendment related to a City-Wide Amendment to Section 4.11 (Household Sales) of Zoning By-law Z-1, was received.

### 4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

None.

**5. Items for Discussion**

5.1 Community Diversity and Inclusion Strategy Update from ACCAC Representative

That the following actions be taken with respect to the Community Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (CDIS):

- a) the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to forward minutes from all future meetings of the CDIS Priority 4 Working Group, the Age Friendly Working Group and the CDIS Leadership Table for review; and,
- b) the verbal updates on the most recent meetings of the CDIS from P. Moore, D. Ruston and K. Husain, BE RECEIVED.

5.2 Site Plan Checklist Comments

That it BE NOTED that the communication, as appended to the agenda, from J. Sanders, with respect to comments on the Site Plan Checklist, was received.

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 PM.

From: Jacqueline Madden  
Subject: Letter of Resignation

Please accept this as my notice of resignation from the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

I have served on this committee for the last 4 years. Although we have struggled in the past with getting traction on the major issues involving the disabled community, I trusted that we had a City and Council that respected the work we did and were doing their best to listen and respond to our advice. I no longer feel this way.

Since the new council was formed in 2018 and the advisory councils were put under review, it has become apparent that ACCAC is in place in name only to meet the provincial legislation. We have not been acknowledged or respected by the current Council or city staff which has become glaringly obvious during the Covid pandemic. Other municipality ACCAC's have continued to meet while we cannot even get a response from our City when we inquired about plans. August will be our 6th missed meeting without a word from the City to our committee. I understand that the Heritage committee has resumed meeting as has CDIS and yet ACCAC cannot get a response of any kind to our inquiries about our meetings. I believe London is in violation of the AODA by not having our committee meet. Even worse than that, it has been made abundantly clear that accessibility is not a priority for the City of London.

I joined this committee in the hopes of making a positive impact on our community but will move on to find some way to engage where I can have the chance to have a meaningful impact. I will miss all of our committee members who work so hard to make London a better place for people of all abilities.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Madden

**Subject:** Resignation from The Accessibility Advisory Committee

Following the recent attention the resignation of Jacqueline Madden from the Accessibility Advisory Committee has garnered, I have felt compelled to reassess my continued involvement as well. While initially willing to wait for committee work to resume, the response from the City, and notably the Clerk's office, suggests such a resumption is unlikely in the near future. I am further concerned by the formal complaint against the City that it is in violation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). I believe Jackie's claim of a breach of the AODA is accurate, and I cannot, in good conscience, continue to be associated with the committee. It is a disappointing end to over 10 years of service on this Advisory Committee (as well as a number of other roles within the City) during which time my commitment and dedication to our community has never wavered, not missing a single meeting in that time. Regrettably, as Jackie also stated, I will be looking at alternate ways to support the 1 in 7 citizens who have a disability. I am not leaving in spite, or in anger, but in an effort to continue to support the community. I am hoping my departure will be cause to take note. I want to highlight a few points that I hope the city will give consideration:

The AODA mandates the existence of an Accessibility Advisory Committee, and further clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the committee (and duties of Council). Most notably, the advisory committee is mandated to "advise the Council about the requirements and implementation of accessibility standards". In other words, any action undertaken by the city to comply with the accessibility timelines established in the AODA must be brought to ACCAC.

Council is further required under the legislation to consult with ACCAC on various other aspects of municipal functioning. Council and the City have had no communication with ACCAC since it's last meeting in February, making it impossible to have fulfilled any of these legislated responsibilities.

I want to **strongly caution** members of Council, the Mayor, the City Manager, and the City Clerk that should the complaint against the City for failure to uphold the AODA be success, any or all of you could be found personally liable and be subject to fines of up to \$50,000 per day, per identified infraction. I implore you to take heed and ensure you are acting in both the spirit and the letter of the legislation.

The Clerk's office has publicly stated a meeting of ACCAC would be called if it were legislatively required. Apart from my belief the legislated requirements set out in AODA should meet this threshold, the city's own legislated Advisory Committee bylaw would seem to require a meeting be called, stating Advisory Committees are "to provide recommendations, advice and information to the Municipal Council on those specialized matters which relate to the purpose of the Advisory Committee, to facilitate public input to City Council on programs and ideas and to assist in enhancing the quality of life of the community". The handling of the pandemic, and any efforts to safely reopen services, would certainly fall within the scope of 'enhancing quality of life'.

Throughout the continuing review of Advisory Committees some have questioned the role advisory committees play, their usefulness, etc. As a long standing volunteer of more than one advisory committee (I previously served on TAC as well), this is disheartening. When allowed to work, we provide options for consideration by Council, at times eliminating the need for municipal staff to spend valuable time researching and

preparing reports. This would seem to suggest a savings exists by supporting and taking note of the work done by a dedicated group of volunteers. Over the years, I have seen ACCAC work collaboratively with many other Advisory Committees within the City (EEPAC, LACH, AWAC, TAC, and DIAAC). I've seen the city make great strides forward, becoming a more diverse, inclusive and accessible community for all. I believe all advisory committee volunteers, past and present, take pride in knowing they played a role.

In closing I want to acknowledge the great work of a number of staff, Councillors, volunteers and the public in the work so many undertake to make London a better place for all. Special recognition has to be given to Melanie Stone for her continued support to our community. I have had the privilege to work with four Councils, Five Mayors, numerous staff, and upwards of a hundred volunteers over the years. When given the chance, when working together, we can achieve great things for everyone.

Michael Dawthorne