

ACCAC – Built Environment and Facilities Sub-Committee (BEFSC)

MEETING REPORT

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Members Present: Jim Sanders (chair), Michael Dawthorne, Florencia de Lasa

Also Present: Julie Michaud – City Staff, Parks Planning Division

- Start: 4:00pm
- Discussion Item 1: Playspace Survey project
 - Survey “soft-launched” (for trial, review) on City’s website at <https://www.london.ca/city-hall/accessibility/Pages/Accessible-Playground-Survey.aspx>
 - Will be officially released, and active at next ACCAC meeting, at which time Julie will present the final working model to all members
 - Once active, all ACCAC members are urged to promote and spread the word amongst contacts and peer groups for implementation
 - Note: expectations are at this time, for this survey to remain open through the 2015 play-season, with recording and monitoring by the Parks/Planning office
- Discussion Item 2: Working Documents
 - Funding/Grant opportunities summary, Accessibility Regulation summary
 - No further updates provided
 - Note: if any Community Group is looking to the City for support or direction for built-environment accessibility funding opportunities, they are urged to contact our sub-committee for these documents
- Discussion Item 3: Community Gardens
 - Work in progress, no updates
 - Confirmed that City delegate will present their Strategic Plan at the upcoming ACCAC meeting
- Discussion Item 4: New Item – Plan review for Park-Playspace initiative
 - Presentation from Julie to discuss the potential re-development of an existing “accessible playspace”
 - Due to the age and condition of an existing playstructure, consideration was given to the choice of either replacing the playstructure to an as-was condition, or starting fresh with a new development by a request for proposal (RFP) evaluation
 - Recommendation was to proceed with an RFP for new design plans for this park, in that:
 - this original design (although very unique/creative) provided limited opportunities for children with mobility needs (in our opinion)
 - as this design was approx. 15 years old, today’s playstructure manufacturers offer greater opportunities for inclusive play than were available or recognized at the time of this original design
- Communication Item: attachment for file submission
 - Question to, and response from, the Ontario Accessibility Directorate’s office regarding clarification of the AODA-IASR Customer Service requirements relative to mobile food trucks vendors
- Adjournment: 5:15pm
- Next meeting: Wednesday June 3, 4-5 pm, meeting room #1

From: Jim Sanders [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: March 6, 2015 2:58 PM
To: AODA Assistance (MEDEI/MRI)
Subject: question regarding food trucks and accessibility

To: The Accessibility Directorate of Ontario

I have a question/concern regarding the application of AODA and/or IASR-Reg191 when it comes to mobile food trucks.

Background is that my local municipality has recently started to accept licenses for food truck vendors. A concern was then brought forward to myself regarding the height of their service counters relative to accessible needs.

Question then, is would the requirements of AODA, and in particular the Design of Public Spaces regulation (IASR part 4) be considered applicable to these food trucks vendors?
Trouble then, if this is applicable, will be how a mobile food truck service could possibly provide a low enough service-counter to accommodate a wheelchair user.

Perhaps this issue has already been considered, in other municipalities, or perhaps you may provide myself with better direction or clarification in this regard?

Thank-you for your time,
Jim Sanders

April 30, 2015

Thank you for your recent email regarding the application of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) and the Design of Public Spaces Standard to food trucks.

The AODA and the Design of Public Spaces Standard apply to businesses with one or more employees in Ontario, including food trucks. The Design of Public Spaces Standard is not yet in effect for private or not-for-profit sector organizations. Requirements for service counters will only apply to large businesses with 50 or more employees starting January 1, 2017 and small businesses with 1 – 49 employees starting January 1, 2018.

Requirements for service counters are not retroactive, and would only apply when organizations install new service counters or replace existing ones. Requirements for service counters apply whether the services are obtained in buildings or out-of-doors. Examples of types of service counters that must comply include reception desks, ticketing windows, food service counters and check-out counters.

At least one service counter for each type of service provided (e.g., express and regular check-out) must be accessible to people who use mobility aids, but the Design of Public Spaces Standard does not specify countertop height measurements. The requirements are performance-based, so that organizations have the flexibility to choose an accessible design that works best for their business practices and environment. For example, an organization may choose to provide a lower fold-out portion on a higher service counter in order to accommodate both people who are standing and people who are seated. The Directorate does not have any specific guidance for making food truck service counters accessible.

Please note that while the Design of Public Spaces Standard is not yet in effect for private sector organizations, the Customer Service Standard already requires businesses with one or more employees in Ontario to develop policies, practices and procedures to make their goods and services accessible to people with disabilities. It does not specifically require organizations to retrofit existing spaces to remove physical barriers to accessibility. In order to provide accessible customer service, organizations may need to find creative solutions and work around physical barriers. For example, food truck staff may exit the food truck to take the order of a person in a wheelchair and bring them their prepared food.

Thank you for your interest in accessibility for all Ontarians. If you have any additional questions or need assistance, please contact the AODA Contact Centre:

Phone:	416-849-8276
Phone (toll-free):	1-866-515-2025
TTY (for hearing impaired individuals):	416-325-3408
TTY (toll-free):	1-800-268-7095

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