



A meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m., Games Room, Rotary Complex, Stratford.

Committee Present: Stephen Barlow – Chair presiding, Lorraine Kuepfer – Vice-chair, Bernard Goward, Cambria Ravenhill, Councillor Vassilakos and Councillor Burbach

Staff Present: Nancy Bridges – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Ryan Ritskes, Dave Mabee and Marianne Hawley

Also Present: Sarah Merkel and Linda Moraes - PDHU

MINUTES

1. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF BY MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL.

None declared.

2. ELECTION OF 2019 CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Staff declared nominations for the Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee open.

Councillor Vassilakos nominated Stephen Barlow.

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

Motion by Cambria Ravenhill, seconded by Councillor Burbach to close nominations for the 2019 Active Transportation Advisory Committee chair. Carried.

Stephen Barlow indicated that he would allow his nomination to stand.

Motion by Cambria Ravenhill, seconded by Councillor Burbach to elect Stephen Barlow as the 2019 chair of the Active Transportation and Advisory Committee. Carried.

Staff declared nominations for Vice-Chair of the Active Transportation and Advisory Committee open.

Councillor Burbach nominated Lorraine Kuepfer.

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos, seconded by Cambria Ravenhill to close nominations for the 2019 Active Transportation Advisory Committee Vice-Chair. Carried.

Lorraine Kuepfer indicated that she would allow her nomination to stand.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos, seconded by Cambria Ravenhill to elect Lorraine Kuepfer as the 2019 Vice-Chair of the Active Transportation and Advisory Committee. Carried.

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – November 28, 2018

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos, seconded by Lorraine Kuepfer.

That the ATAC minutes dated November 28, 2018 be adopted as amended.

Carried.

4. ANNUAL REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

Stephen Barlow emphasized the importance of reading and understanding the Terms of Reference. There were no questions or concerns from the committee.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

a.) Gaps in sidewalk infrastructure

Staff not present at meeting, therefore item moved to February agenda.

b.) Pedestrian/Cyclist accident statistics from Police Services

Councillor Vassilakos noted the data in the report is consistent with data she has seen from other municipalities and was expected. The addition of the 'time of day' information proved to be interesting. She wondered if there is some sort of education piece we can put out to the community. The committee discussed reviewing statistics from previous years and pulling information from other committees in the city.

Linda Moraes from the Perth District Health Unit (PDHU) noted that the Perth Road Safety Committee may be a useful resource. She also stated that the PDHU is always looking for new messages to put out to the public and may be able to help with education.

Councillor Vassilakos noted that the data does not point to a specific area as being the main cause for concern.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos, seconded by Councillor Burbach that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee request that Stratford Police Services prepare a report for pedestrian/cyclist accidents involving vehicles that includes information on time of day and intersection, dating back to 2013.

Carried.

c.) Pedestrian Strategic Planning continued

Councillor Vassilakos stated that she has not spoken to staff about the areas of concern outlined in the previous ATAC meeting however there are traffic studies included in the 2019 budget which will address some of the issues. An outside consultant will be hired to complete the studies and offer recommendations.

Stephen Barlow asked what the focus of the traffic studies will be and Councillor Vassilakos indicated that numerous areas will be observed, including traffic flows, pedestrian traffic and infrastructure. Councillor Vassilakos noted that the study will be presented at a future Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee where public input can be received however no official public meeting is required.

Sarah Merkel noted that in order to prioritize the committee's top projects, the committee should consider cost and complexity and choose projects that can be done in a timely manner. The committee agreed that once their priority list is set it would be beneficial to have staff weigh-in.

Councillor Vassilakos noted the following information regarding the list created at the November 2018 meeting:

1. Martin Street – Accessibility Advisory Committee already considering
2. Erie Street – already in design phase and waiting for input from CN Rail
3. Worsley Street – good consideration for repair during the construction at Central Secondary School
4. Church Street – traffic study being done
5. Huron and Huntingdon – already being dealt with
6. Stratford General Hospital – very important
7. Thomas Street – recommended speaking with staff regarding any plans that may be already in progress
8. St. Vincent Street – recommended speaking with staff regarding any plans that may be already in progress
9. Downie Street (downtown) – included in 2019 traffic study
10. Brunswick Street (one-way streets) – included in 2019 traffic study and could be resolved with additional signage

Sarah Merkel recommended that the committee keep track of any progress relating to their "priority list" and use the report from Police Services to back-up their recommendations.

The committee discussed how roads are designated and whether certain areas should be classified differently. Councillor Burbach noted that the classification given to a road determines whether the public is required to pay for improvements/sidewalks. Councillor Vassilakos noted that it is rare that a road will have its classification changed however ATAC could make recommendations to staff. Consideration needs to be made to ensure that projects are treated the same and that exceptions are not made without cause.

The committee agreed that Forman Avenue should be a priority however it is made more complicated because the City has not yet assumed the new subdivision. She is not aware of the timeline to assume the subdivision but noted that it would have been set out in the agreement with the contractor. Councillor Burbach stated that this area could be fixed using signage and road paint, however completing the sidewalk infrastructure in the area would also be beneficial.

Cambria Ravenhill stated that her top four priorities would be; Worsley, Forman, Stratford General Hospital and one-way streets.

Councillor Burbach inquired whether there was a policy regarding sharing local improvement costs with schools. Councillor Vassilakos noted that commercial, industrial and institutional properties do have specific rules regarding what can and cannot be charged to them.

Stephen Barlow expressed concern with cycling infrastructure in the Stratford General Hospital area. Councillor Vassilakos noted that area would be very difficult to alter, as the road widths, etc do not allow for bike lanes. She also suggested closing TJ Dolan Drive and make it part of the trail system and for pedestrians only. Councillor Vassilakos noted that the old Avon Crest hospital area on the west side of John Street will be changing and it will be interesting to see what is developed on that land.

The committee discussed their top four priorities, leading to the following motions:

MOTION by Councillor Vassilakos, seconded by Cambria Ravenhill that ATAC recommend that staff improve signage on one-way streets. Carried

MOTION by Councillor Burbach, seconded by Councillor Vassilakos that ATAC recommend that staff and Stratford secondary school administrations come up with a plan to deal with increased pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular traffic during the amalgamation of schools during the renovation of Central Secondary School. Carried.

MOTION by Cambria Ravenhill, seconded by Councillor Burbach that ATAC recommend that staff include sidewalk infrastructure in the 2020 budget in order to complete missing sidewalks on Worsley street.

Carried.

MOTION by Cambria Ravenhill, seconded by Lorraine Kuepfer that ATAC recommend that staff review pedestrian infrastructure on all streets surrounding Stratford General Hospital.

Carried.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Bike theft

Councillor Vassilakos wondered whether there are any statistics to show that bike theft is a problem or if social media is making the problem seem worse than it is. She noted that additional information from Police Services would be required to fully understand the problem. The committee agreed that educating the public on the bike registration program and how to get your bike back are important. Councillor Vassilakos noted that Mike Beitz, Corporate Communications Lead for the City of Stratford, could be a valuable asset in educating the public.

Linda Moraes – PDHU, inquired whether it would be beneficial to have a report from Police Services regarding bike theft. Councillor Vassilakos noted that this data could be difficult to obtain and suggested using a public survey to gather data. She emphasized the need to verify that bike theft is a problem by collecting data, prior to assuming certain areas are bad.

Councillor Burbach stated that Cycle Stratford could produce a survey and reach out to other municipalities for similar information. Cambria Ravenhill suggested the following items for the survey:

- Where?
- When?
- Was bike locked?
- Was bike reported stolen?

Various committee members and Linda Moraes from the PDHU expressed interest in participating in public education. Councillor Vassilakos again noted the possibility of utilizing the Communications Lead at the city for postings on Facebook and other social media outlets.

Councillor Vassilakos noted that she will obtain statistics regarding the number of bikes that are returned to owners versus sold at auction.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE – Wednesday, February 27, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Active Transportation Advisory Committee

January 23, 2019

Avon Room, 82 Erie Street, Stratford

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos, seconded by Councillor Burbach

That the January 23, 2019 ATAC meeting adjourn.

Carried.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Start Time: 7:10pm

End Time: 8:29pm