



A meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m., Kiwanis Centre, 111 Lakeside Drive, Stratford.

Committee Present: Councillor Vassilakos – Vice-Chair presiding, Bernard Goward, Cambria Ravenhill, Ryan Ritskes, Stephen Barlow, and Gary Jacques

Staff Present: Nancy Bridges – Recording Secretary and Nancy Roulston – Manager of Engineering

Also Present: Sarah Merkel - PDHU

Regrets: Councillor McManus, Lorraine Kuepfer, Brad Hernden – Manager of Recreation and Marketing

MINUTES

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

None declared.

2. ELECTION OF 2018 CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Councillor Vassilakos noted that due to the absence of Councillor McManus, the 2018 elections will be deferred to the February 28th meeting.

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – November 22, 2017

Motion by Gary Jacques, seconded by Bernard Goward

That the ATAC minutes dated November 22, 2017 be adopted as printed. Carried.

4. ANNUAL REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

Councillor Vassilakos emphasized the importance of reading and understanding the Terms of Reference.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

a.) Update on wayfinding project

Councillor Vassilakos noted that the information from the Deputy Clerk had been forwarded to the committee and asked if there were any questions or concerns. Sarah Merkel, from the Perth District Health Unit, stated that she is pleased that there are numerous stakeholders involved and that there is \$50,000 in the budget dedicated for wayfinding.

Councillor Vassilakos provided a brief description of wayfinding for the new committee members.

b.) Update from Councillor Vassilakos regarding the report card

Councillor Vassilakos briefly explained that the purpose of the report card is for staff to provide regular progress updates on the bike and pedestrian master plan. Staff stated they will forward the report card to the committee and speak to it at the February meeting.

c.) Response from staff to the following questions:

- a. What temporary bike racks will be returned to their locations in the spring?
- b. What are the proposed locations for the bike corrals?

Councillor Vassilakos outlined the emailed responses from staff, indicating that the permanent racks will be installed in the spring and the locations for the temporary racks will be determined at a later date.

Councillor Vassilakos indicated that she will recirculate the staff report which discussed the bike corrals. She provided descriptions of both a bike corral and bike valet. She noted that ATAC would like to purchase valet units that can be made available to event organizers to use around the city and be included on the Special Event application.

Gary Jacques inquired whether the City could install bike racks outside of the downtown and on private property.

Councillor Vassilakos noted that the City cannot provide units for private property but it would be nice to allow businesses the ability to request a bike rack near their business.

Ryan Ritskes suggested a bylaw that would require bike racks at private businesses. The Manager of Engineering noted that when a new business goes through the site plan process they are required to show the location of their bike parking. There was a discussion regarding the bike parking requirements for housing units and that owners are required to provide actual bike racks for tenants. Councillor Vassilakos recommended using key card entry into locked bike parking areas, instead of housing bikes in apartments.

Stephen Barlow noted that he has inquired about purchasing bike racks for his business and that it is difficult. He suggested that the City have a program that offers discounted bike racks to private businesses, as they are already purchasing them at greater quantities.

d.) Discussion with staff regarding the Cycling Infrastructure Implementation Timeline map and where funds would be best spent

Councillor Vassilakos reviewed the map and clarified that it shows the planned projects. The Manager of Engineering noted that the projects will be done in stages and the map does not include signage projects.

Councillor Vassilakos indicated that it was beneficial to review the map to see where the gaps are and to make sure that projects affecting one area are done at the same time so duplicate work is not being done. She noted that there will be areas of the master plan that won't get done using the Infrastructure and Development Services budget and that ATAC's budget might be best spent on getting these projects completed. The Manager of Engineering recommended that ATAC use its budget for signage instead of construction projects.

Councillor Vassilakos noted that she has confirmed with various city Directors that ATAC is not required to spend their entire budget in one year. ATAC can set aside money to build a bank of funds to be used for larger projects.

The Manager of Engineering noted that staff will not spend the \$50,000 budget until the wayfinding project is underway, as they want to ensure the funds are spent effectively. Sarah Merkel will host a strategic planning session at the February meeting to discuss the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan and the areas that ATAC feels are important.

e.) Sarah Merkel to present research on by-laws that specify age/tire size for sidewalk riding and how they work in other municipalities

Sarah Merkel noted that during her research she discovered that some municipalities regulate by age and some by tire size. She referenced the Young Cyclists Guide, created by the Province of Ontario, noting that it says children under 10 years of age should not ride their bicycles in traffic. Currently the City of Stratford's bylaw states that nobody can ride on any sidewalk, except for a small portion of Ontario Street.

The committee agreed that it is important to find a way to mix pedestrians, cyclists and cars safely and that changing behaviours regarding walking and cycling are important. Other obstacles facing cyclists are:

- Multi-lane roads
- Gaps in cycling routes
- Road widths

Motion by Gary Jacques, seconded by Cambria Ravenhill

**That ATAC refer to Council to consider changing the Traffic and Parking By-law 159-2008 to allow cycling on sidewalks up to a certain age.
Carried.**

6. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Update from working groups

Councillor Vassilakos provided an outline of the Cycling Cooperation Group and the School pilot project. She noted that the group has done surveys, school walk-about to look at infrastructure and a campaign to encourage changes in cycling behavior. Some examples of the activities the group is promoting are:

- Winter Walk to School
- Car Free Friday

She noted there has been a growing interest in the pilot project and once complete a report will be written and the bike/walk to school project will be rolled out to other schools.

Sarah Merkel noted that the School project has gained interest from Police services in other municipalities and it may have the opportunity to grow once the pilot project is complete.

Councillor Vassilakos indicated the two pilot schools already have a lot of walkers and few infrastructure problems, so in the next phase she would like to see more downtown schools involved. These schools will provide a challenge, as they are in older neighbourhoods where the infrastructure is harder to change.

The committee discussed the idea of making driving to school more inconvenient so that other methods of transportation are explored. Councillor Vassilakos asked that a committee member look into other municipalities that restrict traffic near schools and the impact on students.

b.) Snow Angels update

Gary Jacques expressed concern that the Snow Angels website was not working correctly. Councillor Vassilakos brought up the website on her laptop and it worked properly. She then provided a brief description of the Snow Angels program for the new committee members. She noted the program support email address as support@stratfordsnowangels.ca. The program is running at full capacity and there are hopes that it will spread to other municipalities across Canada.

c.) Pedestrian connectivity

Sarah Merkel inquired whether pedestrian connectivity of sidewalks could be discussed and whether the Accessibility Advisory Committee handles these issues.

The Manager of Engineering noted that assessments are done annually and there is an improvement budget every year, however there will always be additional areas needing improvement. Any citizen can send information to staff requesting improvements and the information will be shared with the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Councillor Vassilakos noted the difficulties when it comes to sidewalks as often this is considered a local improvement and is charged back to the residents of the affected area.

NEXT MEETING DATE – Wednesday, February 28, 2018 – 7:00pm – location to be determined.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Stephen Barlow, seconded by Ryan Ritskes
That the January 24, 2018 ATAC meeting adjourn.
Carried.

Start Time: 7:08 pm
End Time: 8:30 pm