

Staff Report



Community Services Department

www.kitchener.ca

REPORT TO: Finance and Corporate Services Committee

DATE OF MEETING: January 29, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: Mark Hildebrand, Director Neighbourhood Programs & Services, 519-741-2200 ext. 7687.

PREPARED BY: Lolita Paroski, Inclusion Services Coordinator, 519-741-2200 ext. 7226.

WARD(S) INVOLVED: All

DATE OF REPORT: December 28, 2023

REPORT NO.: CSD-2024-006

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE RE-APPOINTMENTS TO THE GRAND RIVER ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (2024)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the following applicants be re-appointed to the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) for a 4-year term ending December 31, 2027, pending ratification by the partnering municipalities of the City of Waterloo, Region of Waterloo, Township of North Dumfries, Township of Wellesley, Township of Wilmot, and the Township of Woolwich.

Heather Clark Harris	Kitchener	Re-appointment
Paula Saunders	Kitchener	Re-appointment
Carrie Speers	Kitchener	Re-appointment

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to recommend the re-appointment of 3 current GRAAC members for Council consideration.
- This report supports **Fostering a Caring City Together: Focuses on welcoming residents of all ages, backgrounds & experiences; residents working on decisions with a meaningful influence; healthy, thriving residents with easy access to diverse & inclusive programs & services.**
- This report supports the delivery of core services.

BACKGROUND:

Under the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), all municipalities with a population of 10,000 or greater are required to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee to advise Council on the prevention, identification, and removal of barriers for persons with disabilities. The Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) is a joint committee of the Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo, the Regional Municipality of Waterloo

*** This information is available in accessible formats upon request. ***
Please call 519-741-2345 or TTY 1-866-969-9994 for assistance.

and the Townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot, and Woolwich. GRAAC is appointed the task of advising the participating municipalities on accessibility planning.

REPORT:

The GRAAC Terms of Reference specify that the Committee will consist of 11-15 members of which a majority must be persons with a disability. Recruitment for GRAAC is conducted in the fall with members beginning their 4-year term in January.

GRAAC membership currently consists of 15 members with 3 members completing their term in 2023. A selection committee of staff representing the participating municipalities have reviewed the re-appointments and are in support of the decision. Recommendations for membership are based on consideration of the Terms of Reference as well as equitable representation from various disability groups.

Pending ratification by each of the participating municipalities, staff is recommending that the residents noted above be appointed by the City of Kitchener. The incoming 2024 committee will have a total of 15 members.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report supports **Fostering a Caring City Together: Focuses on welcoming residents of all ages, backgrounds & experiences; residents working on decisions with a meaningful influence; healthy, thriving residents with easy access to diverse & inclusive programs & services.**

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Capital Budget – The recommendation has no impact on the Capital Budget.

Operating Budget – The recommendation has no impact on the Operating Budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

INFORM – This report has been posted to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the council / committee meeting.

PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:

There are no previous reports/authorities related to this matter.

APPROVED BY: MICHAEL MAY, DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER