

## **9.6(a)**

### **Accessible Outdoor Spaces and Parklands Working Group (OSPWG)**

**2018 – 2022 Term**

#### **Accomplishments**

The Working Group was established in the spring of 2022 at the approval of City Council following request by motion of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (ACPD).

A work plan was established and approved by the ACPD and subsequently City Council.

City staff were requested to join the WG including staff from Parks and Recreation and Economic Development.

The OSPWG was able to work with the ACPD's Built Environment WG to ferret out which aspects of outdoor dining falls within the purview of the OSPWG and which aspects of work falls within the purview of the BEWG.

The OSPWG was able to determine its scope of municipal space for attention including parks, golf courses, trails (except those under authority of the province), organized outdoor sporting spaces, among others.

The OSPWG was able to create with staff a spreadsheet of all manner of amenities which may be contained within

## 9.6(a)

areas of a park or outdoor space under the administration and budget of the City.

The OSPWG made contact with representatives of the Ontario Parks Association to collaborate and develop some synergies, use of information and sharing of best practices or design guidelines long term.

A City staff supported decision was taken by the OSPWG to connect with McMaster University's School of Rehabilitation Sciences to determine whether there may be an opportunity for student Occupational Therapists to work under the supervision of City staff on the design plans and guidelines for City amenities.

Consultation with City staff regarding the accessibility of outdoor dining has been initiated. The plan is to ensure that persons with disabilities who wish to dine outdoors may do so with zero barriers and any person travelling to, from or any pedestrian passing by any outdoor dining facility can do so free of barriers or obstructions. Plans will also include the elimination of any barriers to parking for persons with disabilities where outdoor dining may be located either on a roadway or in a municipal parking lot.

### **Future Plans**

To finalize with the School of Rehabilitation Sciences, staff and any other pertinent administrators the presence of student Occupational Therapists to work under the

## **9.6(a)**

supervision of staff to assist with the completion of a set of guidelines for park amenities.

Continue collaboration with the Ontario Parks Association on space design and implementation of accessible guidelines beyond the borders of Hamilton and to maintain synergies in accessibility of open spaces.

Adoption of a set of guidelines, standards or regulations by the City once work of the OSPWG is complete and the ACPD is in full support.

Continue close collaboration and work with City staff on the design of accessible outdoor dining.