



CORPORATE SERVICES

Staff Report

REPORT NO: COR 2023-02

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Patrick Kelly, Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer

PREPARED BY: Candice Greenley, Administrative Clerk

REVIEWED BY: Sharon Chambers, CAO

DATE: January 30, 2023

SUBJECT: Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee Appointments for 2023-2026 Term

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approve the recommended appointments to the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC), and further

THAT pending ratification by the partnering municipalities, the following members be appointed to GRAAC for a four-year term ending December 31, 2026:

1. Alyssa Clelland;
2. Tamara Cooper;
3. Sarah Cunneyworth;
4. Heather Gillespie;
5. Christine Nishiwaki;
6. Farshid Sadatsharifi;
7. Katherine Waybrant;
8. Agency Representation (Brain Injury Association Waterloo Wellington).

SUMMARY:

GRAAC is comprised of 11-15 volunteer laypersons or agency representatives. Recruitment for GRAAC is organized each year by a Staff Advisory Group with representatives from each of the supporting municipalities. Appointments are staggered to support succession planning and knowledge sharing.

The Staff Advisory Group ranks applicants in a bias-free recruitment and selection process, considering diversity of perspectives and geography where possible. Applications from agencies are accepted based on the agency's merit to represent persons with disabilities and the agency representative may be chosen by the agency. The recommended appointments must be approved by all seven (7) of the supporting Councils, who will each receive similar reports for consideration.

BACKGROUND:

In 2004, GRAAC was created to meet the requirements of the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA) and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA). GRAAC is a joint committee of seven (7) area municipalities: the Regional of Waterloo, the Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo, and the Townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot, and Woolwich. The committee provides vision, planning and recommendations to member municipalities to develop, remove barriers and improve accessibility for people with disabilities within their communities.

REPORT:

The Township of Wilmot has participated in actively supporting the operation of GRAAC since 2015. The partnership with the other area municipalities is an effective and cost-effective way to have access to an advisory committee and fulfill this legislated requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA).

The appointments recommended within this report are based on having a diversity of perspectives on GRAAC and include agency applications. With the appointments recommended in this report, all fifteen (15) seats on GRAAC will be filled.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

The Township's participation in GRAAC aligns with the Strategic Plan goals of community engagement through belonging and quality of life through accessibility and inclusivity.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Legislative Services operating budget contains funds allocated to the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee for administrative costs totaling approximately \$340.00.