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**From:** City Council  
**Subject:** 7.2.1 Communication - Gordon Koop - Accessible Parking Review - CK 6120-0

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**From:** Web NoReply <web-noreply@saskatoon.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 7:49 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@saskatoon.ca>  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Gordon Koop - Accessible Parking Review - CK 6120-0

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Monday, December 4, 2023 - 07:49

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

**I have read and understand the above statements.:** Yes

**I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.:** No

**I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.:** No

**Date:** Monday, December 04, 2023

**To:** His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**Pronouns:** He/him/his

**First Name:** Gordon

**Last Name:** Koop

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** Cope

**Phone Number :** [306](tel:306) [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Address:** [REDACTED] Smith Place

**Neighbourhood:** [Parkridge](#)

**City:** Saskatoon

**Province:** Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7M [REDACTED]

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known)::** Standing Policy Committee on Transportation

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** Accessible Parking Permits Program.

**Comments:**

I would like to thank the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation for taking the time to hear my concerns with the proposed changes to the Accessible Parking Permits Program. I would also like to thank my counselor, David Kirton, for keeping me informed and providing me with information on this subject.

My first concern is regarding the proposed increase in fees from \$20 to \$100. While I appreciate an increase may be warranted, an increase of 500% seems quite dramatic, especially for the population of users in the program. It is unfortunate that a review of the fee structure hasn't been conducted since 1981 and potentially a gradual increase would be easier to take, but that is not the current circumstances. With that being said, this is not a simple increase at the rate of inflation.

It is also disappointing to read of this proposal following the response in the stakeholder engagement. Based on the information provided, it is clear that only a small percentage of users participated in the survey but the message was clear that the majority was satisfied with fees that were the same or less. Again, this is not to say an increase is not warranted but it would seem counterintuitive to hear such a strong response and then dramatically increase it, well past inflation.

The presentation of the municipal scan does provide insight into the diverse approach for managing the Accessible Parking Permits Program. What the scan fails to do is take into consideration the other variables that may contribute to the development of their program. These considerations may include the accessibility and effectiveness of their public transit system, the locations to various amenities, and how the parking program is regulated (e.g. only downtown, an expanded area, etc.). Why I ask if these considerations are taken into account, is to ask what the objective of the program as well as the objective of the proposed changes. It is presented that part of the objective of the program is to mitigate the need to use the parking meters. But I imagine that another objective is within the name of the program – Accessible Parking. It would be safe to assume that for the majority in the program, having access to parking, in which allows them to participate and pursue shopping, entertainment, and dining within the heart of Saskatoon without worrying about other considerations, is the epitome of Accessible.

The use of the app would address the need to find and access the parking meter. But increasing the cost of the program may effectively make the program no longer accessible to those that do need it. Many within the program are facing mobility challenges that may already create obstacles in the type of careers they pursue and the net income they may benefit from (due to potential increased medical costs). I would plead with the committee and council to seriously consider if Saskatoon is the type of city that encourages the inclusion of all persons, including offering, what truly is, an Accessible Parking Permit Program.

My second concern is the proposed amendment to the time restrictions. I think it is fair to say that on street parking is not likely required for 72 hours but decreasing it to 4 hours, again, seems like a dramatic change. Again, those participating in the Program already have obstacles with mobility, which may very well extend to time. It is often inherent that things may take longer when faced with mobility issues. To compound that with a "tight" time clock, seems counterintuitive to providing an accessible experience in Saskatoon. I write as only one user experiencing mobility issues. The ability to enjoy downtown Saskatoon, without worrying about moving my vehicle or determining if permit fees fit into my fixed senior's income is a vital piece to why Saskatoon shines. While I may be able to afford the increase in the Parking Permit, I am only one user. While I certainly do not use parking for 72 hours or may not even use it for 4 hours, I am only one user. I do not speak for all users but can certainly empathize with the impacts such changes may have on many more users in the program.

Again, I wish the committee to think carefully about the matter of the increase in fees and decrease in time restrictions, as such changes are rarely reversed. A little peace of mind for Program users seems like a stronger benefit than the unknown financial implications that the City may see in revenue.

Respectfully  
Gordon Koop

**Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No**