

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes  
September 1, 2020 - 7:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

**Present:** Jeffrey Beaton, Vice-Chair  
Liam Lacy  
James Lawrie, Chair  
Dave MacKinnon

**Also Present:** Councillor Yamada, Mayor's Designate  
John Romano, Commissioner of Community Services  
Michele Cotton, Staff Liaison, Accessibility Coordinator  
Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator  
(Recording Secretary)

**Regrets:** Naji Hassan  
Denise Laframboise  
Paul Scott  
Ayse Yuksel

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Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - June 2, 2020

Recommendation:

Moved By Liam Lacy

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of June 2, 2020 be approved.

**Carried**

3. Presentations

**3.1** There were no presentations.

**4.** Delegations

**4.1** There were no delegations.

**5.** General Business and Reports

**5.1** Summer Summary Update

Michele Cotton provided a summer summary update regarding:

- continuing the Committee's subcommittee meetings throughout the summer; and,
- the re-opening of Town Hall by appointment and re-opening of various services at limited capacity such as the Whitby Public Library main branch and recreation centres.

**5.2** Regional Update

Michele Cotton advised that the Regional Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting had been cancelled for 2020. Ms. Cotton further advised that the Accessibility Awards would be presented in December, in celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities. She requested that the Committee select and vote on this year's Accessibility Award nomination.

A brief discussion ensued regarding which business to nominate including:

- Sobeys for their sensory shopping program; and,
- Sheridan Nurseries for their commitment to staff with disabilities throughout the pandemic.

It was the consensus of the Committee to nominate Sheridan Nurseries as the 2020 winner of the Accessibility Award.

**5.3** Committee Partnership Opportunities

Michele Cotton advised that there was an opportunity to build a partnership with the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee. Ms. Cotton further advised that discussions regarding participating in the Diversity and Inclusion Speaker Series with a speaker dedicated to accessibility in December, and partnering on the Community Survey were underway. She requested that the Committee formally invite the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee to the October 6, 2020 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting to discuss further opportunities.

Michele Cotton advised the Committee that they would continue to partner with the Whitby 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee.

Recommendation:

Moved By Jeffrey Beaton

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee formally invites the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee to attend their October 6, 2020 meeting.

**Carried**

#### **5.4 Subcommittee Updates**

- Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee
- Customer Service and Communications Subcommittee

Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee

Jeffrey Beaton advised that approximately 20 site plans were reviewed at the July 21, 2020 Site Plans and Built Environment subcommittee meeting. Mr. Beaton further advised that many repeat submissions had been received due to non-compliance with accessibility.

A brief discussion ensued regarding:

- the lack of available accessible housing;
- the need to review townhouse developments to improve amenity spaces provided by developers;
- piloting a playground audit with Town Staff from the Community Services Department; and,
- including a standard that would address the needs, inclusion, and engagement activities for children with Autism as presented by Dr. Temple Grandin, within the playground audit.

Customer Service and Communications Subcommittee

James Lawrie provided an update regarding:

- focusing on creating a survey in lieu of participating in Town events for 2020;
- partnering with the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (WDIAC) on a Community Survey;
- providing a speaker and speaker topic for one of the WDIAC's Speaker Series webinars; and,

- continuing the Transportation Network Companies Fund awards program.

Mr. Lawrie advised that the subcommittee was expecting to collaborate with the Whitby 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee on an awareness event later this year.

6. Correspondence

**6.1** There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

**7.1** Councillor Yamada provided an update regarding:

- the re-opening of services at Town Hall; and,
- the upcoming Committee of the Whole and Council meeting schedule.

8. Other Business

**8.1** There was no other business.

9. Next Meeting

**9.1** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting

10. Adjournment

**10.1** Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Liam Lacy

That the meeting adjourn.

**Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

**These minutes were approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee on October 6, 2020.**