

Present: Liam Lacy
Denise Laframboise
Dave MacKinnon, Acting Chair
Paul Scott
Ayse Yuksel

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

Regrets: Naji Hassan

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

Prior to the Approval of the Previous Minutes, Dave MacKinnon addressed the Committee regarding the loss of Jeffrey Beaton, Committee Member and Chair, and acknowledged his work on the Committee.

Michele Cotton addressed the Committee and acknowledged Jeffrey Beaton's commitment and dedication to the Committee. Ms. Cotton stated that the Committee could plant a tree or dedicate a bench in commemoration of Jeffrey Beaton.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- dedicating a bench;
- placing the bench in Jeffrey Park; and,
- naming an Accessibility Improvement Grant after him.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - September 7, 2021

Recommendation:

Moved By Denise Laframboise

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of September 7, 2021 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 Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Study Update

Michele Cotton advised that the public consultation for the Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Study had ended. Ms. Cotton stated that the public consultation was well received and that 184 people visited the webpage and 54 people completed the survey. She further stated that a presentation of the study was being prepared for Council to review and approve the signage and wayfinding standards.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding whether the presentation of the study would be reviewed by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

5.2 Accessibility Improvement Grant Fund

Michele Cotton advised that the Accessibility Improvement Grant Fund had been launched on the Town's webpage and advertised through the Town's social media and Whitby This Week. Ms. Cotton stated that promotion of the Grant would renew every two weeks to maximize public awareness.

5.3 Review of Statement of Commitment

Dave MacKinnon requested feedback from the Committee regarding the Statement of Commitment.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- changing the language to reflect equitable access and acknowledging invisible disabilities;
- adding information and language about removing barriers;
- maintaining clarity and simplicity in the Statement;
- using universal language;
- whether to include reference to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act in the Statement;
- providing comments to the Communications and Customer Service Subcommittee regarding the draft Statement of Commitment; and,
- having the Communications and Customer Service Subcommittee provide a revised draft of the Statement of Commitment to the Committee for final review.

5.4 Regional Update

Michele Cotton advised that registration for the Regional Joint Forum was open. Ms. Cotton further advised that David Onley would be this year's Keynote Speaker. She requested feedback from the Committee regarding three businesses selected for consideration of the Accessibility Award, including Redwood Employment Inc., Station Gallery, and Graziella Fine Jewellery.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- recognizing customer service and employment changes rather than infrastructure changes for accessibility;
- engaging the community to increase nominations of businesses; and,
- creating a rubric for future nominations to help with the final selection of a nominee.

It was the consensus of the Committee to nominate Redwood Employment Inc. for the Accessibility Award.

5.5 Annual Joint Meeting with Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Preparations

Michele Cotton advised that the November 2, 2021 Accessibility Advisory Committee would be a joint meeting with the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee. Ms. Cotton stated that there would be a presentation of the Town's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism (IDEA) Project. She requested feedback from the Committee

regarding areas of priority for partnership with the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- learning about intersectionality; and,
- cross-promoting each Committees' initiatives and information through the Committees' webpage.

5.6 Subcommittee Updates

Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee

Denise Laframboise provided an update regarding the Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee which included:

- concerns regarding pedestrian crossings and safety at the planned roundabout at Baldwin Street and the Mid-Block Arterial;
- concerns regarding pedestrian crossings and safety at the planned roundabout at Ashburn Road and the Mid-Block Arterial; and,
- concerns regarding the number of barrier free stalls in the universal changerooms at the Whitby Civic Recreation Complex.

Michele Cotton advised that the Subcommittee reviewed the electric charging station designs. Ms. Cotton stated that two of the electric charging stations did not provide safe access to individuals with physical disabilities.

Communications and Customer Service Subcommittee

Paul Scott provided an update regarding the Communications and Customer Service Subcommittee which included:

- the Accessibility Improvement Grant Fund;
- development of the Community Survey; and,
- review of the Town's Statement of Commitment.

Paul Scott suggested that the Committee share the results of the Community Survey with the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee. Mr. Scott advised that the Subcommittee would review, revise, and email a second draft of the Statement of Commitment to the Committee for a final review.

6. Correspondence

6.1 There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

7.1 Councillor Yamada provided an update regarding:

- investigating suitable municipal sites for the development of a sustainable urban agriculture centre in partnership with the Barrett Centre of Innovation in Sustainable Urban Agriculture;
- the Downtown Whitby Action Plan 2021 update; and,
- a request from Circle Taxi and Bell Taxi to increase taxicab fares.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding whether any sites have been considered for the sustainable urban agriculture centre.

Dave MacKinnon requested an update regarding the Fire Station project.

8. Other Business

8.1 Whitby Special Event Strategy

Dave MacKinnon advised that the Whitby Special Event Strategy would be discussed at future Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings.

Michele Cotton requested that Members fill out the online survey regarding special events in Whitby. Ms. Cotton stated that the Town would be developing a strategy to ensure special events in Whitby were barrier free.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- survey questions that focused on businesses rather than residents' perspectives; and,
- improving the clarity of survey questions.

9. Next Meeting

9.1 Tuesday, November 2, 2021 - 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 8:34 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee on November 2, 2021.