

Present: Naji Hassan
Liam Lacy
Denise Laframboise
Dave MacKinnon, Chair
Paul Scott, Vice-Chair
Ayse Yuksel

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

Regrets: Poonam Dewan

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - March 1, 2022

Recommendation:

Moved By Liam Lacy

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of March 1, 2022 be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations

3.1 Lara Scott, Program Manager, Events, Culture, and Tourism, Town of Whitby

Re: Special Events in Whitby

Lara Scott provided a presentation regarding Special Events in Whitby. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the four stages of the Special Events Strategy and vision to support the delivery of diverse, sustainable and innovative festivals and events that engage a connected community and enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors;
- the next steps including retraining volunteers and seeking input from the advisory committees;
- 2022 events such as Whitby in Bloom Garden Tour, Culture Pop-Ups, Harvest Festival, Christmas in the Village, and Whitby Lights the Night and Holiday Festival; and,
- the Tourism Strategy designed to act as an opportunity to grow visitor revenue, local jobs, quality of life and pride of place for residents.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- considerations for accessibility at events; and,
- whether input had been solicited from advisory committees regarding new events.

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 5, Council Update, at this time.

3.2 Catherine Bridgeman, Director of Facilities, and Steve Walo, Capital Projects Supervisor of Facilities, Town of Whitby

Re: Whitby Sports Complex

Steve Walo provided a presentation regarding the Whitby Sports Complex. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the site location for the Whitby Sports Complex;
- connection of the site to the Heber Down Conservation Area trails;
- the facility design including an aquatic centre, two ice pads, a gym, and a walking track; and,
- the outdoor space which would include pickleball courts, a tennis court, skate park, and pump track.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- how the location would connect to Heber Down Conservation Area trails; and,
- access to public transportation.

4. General Business and Reports

4.1 Regional Update

Michele Cotton advised that the Region of Durham sent out the application form for accessible business nominations. Ms. Cotton requested Members consider nominees to discuss at the May meeting.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether previous recipients or companies that have received Town funding may be nominated;
- bringing all nominees forward for discussion; and,
- whether a polling question requesting nomination suggestions could be used to advertise the Community Survey.

4.2 Community Survey Update

Michele Cotton advised that the second survey was launched and would remain open until April 25, 2022.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- how the information would be analyzed;
- who was included on the distribution list; and,
- advertising the survey through the Abilities Centre.

4.3 Grant Application Review

Michele Cotton advised that the first grant application had been received. She advised it was for the Accessibility Improvement Lead Grant program. Highlights of the application included:

- the applicant, Melly's Market and Cafe, a new not for profit organization opening on Brock Street;
- working with adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities as a training centre by using employment instructors;
- requesting funds to install digital menu boards that are programmable and have larger fonts to make the menu and products more accessible;
- requesting a matching grant of \$10,000;
- the \$5,000 matching grant recommended by the Communication and Customer Service Subcommittee for Melly's Market and Cafe; and,
- the funds put forward by Melly's Market and Cafe would be secured through private fundraising.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- how the menu boards would be different than those found in restaurants;
- the next steps for processing the application;
- whether there was an appeal process for businesses to appeal the Committee's decision; and,
- the recruitment process of Melly's Market and Cafe.

Recommendation:

Moved By Denise Laframboise

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee supports the recommendation put forward by the Communication and Customer Service Subcommittee regarding the grant application submitted by Melly's Market and Cafe.

Carried

4.4 Committee Requests for Participation: Climate Change Plan and Roebuck Street Placemaking Project

Michele Cotton advised that a request for participation had been received for the Climate Change Plan and Roebuck Street Placemaking Project. Ms. Cotton stated that a volunteer from the Accessibility Advisory Committee would be asked to sit on a jury to review art work.

Ayse Yuksel volunteered to represent the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

4.5 Subcommittee Updates

Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee

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

- a community garden and shed project;
- bench installs in Whitby parks including Otter Creek Trail, Oshawa Creek Trail, King Street Park, Biodiversity Trail, Deverell Park, Jack Wilson Park, and Whitby Optimist Park;
- reviewing the design for Greenfield Park and feedback on the playground equipment; and,
- industrial buildings at Wentworth Street and McEwen Drive, and at the Midblock Arterial at Ashburn Road.

John Romano stated that specific equipment was not included in Park project tenders and that high level advice on what the Committee would recommend for equipment would be helpful.

Communication and Customer Service Subcommittee

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

- reviewing the Community Survey and dividing it into two smaller surveys based on feedback received from the Town's Communications Department;
- reviewing the application for the Accessibility Improvement Lead Grant and creating a draft template for assessing applications; and,
- the Report a Barrier Program.

5. Council Update

5.1 Councillor Yamada provided an update regarding:

- easing of COVID-19 restrictions in municipal facilities and continuing to request that individuals self-monitor for symptoms;
- the 55+ Virtual Health and Wellness Fair on March 20, 2022 was well attended;
- in-person Town events would be resuming in 2022; and,
- the Envision Durham Project.

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 3.2 at this time.

6. Other Business

6.1 There was no other business.

7. Next Meeting

7.1 Tuesday, May 3, 2022 - 7:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting

8. Adjournment

8.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Ayse Yuksel

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee on May 3, 2022.