

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes
May 7, 2019 - 7:00 PM
Committee Room One
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Jeffrey Beaton, Vice-Chair
Naji Hassan
Alexander German
Liam Lacy
Denise Laframboise
James Lawrie, Chair
Ayse Yuksel

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

Regrets: Dave MacKinnon
Andres Partridge-Rios

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - April 2, 2019

Recommendation:

Moved By Denise Laframboise

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of April 2, 2019 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 2022 Municipal Election

Michele Cotton requested that the Committee provide recommendations regarding best practices for the 2022 Municipal Election to the Office of the Town Clerk.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- including online voting in the 2022 Municipal Election;
- providing easier access to alternate voting methods including phone-in and/or voting by mail as well as the provision of accessible equipment at every polling station; and,
- the advantages of online voting from accessible and sustainable perspectives.

James Lawrie advised that statistical information pertaining to online voting such as voter turnout, fraud prevention and recounting online votes would be prepared and presented at the next Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting scheduled to take place on June 4, 2019. He further advised that the Committee would discuss the statistical data and submit a letter to the Office of the Town Clerk regarding online voting for the 2022 Municipal Election.

5.2 2019 Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan

James Lawrie requested that the Committee provide suggestions for items to include on the 2019 Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- increasing communication to the public regarding accessibility measures that have been, or would be implemented by the Town of Whitby;
- soliciting a third party parks and playground auditor to provide an accessibility review of the Town's outdoor recreational facilities;
- setting up a 'Did You Know' kiosk for the Open Streets Festival;
- increasing public awareness about mental health;
- updating accessibility checklists that would be included with 'Requests for Proposal' to ensure plans have considered the Town's accessibility expectations and concerns;
- updating an accessibility checklist that would be attached to Staff

- reports that are presented to Council;
- updating audit lists for accessibility standards;
- drafting a Terms of Reference for the Transportation Network Companies Fund; and,
- identifying a 'showcase project' completed by the Town of Whitby that would be used to promote the Town's commitment to inclusion.

Michele Cotton advised that the Work Plan must be finalized by the next Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting scheduled to take place on June 4, 2019. James Lawrie requested that Committee Members rank the items from highest to lowest priority for the next meeting.

5.3 Revised 2019-2022 Accessibility Plan

Michele Cotton advised that the 2019-2022 Accessibility Plan Revised Report had been delayed and would be ready for Council later this year.

5.4 Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals Information Sharing

Michele Cotton provided a summary of the presentations that took place at the Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals Information Sharing Spring Conference which included:

- recognizing stress and thriving through it;
- the demographics of an aging population and accessible housing;
- a panel discussion on accessible employment; and,
- the Blind Square GPS App that allows individuals to navigate through a building with their smartphone.

Michele Cotton advised that the demographics of an aging population and accessible housing was a new initiative for developers that would encourage accessible housing developments. She recommended that this topic be included as a presentation at a future Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

5.5 Subcommittee Updates

Site Plan and Built Environment Subcommittee Update

Jeffrey Beaton advised that the subcommittee met on May 7, 2019 and provided an in depth review of two projects in Whitby including the proposed five storey apartment building at 224 Hickory Street North and a commercial expansion project at 660-710 Taunton Road East.

Customer Service and Communication Subcommittee Update

Ayse Yuksel provided an update regarding the subcommittee meeting and advised that the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Whitby Seniors' Services Committee would be hosting an event at the Seniors' Centre on June 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The event would include a 55 minute documentary (The Caregiver's Club) and that the director of the documentary and Members of the Alzheimer Society of Durham Region would be available for discussion.

6. Correspondence

6.1 There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

7.1 Regional Councillor Yamada provided updates regarding:

- the Urban Design Guidelines and Comprehensive Block Plan for the southwest corner of Baldwin Street South and Winchester Road West for a mixed use commercial development that would promote active transportation, public spaces, and 850 residential units;
- Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and Site Plan Applications for 304, 308, 368, 372, 374 and 378 Taunton Road East to permit the development of two mixed use 18 story towers; and,
- Council's support regarding the development of an airport in the City of Pickering.

8. Other Business

8.1 Active Transportation Plan Update

Michele Cotton advised that Members of Advisory Committees were invited to provide comments regarding the Active Transportation Plan at a meeting scheduled to take place on May 29, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at Whitby Town Hall in Committee Room One.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the Plan's emphasis on able-bodied cyclists as the 'average' active transportation user;
- the Plan's lack of focus on infrastructure such as sidewalks, connections to transit and alternative forms of transportation other than cycling; and,
- the omission of the forced pedestrian (individuals without access to a vehicle and unable to cycle) in the plan.

9. Next Meeting

9.1 June 4, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.
Committee Room One, Whitby Town Hall

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Naji Hassan

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

H. Oerlemans, Council and
Committee Coordinator

James Lawrie, Committee Chair