

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes
April 6, 2021 - 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Jeffrey Beaton, Chair
Naji Hassan
Liam Lacy
Denise Laframboise
James Lawrie
Dave MacKinnon, Vice-Chair (logged off at 7:51 p.m.)
Paul Scott
Ayse Yuksel

Also Present: Regional 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: None noted

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - March 2, 2021

Recommendation:

Moved By Liam Lacy

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of March 2, 2021 be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations

3.1 Pinder DaSilva, Senior Director of Programs and Services, and Tara Joy Knibbe, Director of Research, Abilities Centre
Re: Abilities Centre Presentation

Pinder DaSilva and Tara Joy Knibbe provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Abilities Centre. Highlights of the presentation included:

- an overview of the Access Project core components such as data collection, tools and resources, and community support for accessing services during COVID-19;
- findings from the National COVID-19 Disability Survey to track changes in people's needs, well-being, and lifestyle behaviours over the course of the pandemic and recovery phases;
- the majority of participants identified as having a disability;
- the negative impacts on mental and physical health due to COVID-19 and increases in substance use;
- the impacts of COVID-19 on children with disabilities; and,
- the next steps such as continuing to collect data to better serve the needs of people with disabilities, develop resources for the Access Project, and to share data with people with lived experience, government officials, organizations, and the general public.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether the survey was available in French plain language;
- what methods were used to make the survey available to the public and to advertise the survey;
- whether contact lists for organizations could be shared;
- whether the Abilities Centre could assist in distributing the Accessibility Advisory Committee's survey; and,
- whether there were unexpected results or information collected from the survey.

3.2 John Romano, Commissioner of Community Services, Town of Whitby
Re: North Whitby Sports Complex Design Options

John Romano provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the North Whitby Sports Complex Design options. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the vision for the project to create a multi purpose gathering space for inclusive sport and community programming;
- community needs for aquatics and demand for ice time based on best practices;

- growth and future trends and needs for recreation programming and services;
- public engagement and stakeholder sessions for the facility;
- the universality of the design options;
- sustainability of the design options such as LEED Gold (a green building grading system) and Net Zero Carbon (reducing or offsetting greenhouse gasses from energy use); and,
- specific characteristics of the three design options for the North Whitby Sports Complex.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- how the project was being funded;
- whether there would be a bike storage facility or bike repair station at the facility;
- whether improved safety measures had been included in the drop-off zone designs;
- whether a ramp would be considered to gain access to the second floor; and,
- whether plans were in place to mitigate design cuts without sacrificing accessibility should the project exceed the expected budget.

4. Delegations

4.1 There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan

Michele Cotton reviewed a list of projects for the Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan which included:

- the Accessibility Advisory Committee's Community Survey;
- a public awareness campaign;
- playground audits and site visits;
- establishing a review checklist for the Planning and Development Department;
- hosting a joint meeting with the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee for survey data sharing and priority project identification; and,
- partnering with the Whitby 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee on an awareness activity.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- mental health initiatives; and,

- the Uber and Lyft program.

5.2 Awareness Campaign Development

Michele Cotton requested feedback from the Committee regarding an Awareness Campaign.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- using National Access Awareness Week in June to launch the Accessibility Advisory Committee's Community Survey as well as a 'did you know' on the Committee's webpage;
- partnering with the Whitby Chamber of Commerce to highlight the financial impacts of accessibility on businesses and how to make businesses accessible;
- highlighting accessibility achievements of the Town such as programs and services that improve and build accessibility, and providing great customer service;
- promoting awareness of International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December; and,
- promoting universal designs of buildings and facilities through a messaging campaign such as 'accessible design is good design for everyone'.

5.3 Subcommittee Updates

Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee

Denise Laframboise advised that the Site Plan and Built Environment Subcommittee reviewed three site plans. Ms. Laframboise further advised that comments regarding curbs were submitted for two of the site plans, while the other site plan required further clarity regarding the graded slope.

Customer Service and Communications Subcommittee

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

- setting up an automated report to determine how many people were visiting the Town's website and how they were accessing it;
- discussions regarding brand awareness such as using hashtags and logos; and,
- building an inventory of resources such as videos, audio recordings, statistics, introductions to the Committee Members, personal stories, links to resources, and other information regarding accessibility and services the Town provides to share with the public.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Special Education Advisory Committee, Durham District School Board
Re: Proposed Transit Mall and Accessibility Concerns for Students of
the Durham District School Board

Michele Cotton advised that correspondence regarding the Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit Mall had been received. Highlights of the correspondence included:

- concerns regarding accessibility for students from the Durham District School Board at the Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit Mall location; and,
- concerns regarding school bus stops/pick ups for students.

A brief discussion ensued regarding requiring further information such as which schools, how many schools, and how many students would be impacted by the Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit Mall.

7. Council Update

7.1 Councillor Yamada provided updates including:

- an application for a seven story residential seniors apartment complex at 106, 118, and 126 Mary Street East;
- a presentation regarding the Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit project on April 22, 2021 at a Special Council meeting; and,
- phase two of the COVID-19 vaccination distribution plan has been rolled out.

8. Other Business

8.1 Acknowledgement of James Lawrie

Jeffrey Beaton advised the Committee that this was James Lawrie's final meeting and acknowledged the work and dedication that Mr. Lawrie has given to the Committee.

9. Next Meeting

9.1 Tuesday, May 4, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By James Lawrie

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee on May 4, 2021.