

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes
January 5, 2021 - 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Jeffrey Beaton, Chair
Naji Hassan
Denise Laframboise
James Lawrie
Dave MacKinnon, Vice-Chair
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: Liam Lacy
Paul Scott

Call to Order

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

- 1.1** The Committee was advised that the appointment for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 term would take place at this time.

Michele Cotton called for the nominations for the position of Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

James Lawrie nominated Jeffrey Beaton for the position of Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Jeffrey Beaton accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and the nominations were closed.

Michele Cotton called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

James Lawrie nominated Dave MacKinnon for the position of Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Dave MacKinnon accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and the nominations were closed.

Recommendation:

Moved By James Lawrie

That Jeffrey Beaton be appointed Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2021.

Carried

Recommendation:

Moved By James Lawrie

That Dave MacKinnon be appointed Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2021.

Carried

2. Disclosures of Interest

2.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

3.1 Minutes - November 3, 2020

Recommendation:

Moved By Dave MacKinnon

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of November 3, 2020 be approved.

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 There were no presentations.

5. Delegations

5.1 There were no delegations.

6. General Business and Reports

6.1 2020 Summary

Michele Cotton advised that meetings would be continuing virtually for the first half of 2021. Ms. Cotton requested feedback from the Committee regarding how to improve virtual meetings and business processes.

Denise Laframboise stated that she experienced difficulties with the Town's virtual meeting platform in comparison to alternative virtual meeting platforms she has used.

James Lawrie suggested using features such as the hand raise function in the participant list.

Michele Cotton suggested that the Committee take into consideration virtual platforms and delivery when setting Committee goals, priorities, and initiatives for 2021.

6.2 2021 Priorities and Work Plan

Michele Cotton requested feedback from the Committee regarding what goals, initiatives, and priorities the Committee would like to focus on in 2021.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the 'Did You Know' campaign;
- the Uber and Lyft project;
- opportunities for programs related to mental health and mental health challenges arising from COVID-19; and,
- a Health and Wellness Committee within the Town.

Michele Cotton requested that Members of the Committee prepare ideas for the February meeting.

6.3 2021 Partnership Activities

Michele Cotton provided an overview of various Committees and groups the Accessibility Advisory Committee partnered with in 2020 such as the Whitby Seniors Centre and the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee. Ms. Cotton requested whether the Committee would like to

continue developing partnership opportunities such as holding a joint meeting with the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee in March.

Discussion ensued regarding other Advisory Committees the Accessibility Advisory Committee could partner with including:

- the Brooklin Downtown Development Steering Committee;
- the Downtown Whitby Development Steering Committee;
- the Active Transportation and Safe Roads Advisory Committee; and,
- continuing to invite various Town departments and divisions to provide presentations at Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings.

A question and answer period ensued regarding whether there were any Town events the Committee should be aware of and involved in for 2021.

6.4 City of Pickering Service and Support Animals Initiative

Michele Cotton advised that the City of Pickering was working with the Province on a Service and Support Animals Initiative to clarify the language, certification, definitions and awareness regarding service and support animals. Ms. Cotton further advised that the City of Pickering had set up a survey and would be hosting workshops and focus groups for anyone interested in assisting with this program.

James Lawrie advised that the workshops would be held during daytime hours, therefore preventing many people from participating.

Michele Cotton advised that she would provide that feedback to the City of Pickering.

6.5 Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Study Update

Michele Cotton advised that the Accessible Signage and Wayfinding study was still underway and going well. Ms. Cotton further advised that the study was in the 'White Board Presentation' stage to determine the size, type, and placement of interior and exterior signs within Town properties, and roadways. She stated that the study would involve consultations with the public and the Accessibility Advisory Committee, and that dates would be provided once confirmed.

7. Correspondence

7.1 Regional Update

Michele Cotton advised that the Accessibility Awards were presented and that an award was presented to Sheridan Nurseries. Ms. Cotton advised that she would forward the link to the video presentation to Members of the Committee.

James Lawrie requested that a link to the video be placed on the Accessibility Advisory Committee Webpage.

8. Council Update

8.1 Councillor Yamada provided updates regarding:

- a motion to change Regional Councillor elections from an 'at-large' election to a ward election;
- companies progressing through the 1855 Whitby Technology Accelerator program and moving on to the landing pad phase; and,
- a motion requesting the Province to investigate the COVID-19 outbreak at the Sunnycrest Nursing Home.

9. Other Business

9.1 Extending the Membership of Naji Hassan

Michele Cotton advised the Committee that Naji Hassan's two-year term membership on the Committee was ending.

Discussion ensued regarding Mr. Hassan's background, experience and contributions to the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Recommendation:

Moved By Denise Laframboise

That Naji Hassan's two-year term on the Accessibility Advisory Committee be extended for the remainder of the 2018-2022 term.

Carried

10. Next Meeting

10.1 Tuesday, February 2, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

11. Adjournment

11.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By James Lawrie

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

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