

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes
October 6, 2020 - 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

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

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

Regrets: Ayse Yuksel

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - September 1, 2020

Recommendation:

Moved By David MacKinnon

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of September 1, 2020 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 Committee Partnership Opportunity: Joint Discussion between Accessibility Advisory Committee and Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Welcome Statement and Introductions

James Lawrie welcomed the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Members to the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting and each member provided an introduction.

Chair Summary

James Lawrie provided a summary of the Accessibility Advisory Committee's mandate including the role to represent residents with disabilities within the Town. Mr. Lawrie advised that the Accessibility Advisory Committee's mandate was to identify and remove accessibility barriers for people within the Town and to provide guidance. He further advised that additional responsibilities included site visits, reviewing site plans and the Town's Accessibility Plan, and submitting Compliance Reports to the province.

Andrea Cecchetto provided a summary of the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee's mandate including the role to provide advice to Council regarding issues of inclusivity and remove inequity barriers. Ms. Cecchetto advised that all forms of diversity and inclusion such as issues regarding race, gender, and sexual orientation were focus areas for this Committee. She further advised that the Committee promoted and educated the public on issues of diversity and inclusion by participating in various events and coordinating various seminars and webinars.

Common Goals, Initiatives and Opportunities for Partnership

James Lawrie requested feedback regarding initiatives the two Committees could partner on.

A discussion between the Committees ensued regarding:

- using the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee's Public Survey to gain a base understanding of current accessibility issues within the Town and advancements that were needed;

- welcoming presentations from various Town departments at meetings to discuss issues relevant to the Committees;
- co-hosting webinar topics such as mental health and diversity;
- understanding issues of intersectionality where a person with a disability also experienced issues as a member of a minority group;
- creating a disability checklist for Reports;
- creating intersectionality between Committees to create a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing issues within the Town;
- creating an annual schedule to meet with other Committees for aligning projects;
- setting up an annual gathering between Committees to highlight projects each Committee was working on and highlighting possible partnership opportunities;
- Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Members attending the Accessibility Advisory Committee's Customer Service and Communications Subcommittee meeting; and,
- the status of the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Committee's Public Survey and review of suggested revisions provided by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- how the results of the Public Survey would be provided to Council; and,
- whether the collaboration between the two Committees would be included in the report to Council.

Michele Cotton advised that the details regarding the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Webinar poll from the September Webinar could help narrow down the focus of the December Webinar. Ms. Cotton further advised that data from the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee's Public Survey would be useful for launching an Accessibility Advisory Committee Survey in 2021. She suggested scheduling a meeting with the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee to establish joint projects and schedule a follow up meeting to review the outcomes from the joint projects.

5.2 Regional Update

Michele Cotton advised that details regarding the Accessibility Awards ceremony would be provided at a later time.

5.3 Subcommittee Updates

Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee Update

Michele Cotton advised that a meeting would be scheduled later this month to provide a summary of submissions that have come forward.

Customer Service and Communications Subcommittee Update

Paul Scott provided an update which included:

- launching an Accessibility Advisory Committee Survey in 2021;
- assigning action items for the development of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Survey; and,
- the method of delivery for the Accessibility Advisory Committee Survey.

6. Correspondence

6.1 There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

7.1 Councillor Yamada provided an update regarding:

- the 2021 budget preparations;
- receiving financial assistance from the province to help off-set the impacts of COVID-19;
- legislative changes to the tire recycling program that would place responsibility of tire recycling on the individual producer;
- the adoption of the Whitby Green Standard; and,
- updates to the Regional Cycling Plan.

8. Other Business

8.1 Active Transportation Plan

Michele Cotton advised that a presentation from staff regarding the Active Transportation Plan would take place at the November 3, 2020 meeting.

9. Next Meeting

9.1 Tuesday, November 3, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Paul Scott

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee on November 3, 2020.