

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes
November 2, 2021 - 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Poonam Dewan
Naji Hassan
Liam Lacy
Denise Laframboise
Dave MacKinnon, Acting Chair
Paul Scott
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: 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 - October, 5, 2021

Recommendation:

Moved By Paul Scott

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of October 5, 2021 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 Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Update

Michele Cotton provided an update regarding the Accessible Signage and Wayfinding working group. Ms. Cotton stated that the working group was in the review stage which included:

- reviewing each individual sign;
- providing recommendations for the wayfinding system; and,
- providing recommendations for the sign families.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether the signs would have the Town of Whitby logo in the background;
- whether local attraction signs were included in the review;
- whether there was a design format for words and symbols used on the signs; and,
- whether digital signs were included in the review.

5.2 Accessibility Improvement Grant Fund Update

Michele Cotton stated that no applications had been received for the Accessibility Improvement Grant. Ms. Cotton advised that a media campaign would be released to advertise the grant and increase public awareness. She stated that a local business had reached out regarding the grant for additional information.

5.3 Review of Statement of Commitment

Dave MacKinnon requested that Members review the Statement of Commitment for approval.

Recommendation:

Moved By Denise Laframboise

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that the Town of Whitby revise their Statement of Commitment regarding accessibility as follows:

The Town of Whitby is committed to:

1. Ensuring that decisions, actions and planning for the community apply the principles of dignity, equal opportunity, independence and integration;
2. Identifying, removing and preventing barriers to our programs, services and facilities; and,
3. Providing an inclusive community in which employees, residents and visitors have equitable access for all ages, abilities and circumstances.

The Town strives to deliver an inclusive and welcoming environment for all community members and visitors.

Carried

- 5.4** Annual Joint Meeting with Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, December 7, 2021
Re: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism (IDEA) Project Presentation

Michele Cotton advised that the joint meeting with the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee was postponed to December 7, 2021. Ms. Cotton stated that the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism (IDEA) Project would be presented at the joint meeting.

- 5.5** 2022 Accessibility Advisory Committee Priorities

Michele Cotton requested that the Committee provide feedback regarding Committee priorities for 2022. Ms. Cotton advised that the Office of the Town Clerk had requested to present the Accessible Election Plan 2022 at the January 4, 2022 meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- launching the Community Survey and reviewing the results;
- completing the Park Audit tool;
- reviewing the Committee's Work Plan for a list of priorities in January; and,
- focusing on accessibility requirements for events.

- 5.6** Subcommittee Updates

Site Plans and Built Environment Subcommittee

Denise Laframboise provided an update which included:

- including benches in the rest areas along the Midblock Arterial Roadway; and,
- concerns regarding the combined bike lanes and multi-use path on Victoria Street.

Communication and Customer Service Subcommittee

Paul Scott provided an update which included:

- revisions to the Statement of Commitment;
- reviewing the webpage and analytics on the webpage; and,
- creating a social media link to posts on the webpage.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding the next steps for the Statement of Commitment.

5.7 Jeffrey Beaton Memorial

Michele Cotton advised that the Tree and Bench Dedication Commemorative Program and Policy was being updated. Ms. Cotton stated that once the policy was updated the Committee could discuss how they would commemorate Jeffrey Beaton.

Dave MacKinnon requested information regarding naming a park after Jeffrey Beaton.

John Romano advised that the Municipal Property and Facility Naming Policy was being reviewed.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Office of the Town Clerk, Correspondence: Regular Council Meeting, October 4, 2021

Re: Proclamation - October 2021 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Michele Cotton advised that the proclamation for October 2021 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month was approved by Council. Ms. Cotton requested feedback from the Committee regarding creating a proclamation calendar for 2022 that would include national and international dates of recognition for people with disabilities. She advised that December 3, 2021 was recognized as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Recommendation:

Moved By Liam Lacy

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee requests that Council proclaim December 3, 2021 as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Carried

7. Council Update

7.1 Councillor Yamada provided an update regarding:

- the Highway 7/12 Alternate Route;
- the Whitby Sports Complex; and,
- the Whitby Autonomous Vehicle Electric Shuttle Project.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding whether the autonomous shuttle was accessible.

8. Other Business

8.1 Autonomous Innovation Vehicle Network: Autonomous Shuttle

Paul Scott requested information regarding the autonomous shuttle and whether Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee would be permitted to ride the shuttle and provide feedback prior to the public release.

8.2 Subcommittee Meetings in December

Liam Lacy requested an update regarding the subcommittee meetings and whether there would be meetings in December.

8.3 Whitby's Special Events Strategy

John Romano advised that Members of the Committee could provide feedback regarding Whitby's Special Events Strategy on Connect Whitby.

9. Next Meeting

9.1 December 7, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Poonam Dewan

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee on January 4, 2022.