

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes
March 6, 2018 -7:00 pm
Committee Room One
Whitby Municipal Building

Present: Jeffrey Beaton, Vice-Chair
Denise Laframboise
James Lawrie, Chair
Niki Lundquist
Herb Paquette
Allyson Partridge-Rios

Also Present: Councillor Leahy, Mayor's Designate
Michele Cotton, Staff Liaison, Accessibility Coordinator
Laura MacDougall, Council and Committee Coordinator (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Naji Hassan

The meeting began at 7:04 p.m.

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - February 6, 2018

Recommendation:

Moved By Denise Laframboise

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of February 6, 2018 be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations/Deputations

3.1 There were no presentations or deputations.

4. General Business and Reports

4.1 Work Plan Recommendations / Updates

Michele Cotton advised that she would submit the Committee's 2017 Annual Report to Council and that the Committee needed to move forward with the 2018 Work Plan. She requested that the Committee review the Work Plan and provide a list of priority items that could be accomplished within the next 3 months as well as any items that would have to be deferred. She further advised that the Committee meetings would only be held until June 2018, but special meetings could be held in the summer months, if necessary.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- the application of the Committee's budget funds associated with items in the work plan;
- modifying the Work Plan to include the completion and implementation of the Accessibility Impact Checklist; and,
- ensuring site plans would be submitted to the Committee for review.

4.2 Checklist Follow-up Discussion

Michele Cotton stated that the updated version of the Accessibility Impact Checklist had been distributed to Members of the Committee and requested feedback on the document.

4.3 Regional AAC Meeting – Dynamic Symbol Presentation Follow-up

Michele Cotton advised that she attended the Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting where representatives of The Forward Movement provided a presentation on the modified international symbol of access. She provided an overview of the discussion that took place at the meeting which included:

- the history of the campaign and the creation of the modified symbol;
- examples of various discrepancies in the claims made by The Forward Movement;
- the rationale for the expense to change the current symbol when the proposed symbol is not an inclusive symbol and continues to represent an individual in a wheelchair;
- the deferral of the matter to the next Regional AAC meeting;
- concerns raised about international recognition of a new symbol;
- the need to amend the Highway Traffic Act and the Ontario Building Code in order to implement a new dynamic symbol, if so determined by the municipality; and,

- the Cities of Hamilton and Mississauga having sent a resolution to the Province requesting amendments to the above-noted Acts in order to permit the use of a modified international symbol of access.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the use of The Forward Movement symbol inside the Pickering Town Centre and whether the City of Pickering was supporting the proposed symbol;
- how international recognition of the symbol is defined;
- designing a similar active symbol of an individual in a wheelchair at IBM and the potential use of the symbol in parking spaces on IBM's property; and,
- the use of a modified symbol and the inability to enforce unlawful parking in disabled parking spaces.

4.4 Subcommittee Updates

Customer Service and Communications

James Lawrie provided an update regarding:

- the Accessibility Advisory Committee's banners and distribution of clothing, pamphlets and handouts prior to June 2018;
- the National Access Awareness Week event and whether the Committee would hold its own event, participate in the Colours & Culture of Brooklin Block Party event, and/or partner with the Whitby Seniors' Activity Centre;
- the Facade Improvement Grant Program and researching the possibility of a similar program for businesses in Whitby undertaking accessible renovations/updates; and,
- working with StopGap for the provision of stop gap ramps and educating businesses on the proper use of stop gap ramps to avoid liability issues.

Site Plan and Built Environment

Jeffrey Beaton provided an update regarding the new Operations Centre with respect to comments and concerns that were provided by the Committee in September 2017. He advised that a conference call took place with the architect who addressed the Committee's comments. Mr. Beaton stated the subcommittee would be reviewing the drawings again, noting that some of the turning radiuses were not included. He advised that following the Committee meeting, the subcommittee would be discussing the Council Chambers renovations and the Town's new office space at 3000 Garden Street.

5. Correspondence

- 5.1** Michele Cotton advised that she had received correspondence from the City of Oshawa and the City of Pickering regarding their Accessibility Advisory Committee's submission of recommendations to their respective Council's regarding improving regional transit. The City of Oshawa requested that Durham Region Transit staff schedule a meeting with Accessibility Advisory Committees across the region as well as the Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee and Durham Region Council to address transit concerns for people with disabilities. She provided a summary of the concerns raised by the City of Pickering with respect to transit employee training, customer service and policies addressing those with visible and invisible disabilities. Ms. Cotton noted that a meeting for Accessibility Coordinators for lower tier municipalities in the Region of Durham was scheduled to take place on March 7, 2018 to discuss the issues in local communities prior to the meeting arranged by the General Manager of Durham Region Transit on March 13, 2018. She further advised that she would provide an update at the next scheduled meeting to take place on April 3, 2018.

6. Council Update

6.1 Site Plan Review

Councillor Leahy advised of discussions that took place with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Town Clerk regarding the motion made by the Committee regarding the submission of site plans for review and feedback prior to construction. He stated that John Taylor, Manager, Planning Administration and Greg Hardy, Manager, Engineering Services, would be attending the meeting scheduled to take place on April 3, 2018 to address the concerns raised by the Committee and to implement better internal processes to ensure that plans are submitted to the Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- ensuring that complete drawings are provided to the Committee so that they can ensure that accessibility needs are being met;
- reviewing revised drawings for the Land Registry Office, Innovation Hub and Operations Centre;
- whether conceptual drawings are reviewed by the Committee;
- timelines for providing final drawings to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for review;
- the difference between a concept drawing and a site plan; and,
- the importance of open communication among staff.

6.2 Private Transportation Services

Councillor Leahy advised that Report CLK 03-18 regarding private transportation services was presented at the Operations Committee meeting of March 5, 2018. He provided an overview of the concerns raised by the taxicab industry with respect to transportation network companies and a summary of the contents of the proposed by-law, which included raising the number of accessible taxis to three. He advised that under provincial legislation, transportation network companies are not required to provide accessible transportation, but the Town could request a fee in lieu of accessible service, which could go towards funding accessible uses or activities.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- details of the proposed by-law including a potential fixed fee that could be designated to the Accessibility Advisory Committee, the provisions for insurance, and not allowing other taxi companies to operate in Whitby;
- the difficulties associated with the lack of accessible transportation in Whitby, and obtaining statistical information regarding the requests for accessible taxis and the fulfillment of those requests;
- enforcement implications of the proposed by-law;
- whether residents were aware that they should notify the Town regarding the lack of accessible taxis; and,
- the Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee's concerns regarding difficulties in obtaining accessible transportation.

7. Other Business

7.1 Subcommittee Volunteer

Herb Paquette volunteered to participate as member of the Customer Service and Communications Subcommittee.

8. Next Meeting

8.1 Tuesday, April 3, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.
Committee Room 1, Whitby Municipal Building

9. Adjournment

9.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Denise Laframboise

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

L. MacDougall, Council and
Committee Coordinator

James Lawrie, Committee Chair