



MINUTES
Accessibility Advisory Committee

June 17, 2020

Electronic Meeting
Meeting No.2

Alternative formats available upon request by contacting:
sarah.moore@ajax.ca or 905-619-2529 ext. 3347

Committee Members: Councillor Ashmeed Khan
Shandell Conboy
Kailey Danks
Sepelene Deonarine
Barb Dowds
Donna Mullings
Rosanne Purnwasie
Kathreen Smith
Ray Smith
Heather Steeves
Julia Stevenson - Chair

Staff: Sarah Moore, Committee & Accessibility Coordinator
Robert Gruber, Manager of Community & Cultural Development

1. Call to Order

Chair Stevenson called the Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. She gave a short introduction regarding the Committee's first remote electronic meeting and noted that the meeting was being livestreamed on the Town's website.

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved By: B. Dowds
Seconded By: H. Steeves

That the February 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

4. Presentation/Discussion

4.1 Age-Friendly Community Plan

Robert Gruber, Manager of Community & Cultural Development, acknowledged the work of key staff, members of the Age-Friendly Ajax Steering Committee and members of the Committee and community who participated in consultation and creation of the Plan. He presented an overview of the contents of the written report and the recommendations therein. R. Gruber discussed the definition of an Age-Friendly Community, eight elements of age-friendly classification, community engagement in developing the Plan, the vision statement, goals for each element and next steps, including launch of the Plan and implementation.

Members expressed appreciation for the opportunity to contribute during community consultation and thanked R. Gruber for his presentation.

S. Deonarine entered the meeting (6:30 p.m.).

4.2 Open Streets and Outdoor Eating Initiatives Overview

S. Moore shared information on a forthcoming initiative to allow local restaurants to apply for temporary patio permits as a result of Durham Region entering into Phase 2 of re-opening. She noted that accessibility considerations have been included within the application requirements and reviewed such details.

Members of the Committee asked questions regarding sample layouts and how many applications have been received to date. S. Moore noted the program will be officially launching later this week.

4.3 Brain Injury Association of Durham - “Unmasking Brain Injury”

S. Moore provided an update of the partnership art exhibit initiative with Brain Injury Association of Durham Region. She noted that June is Brain Injury Awareness Month. She shared plans to promote the exhibit and to host an artists’ reception once physical distancing requirements are lifted and Town Hall is re-opened to the public.

4.4 September 16, 2019 Council Referral – City of Sudbury Accessibility Advisory Committee Panel: Onley Report Recommendations

S. Moore reviewed the referred item from Council to the Committee relating to the Onley Report Recommendations and acknowledged the letter included in the agenda package that was prepared from Members’ feedback.

Moved By: R. Smith

Seconded By: K. Smith

That the draft letter in response to the Onley Report recommendations be referred to Council; and

That direction be sought on sending of the letter to the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

CARRIED

4.5 Enabling Accessibility Fund Update

S. Moore informed the Committee that the Town was a successful recipient of the Enabling Accessibility Fund Grant, applied for in partnership with youth ambassador Abiraa Karalasingam. The project funding will allow for installation of automated door operators at the Ajax Community Centre north ice pad accessible washroom. Due to COVID-19 facility closures, possible delay of the project installation was noted.

4.6 2020 Regional Accessibility Award: Call for Nominations

S. Moore shared details of the call for nominations for the 2020 Regional Accessibility Awards. She noted that the Annual Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee Forum has been cancelled this year and that plans to host the Regional Accessibility Awards ceremony in an alternate format are being discussed. The deadline to submit a nomination to the Region is October 16, 2020. S. Moore sought volunteers for a subcommittee to work on nomination preparation over the summer for presentation to the Committee at the September 23, 2020 Meeting.

Members identified the 2020 award call for nominations as an opportunity to recognize local Ajax businesses that responded well to the pandemic and incorporated accessibility considerations. R. Smith, R. Purnwasie, K. Smith and S. Conboy volunteered to be part of the nomination preparation subcommittee.

4.7 2020 Work Plan: Key Priorities

Members of the Committee discussed key work plan priority actions of interest for the remainder of the 2020 calendar year. Project considerations included:

- Continuing with accessibility buzz news articles and social media
- Developing a campaign for accessibility etiquette for business relating to COVID-19
- Explore opportunities for mobility device charging stations (interior/exterior)
- Creative engagement opportunities for children via social media (story contest, colouring contest, etc.)
- Video highlights of best practices and innovation during COVID-19
- Sharing information on the intersectionality of race and disability

4.8 Accessibility Gaps & Barriers during COVID-19

Members of the Committee discussed feedback relating to accessibility gaps, barriers, and innovative best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. Items discussed included helpful apps to share shopping lists, early shopping hours, limitations to accompaniment of support persons due to physical distancing, directional orientation in stores, and lack of access to supportive technology, declining service levels, and social isolation.

Members encouraged reaching out to local social service agencies for additional feedback on barriers and challenges to serving the community.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Update from Council

Councillor Khan provided a summary of community engagement initiatives during the pandemic, including a community garden kit giveaway, lighting of Town Hall in support of frontline workers, providing space to Community Care Durham to pack local food box packages, and hosting of the Ajax Hygiene Hub.

7. New/Other Business

R. Purnwasie provided an update from the Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee noting that had not met since January and that the next meeting is scheduled for June 24. She shared details of the [video](#) put together by Members for National AccessABILITY Week.

R. Smith shared positive feedback on a customer service matter with Durham Regional Transit.

S. Deonarine shared details of her street's neighbourhood engagement throughout the pandemic, in support of frontline workers, that was recently [covered by Global News](#).

Councillor Khan shared details of June 17, 2020 being proclaimed Louise Johnson Day in honour of the 'original bomb girl's 99th birthday.

S. Moore shared details of the [Canada Day Celebration Kit giveaway](#) taking place on June 26, 2020.

Chair Stevenson shared details of a virtual meeting she had with Minister Rod Philips to discuss accessibility concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. Adjournment

Moved By: A. Khan
Seconded By: H. Steeves

That the June 17, 2020 Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned. (7:36 p.m.)

CARRIED