



MINUTES Accessibility Advisory Committee

April 21, 2021

Electronic Meeting

Meeting No. 3

Alternative formats available upon request by contacting:

sarah.moore@ajax.ca or 905-619-2529 ext. 3347

Committee Members: Kailey Danks
Sepelene Deonarine
Rosanne Purnwasie, Chair
Kathreen Smith
Ray Smith
Heather Steeves
Julia Stevenson

Staff: Sarah Moore, Committee & Accessibility Coordinator

Regrets: Councillor Lisa Bower, Donna Mullings, Shandell Conboy, Barb Dowds

1. Call to Order

Chair Purnwasie called the Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She gave a short introduction regarding the Committee's 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: R. Smith

Seconded By: J. Stevenson

That the March 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

4. Presentation/Discussion

4.1 DRAFT 2020 Accessibility Plan Status Update

S. Moore reviewed 2020 accessibility accomplishments in the area of policy and procedure, customer service, information and communications, employment, transportation and public spaces. She noted that while the multi-year accessibility plan is comprehensively reviewed every five years, annual status reporting is required. S. Moore highlighted several initiatives that were introduced as a result of the pandemic, which will carry forward post-pandemic. S. Moore indicated that content for the status update is solicited from all departments across the organization. She acknowledged that a more detailed outline of accomplishments will be

included with the staff report as an attachment and posted on the Town's website once approved by Council.

Members congratulated the accessibility achievements of the organization in spite of the pandemic and encouraged promotion of the content of the status update. The Committee asked questions regarding the diversity and inclusion training program and portable multi-sensory cart grant proposal. S. Moore responded to questions from the Committee.

Moved By: J. Stevenson

Seconded By: R. Smith

That the 2020 Accessibility Plan Status Report be approved.

CARRIED

4.2 2021 National AccessABILITY Week Recognition Planning

S. Moore, R. Smith and J. Stevenson provided an update on recent National AccessABILITY Week planning. S. Moore reviewed three objectives for the recognition week: outreach, engagement, and events, and discussed elements of each focus. The draft event schedule for the week was discussed and includes plans for:

- Proclamation delegation to Council
- Flag raising
- Exploring the Trails of Ajax – Virtual Chat
- Easter Seals Red Shirt Day
- Ajax Business Network Virtual Meeting
- STEAM Story Time with Ajax Public Library
- Quiz Whiz Family Trivia Night
- Virtual Film Screening: Sound of Metal
- CreatABILITY art contest
- Accessibility All-star Story Collection

R. Smith, J. Stevenson, and S. Moore reviewed a list of action items and sought input and participation from all Members. J. Stevenson and R. Purnwasie volunteered to deliver the proclamation delegation to Council on May 17. J. Stevenson and H. Steeves volunteered to participate in the Exploring the Trails of Ajax event to share their personal experiences. K. Danks and S. Deonarine volunteered to participate in the STEAM Story Time with the Ajax Public Library. Members were encouraged to forward the name of any disability-owned or focused businesses in Durham Region for possible engagement with the Ajax Business Network. Members were encouraged to forward 1-2 trivia questions for inclusion in the Quiz Whiz trivia night.

Members asked questions regarding the virtual film screening format and discussed interest in taking part in a webinar session for staff to demonstrate the user experience of inaccessible documents.

4.3 Subcommittee Updates

Chair Purnwasie and K. Danks provided a summary of the Communications Subcommittee meeting, noting interest in increasing profile of the Committee via promotion of meetings, Committee Member profiles and meeting summaries or highlights posted online. K. Danks discussed the accessibility components of the Healthy Babies Program, as a potential service to highlight in the accessibility news feed.

The Site Plan Subcommittee had not met since the previous Committee Meeting.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Update from Council

Chair Purnwasie noted Councillor Bower's regrets for the meeting.

7. External Committee Updates

7.1 Age-Friendly Ajax Steering Committee

R. Smith provided a summary of the recent Steering Committee Meeting noting recruitment for the Review Panel and acknowledged S. Deonarine as the successful Member appointed to represent the AAC on the Review Panel.

7.2 Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee

Chair Purnwasie noted that there had not been a meeting since the last Committee Meeting. She anticipates another update ready for the June Meeting.

8. New/Other Business

S. Deonarine and K. Danks provided a summary of their attendance at the Dorothy Palmer Virtual Book Club Event and the importance of challenging ableism and the important role language plays in inclusion. Chair Purnwasie noted she is currently reading Dorothy Palmer's memoir *The Art of Falling Down* and recommends to Members.

S. Moore sought Committee Member feedback on plastic straw bans and potential impact on accessibility. Members shared anecdotes and insights on reusable straws. Members decided against ordering reusable straws for promotional items.

R. Smith suggested that the Committee revisit the #RespectTheSpace campaign. S. Moore agreed to confer with By-law Services and report back at the next Meeting.

R. Smith inquired about the status of new provincial accessibility standards relating to Health. S. Moore provided a brief update.

J. Stevenson shared concerns relating to barriers created along the pedestrian path of travel of the Food Basics in the Harwood Plaza, due to staging of construction materials. S. Moore noted she would look into enforcement opportunities with staff and report back.

S. Deonarine shared information regarding on-street parking creating challenges to accessibility, including access to community mailboxes. S. Moore agreed to look into the matter and report back.

9. Adjournment

Moved By: J. Stevenson

Seconded By: S. Deonarine

That the April 21, 2021 Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned. (7:45 p.m.)

CARRIED