



**MINUTES**  
**Accessibility Advisory Committee**  
**May 19, 2021**

*Electronic Meeting*  
*Meeting No. 4*

**Alternative formats available upon request by contacting:**  
[sarah.moore@ajax.ca](mailto:sarah.moore@ajax.ca) or 905-619-2529 ext. 3347

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Committee Members:      Councillor Bower  
                                    Kailey Danks  
                                    Sepelene Deonarine  
                                    Barb Dowds  
                                    Rosanne Purnwasie, Chair  
                                    Kathreen Smith  
                                    Ray Smith  
                                    Heather Steeves

Staff:                              Sarah Moore, Committee & Accessibility Coordinator

Regrets:                         Donna Mullings, Shandell Conboy, Julia Stevenson

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**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:              S. Deonarine

That the April 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

**4. Presentation/Discussion**

**4.1 National AccessAbility Week 2021**

S. Moore reviewed 2021 National AccessABILITY Week events and walked members through the layout for the National AccessABILITY Week webpage. She provided event summaries for the following activities:

- June 1 - Register for Exploring the Trails of Ajax virtual event
- June 2 - Wear red for Easter Seals Red Shirt Day
- June 2 - Register for the virtual Ajax Business Network: AccessNow with Maayan Ziv event

- June 2 - Register for Ajax Public Library STEAM Storytime virtual event
- June 2 - Quiz Wiz Virtual Family Trivia - register online
- May 30 – June 25: CreateABILITY Art Contest - enter online
- Do you know of an Accessibility All-star? Share the story online!

#### **4.2 Regional Accessibility Award Nomination**

S. Moore presented the call for the 2021 Regional Accessibility Award nomination. She noted the intent of the Accessibility All-stars program to spark ideas for potential nomination consideration. She noted that planning for a virtual Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee Forum is in the early stages of preparation for the fall.

#### **4.3 Communication Boards Project**

S. Moore shared details of a request made by a resident through Councillors, to explore installation of large core communication boards in community parks. Core vocabulary is a set of 36 highly useful single words that can be used alone or in combination to communicate for a range of purposes on countless topics with a wide variety of communication partners, similar to Picture Exchange Communication Systems (PECS). S. Moore informed the Committee that staff are investigating materials and cost estimates for installation in 1-3 actively used community parks.

Members shared suggestions for ensuring the appropriate mounting height for reach to the sign, as well as consideration for QR code or signage to provide context to the sign and its use.

#### **4.4 AccessNow Town Facility Mapping**

S. Moore introduced the AccessNow online mapping tool that allows individuals to provide ratings to locations on the level of accessibility and maps places all over the world. She sought interest from the Committee in adding Town of Ajax facilities to the platform and reviewed the three-level criteria for rating accessibility. Members expressed interest in rating facilities for inclusion on the application, however suggested that in the interested of time, a subcommittee be struck to review and report back to the Committee as a whole. S. Moore agreed to solicit interest from Members to participate in a subcommittee over the summer recess.

### **5. Correspondence**

#### **5.1 May 5, 2021 - Letter from Resident Ashley S. Re: Durham Region Transit**

Members reviewed the item of correspondence circulated separately from the agenda package and acknowledged the accessibility concerns presented.

Moved By: R. Smith

Seconded By: B. Dowds

That the Item of Correspondence listed on the May 19, 2021 Accessibility Advisory Committee agenda relating to resident concerns re: Durham Region Transit be received for information; and

That the Committee is encouraged to keep in mind the health concerns identified, during future consultation or discussion with Durham Region Transit relating to accessibility.

CARRIED

## **6. Update from Council**

Councillor Bower thanked J. Stevenson for representing the Committee and delivering the National AccessAbility Week proclamation request to Council.

She provided details of Council's ongoing anti-racism and diversity training courses, noting that a training session focusing on accessibility is scheduled for January 2022.

## **7. External Committee Updates**

### **7.1 Age-Friendly Ajax Steering Committee**

R. Smith provided a summary of the recent Steering Committee Meeting noting that the Review Panel has been selected and will be meeting in the weeks to come.

### **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. Moore shared details regarding several upcoming virtual accessibility events:

- City of Ottawa AccessAbility Day – May 27, 2021 10 a.m. – Noon
- EnAble Ottawa Virtual Conference Forum – June 1-3, 2021

H. Steeves shared a brief update on the new boardwalk construction at Rotary Park.

## **9. Adjournment**

Moved By: H. Steeves

Seconded By: L. Bower

That the May 19, 2021 Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned. (7:25 p.m.)

CARRIED