



Accessibility Advisory Committee Agenda

AAC-2025-03

March 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

River Plate Room

65 Harwood Avenue South

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

In-person attendance is permitted at this meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Electronic participation is permitted, on request, pursuant to the Committee’s Terms of Reference.

1. **Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**
2. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.1. **February 19, 2025 Meeting** Page 2
4. **Presentation/Discussion Items**
 - 4.1. **City of Oshawa StopGap Pilot Project** (20 minutes)
Julie Maclsaac, Director, Diversity, Equity and Reconciliation - City of Oshawa
 - 4.2. **Ajax Public Library Website Usability Study** (45 minutes)
Kiley Percy, Coordinator of Marketing & Communications - Ajax Public Library
 - 4.3. **Town of Ajax Facility Bookings - Accessibility Details** [S. Moore] (5 min.)
 - Link to the Facility Accessibility Features page on the Town’s indoor rentals website: [Indoor Facilities - Town of Ajax](#)
 - Link to the new digital brochure which also includes information within: [My publications - Facility Booking Indoor Facilities Booklet - Page 1 - Created with Publitas.com](#)
 - 4.4. **National AccessAbility Week Recognition Planning Update** [S. Moore] (10 min.)
 - 4.5. **Accessible Ajax Brochure Draft** [S. Moore] (10 min.)
5. **Committee Updates**
6. **Councillor Update**
7. **Correspondence**
8. **Other Business**
9. **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: April 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. River Plate Room, Town Hall, 65 Harwood Ave. S.



Minutes

Accessibility Advisory Committee AAC-2025-02

February 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

River Plate Room, Town Hall

65 Harwood Avenue South

*Alternative formats are available upon request
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Name	Attendance
Heather Azzarello, Committee Member	Present, in-person
Kailey Danks, Co-Chair	Present, in-person
Sepelene Deonarine, Committee Member	Present, in-person
Councillor Nancy Henry, Committee Member	Absent
Manas Khanna, Committee Member	Present, online
Kenneth Kwong, Committee Member	Present, online
Adrian Lambert, Committee Member	Present, online
Jim Lawrence, Committee Member	Present, online
Rosanne Purnwasie, Committee Member	Absent
Kathreen Smith, Committee Member	Present, in-person
Ray Smith, Co-Chair	Present, online
Sarah Moore, Legislative Specialist	Present, in-person
Christofer Zorn, Coordinator of Corporate Technology Services, Ajax Public Library (Guest)	Present, in-person

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Co-Chair Danks called the meeting to order (6:00 p.m.). S. Moore read the Town’s Land Acknowledgement.

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. December 10, 2024 Meeting

Moved By: H. Azzarello
 Seconded By: K. Kwong

That the December 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes of the Town of Ajax Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried.

4. Presentation/Discussion Items

4.1. Ajax Public Library Makerspace: Makers Making Change

S. Moore introduced Christofer Zorn, Coordinator of Corporate Technology Services at the Ajax Public Library. C. Zorn shared information on the Ajax Public Library Makerspace, its equipment and programming, located in the McLean Community Centre. He noted that the Makerspace has partnered with [Makers Making Change](#), an organization that designs and builds assistive technologies. Volunteers can download and request solutions from their website, with a variety of devices available, including simple bottle openers, assistive switches and adapted toys.

C. Zorn explained that the library began a partnership with Makers Making Change in September 2024. The aim is to offer low to no-cost access to makeable assistive technology to reduce barriers. The library has dedicated Tuesdays for those interested in learning about assistive technology, with staff providing prototypes and support to find specific solutions for customers. He emphasized that the platform is open to makers of any skill level, encouraging involvement in building and designing, participating in events, and promoting the mission in the community. Volunteers only pay for the cost of materials, with no markups or inventory fees.

C. Zorn reported that by the end of January 2025, over 70 customers had been introduced to the initiative, predominantly adults, but also youth, seniors, and children. He showcased various assistive technology examples printed using the makerspace 3D printer by Library staff, including a gas cap opener, blister pack opener, knife guard, toothpaste squeezer, arthritis typing tool, card holder, and more. The cost of printing is \$0.05 per gram, with the heaviest item being the gas cap opener at 85 grams, costing around \$4.

To facilitate awareness and help initiate spontaneous conversations, the makerspace maintains a consistent display of available items. C. Zorn emphasized the importance of community engagement in promoting the initiative and encouraging participation.

Members asked questions about volunteering to make assistive devices, age limit to use the makerspace, who designs the devices, the average cost of printing an item, and the preferred time to visit the makerspace to make an assistive device. C. Zorn responded to questions from the Committee.

On behalf of the Committee, Co-Chair Danks thanked C. Zorn for his presentation.

4.2. Durham Region Transit Accessibility Forum

S. Moore provided a summary of the January 14, 2025 Durham Region Transit Accessibility Forum. She noted that a copy of the presentation was linked in the agenda package for anyone who was unavailable to attend. She also shared the Durham Region Transit Accessibility brochure which contains useful information and contact details. She encouraged the Committee to review and consider creating a similar brochure or resource for Accessibility in Ajax.



R. Smith shared feedback relating to the accessibility of the event.

4.3. Accessible Taxi Project

S. Moore provided an update on the cross-municipal accessible taxi project, which aims to address the challenge of accessing accessible taxi cabs across the Durham region. She shared the results of the fall 2024 accessible taxi survey noting that the survey received 148 responses, with Ajax having the highest participation rate. Key findings included a high demand for accessible taxis, with 79% of participants needing an accessible taxi but being unable to book one. The primary destinations were medical and personal service appointments.

S. Moore identified challenges such as the unavailability of accessible taxis at specified pick-up times and the restriction that taxi trips must start in the municipality where the taxi is licensed. The project aims to update private transportation by-laws to allow accessible taxis to begin conveyance of a trip outside of the municipality in which they are based, expanding the geographical reach of existing accessible taxis and potentially increasing the number of accessible taxis on the road.

The project team is reviewing legal opinions and alignment with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). They are also considering the impact of different taxi fee tariffs across municipalities and seeking to create more service and remove barriers.

4.4. National AccessAbility Week 2025 - Planning

Sarah discussed preliminary planning for National Accessibility Week recognition, including potential events such as a flag raising, Easter Seals Red Shirt Day, a movie screening at the Saint Francis Center, and an accessibility fair at the main branch Library. The committee is considering various activities and reviewed the proposed schedule.

Sarah highlighted details of the accessibility fair at the main branch library, scheduled for the last day of National Accessibility Week. The fair will feature various organizations, a keynote speaker, and interactive activities to promote awareness and engagement. Members were encouraged to suggest additional organizations to invite and to participate in the planning and execution of the activities.

The Committee reviewed two movie options for the Saint Francis Centre screening during National Accessibility Week: "Patrice, the Movie" and "The Ride Ahead." After discussion, the committee decided to screen "Patrice, the Movie" this year and consider "The Ride Ahead" for a future event.

4.5. 2025 AAC Work Plan Review

Sarah presented the updated 2025 work plan, which includes various projects and initiatives such as the National Accessibility Week recognition, community event participation, the accessible taxi project, site plan reviews, resource development, and education and awareness activities. Members discussed scaling back on the number of community events in which the Committee participates, focusing on four main events, the



annual Seniors BBQ, National AccessAbility Week, Pumpkinville and International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee provided feedback and suggestions for the work plan and expressed interest in developing an Accessible Ajax information resource/brochure.

5. Committee Updates

Age-Friendly Ajax Steering Committee

R. Smith provided an update on the Age Friendly Ajax Steering Committee, including the news of the passing of a member, Julien LeBourdais, former Co-Chair. R. Smith also shared information about the Living Library program which will be relaunching again soon.

Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee

This item was covered in previous discussion item. S. shared details of proposed changes to the annual Regional AAC Award nomination process during Item 4.5.

Regional Accessibility Coordinators Working Group

This item was covered in previous discussion items. S. Moore provided an update on the Accessible Taxi project during Item 4.3.

Proposed Development Review Subcommittee

This item was covered in previous discussion items. S. Moore noted that park and playground designs will be circulated to the subcommittee for review and comment.

6. Councillor Update

None.

7. Correspondence

None.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Adjournment

Moved By: A. Lambert

Seconded By: R. Smith

That the February 19, 2025 Meeting of the Town of Ajax Heritage Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned. (7:40 p.m.)

Carried.