

Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 28, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Attendance Councillor Ritch Lau
 Yoyo Chen
 Jewell Lofsky
 Julia
 Chun Yu
 Adrian Benoit
 Anittha Kannuthal
 Satya Arora

Regrets Regional Councillor Alan Ho
 Jisan Phillips
 Stephanie Mak
 Kim Adeney

Staff	Lois Davies, Accessibility Consultant	Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election/Council & Committee Coordinator
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1. **Call to Order**

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility convened at 5:07 PM with Yoyo Chen presiding as Chair.

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

The meeting began with a reading of the Land Acknowledgement by the Chair.

3. **Approval of Advisory Committee on Accessibility Minutes & Review of Action Items**

Moved by Jewell Lofsky

Seconded by Satya Arora

That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2025, be confirmed.

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 Unionville Seniors Hub

Meaghan Miller, and Ines Cortada, of York Region, and Agnes Kazmierczak, of GEC Architecture, were in attendance to provide a presentation on the Unionville Seniors Hub that will be located at Unionville Commons and to obtain feedback from the committee on the accessible design components. They advised that construction is slated for 2025 and that the hub is expected to open in 2026.

There was discussion on the following elements from Jewell, Satya, and Anittha during the presentation:

- accessible washrooms,
- the size of the facility and how it can accommodate various accessibility and mobility devices,
- the available parking,
- whether the reception area will be staffed,
- the use of wayfinding indicators,
- the use of sound absorbing materials,
- concerns with materials that may be used on furniture, flooring, ceiling, for visitors and daily maintenance,
- the types of furniture for various areas to ensure ease of entry and exit for all visitors including those with accessibility/mobility devices, and,
- the integration of door handles and suggested use of sight markers on them.

The committee thanked the Meaghan, Ines, and Agnes for attending the meeting and made suggestions related to furniture styles, features and background music in addition to having four chairs in the reception area of the satellite medical clinic and that it be located closer to the common area of the facility.

5. Accessibility Updates

5.1 Change of Meeting Room/Accessible Features

Lois Davies, Staff Liaison, provided a brief update on the use of the York Room for this meeting and highlighted its enhanced accessibility elements, room brightness, video conferencing and sound control elements. She indicated that this is the preferred meeting space for upcoming meetings until all Civic Centre meeting rooms are upgraded to provide consistent meeting experiences for all attendees both in person and virtually.

5.2 National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) Corporate Event

Yoyo Chen presented the proposed Markham Advisory Committee on Accessibility social media that is in support of National AccessAbility Week. She noted that this is a collaboration with the City's corporate communication group. She indicated that this will be a weeklong campaign with a different message being posted on City social media each day beginning on May 25, 2025. She further indicated that the messages were designed to promote inclusion, awareness, removal of barriers and how community members can become involved in accessibility initiatives.

The committee discussed the logo, use of pictures and colours to ensure compliance with corporate and accessibility standards. It was suggested that corporate communications assist with reviewing the messages prior to posting the material.

The committee also discussed the corporate Lunch and Learn featuring John Draper from, Together We Rock! Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee members were invited to attend this event on May 29, 2025, at the Civic Centre, Canada Room.

5.3 2025 Accessibility Award - Updated Form

The committee reviewed the accessibility award nomination form and made suggestions regarding format and available space for nominee contributions. Additional comments will be forwarded to Laura Gold for implementation on the revised forms.

6. Other Business

Satya Arora, provided an updated on the Accessibility Advisory Committee Professional Development Forum which will be held on Wednesday May 28, 2025, which is also [Red Shirt Day](#).

The event will take place at York Region offices, 17150 Yonge Street, from 10 am - 3 pm.

7. Adjournment

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on May 26, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Future Meeting Dates of the Committee will be held on:

May 26, 2025

June 16, 2025

September 15, 2025

October 20, 2025

November 17, 2025

December 15, 2025