

Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

March 17, 2025

Canada Room

5:00 PM

Attendance:

Members present Regional Councillor Alan Ho Yoyo Chen (Chair) Jewell Lofsky (Vice-Chair) Stephanie Mak Jisan Phillips Anittha Kannuthal Staff: Lois Davies, Accessibility Consultant Joann Sotiropoulos, Senior Manager, Transformation Office, Learning, Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator Stephen Tippet, Project Manager, Parks Development Tanya Lewinberg, Public Realm Coordinator Guests: None	Regrets: Kinya Baker, Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Organizational Development and Inclusion Councillor Ritch Lau Kim Adeney Satya Arora
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1. Call to Order

The Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee convened at 5:05 PM with Yoyo Chen in the Chair.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Yoyo Chen, Chair read the Land Acknowledgment.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are members of the City of Markham's Accessibility Advisory Committee. Our role is to provide advice to the municipal government on a wide range of municipal processes to help ensure public services and facilities are accessible to everyone. We begin today by acknowledging the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples and their commitment to stewardship of the land. We acknowledge the communities in circle. The North, West, South and Eastern directions, and Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, Anishnabeg, Seneca, Chippewa, and the current treaty holders Mississaugas of the Credit peoples.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. Approval of the Minutes and Review of Action Items

Moved by Jewell Lofsky

Seconded by Jisan Phillips

That the February 24, 2025, Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried

2. Presentations

- **Parks and Play Spaces**

Stephen Tippet, Project Manager, Parks Development, provided a presentation titled "Current Standards and Practice: Markham Accessibility Guidelines – Inclusive Play. The presentation included information on accessibility routes, entry and exit points, ground surfaces, elevated play components, and ground level play components, and the next steps. Mr. Tippet requested the Committee review and comment on the Inclusive Play Space Checklist. A hard copy of the checklist was circulated to the Committee at the meeting. A softy copy of checklist was circulated to the Committee after the meeting.

The Committee discussed the following relative to the presentation:

- The pros and cons of different accessible playground surfaces.
- Staff's plans to engage residents with lived experience, including parents with children with disabilities on the subject matter.
- Suggested working with a play consultant.
- The play dynamics when younger and older children are playing on the same play structure.
- Providing information in multiple languages regarding the recommended age groups for the junior and senior playgrounds.
- The importance of reaching out to the neurodiverse community as part of the public consultation.
- Suggested using symbols and pictures that children would understand to explain playground rules.

Mr. Tippet advised that he would provide an update on the advancements made to making play spaces more accessible at a future meeting. Mr. Tippet noted that a part of their public engagement will involve reaching out to people with lived experience to get their feedback on Markham's practices with respect to inclusive play.

6. ACCESSIBILITY UPDATES

- National AccessAbility Week (NAAW)

Yoyo Chen, Chair, confirmed that the Committee agreed via a majority vote that the 2025 National AccessAbility week will be a weeklong social media campaign. Ms. Chen advised that she browsed through other organizations NAAW past social media campaigns to get ideas on what the Committee could include in its campaign. Based on what she found, she recommended that the Committee's social media campaign could include a definition of disability, Canadian or Markham disability related statistics, educational information on what AODA is, and information on what Markham has done to improve its accessibility.

Anittha Kannuthal and Stephanie Mak agreed to help with the National Accessibility week social media campaign.

- 2025 Markham Accessibility Award

Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator, provided a presentation on the Markham Accessibility Recognition Award. The presentation included the award background, purpose, objectives, and next steps. Ms. Gold asked the Committee to submit any changes to the nomination form to her prior to the next meeting.

Stephanie Mak agreed to provide input on the nomination form on behalf of the Committee.

- Promotional Product

Yoyo Chen, Chair, asked the Members to provide their feedback on the type of promotional material it would like to prioritize.

Members prioritized the promotional material in the following order: 1) banner 2) T-Shirts, and 3) Sashes.

Ms. Chen then presented different options for the Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee logo and banner.

The Committee agreed on idea 2 for the logo and design 4 for the banner.

- City of Markham Zero Road Safety Plan Stakeholder

Satya Arora provided the following comment via email to communicate to the Committee on this matter:

- Road Safety is an important issue for Markham residents.
- Yoyo Chen and Satya Arora attended the stakeholder meeting on February 24, 2025.
- Vision Zero plan is moving forward with making our streets and communities safer for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

7. Deputations

There were no deputations.

8. Communications

A York Region Email on National Accessibility Week was attached with the agenda package. The email was not discussed at the meeting due to running out of time. The Committee will decide via email who will represent the Committee at the York Region National Accessibility Week Professional Development Forum for Accessibility Advisory Committee Members.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10 Adjournment

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The Markham Accessibility Committee adjourned at 7:05 PM