

Advisory Committee on Accessibility Minutes

November 16, 2020

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Zoom Video Conference

Attendance: Barry Martin, Chair, Councillor Isa Lee, Robert Hunn, Vice-Chair, Jewell Lofsky, Rita Lam, Nahid Verma, Kaushi Ragunathan, George George, Mona, Nazif, Senior Manager HR Client Services, Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

Regrets:

Laura Meffen, and Brian Lynch

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility convened at 5:03 PM with Barry Martin in the Chair.	
2. Markham Centre	<p>Mona Nazif welcomed the guest, and advised that the goal is for the City to have more dialogue with the Accessibility Advisory Committee about the accessibility of City services and programs. The opportunity to provide input on the Markham trail system today is an example of that. And, there will be more opportunities in the future. .</p> <p>Alain Cachola (Senior Manager of Infrastructure and Capital Works) with colleague Alberto Lim (Senior Capital Works Engineer) and Traci Radburn (External Consultant) provided a presentation on the plans for the Markham Centre Trail</p> <p>It was noted that the purpose of Environmental Assessment is to identify the trail alignment and challenges, and seek feedback from stakeholders. Staff are trying to make the trail as accessible as possible, but some areas of the trail that are very steep, and in the woodlot pose challenges.</p> <p>Committee provided the following feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looking for a small portion of trail to be accessible for persons with disabilities, and for seniors;• Noted that the accessible sections of the trail should be clearly marked and communicated, for example identifying the grading of the slope on the trail map;• Want the public to know where the accessible trails and parks are in the City for them to enjoy;• Requested that there be no stairs at pedestrian bridges/crossings if possible;	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested having a loop in the Markham Centre trail where residents can walk shorter distances; • Suggested having an off-leash dog park; • Noted that the trail should connect other Markham trails; • Noted the trail should have wayfinding signs; • Asked to be notified regarding the consultation for the design of Markham Centre Trail. <p>An Accessibility Map for Central Park in New York City was displayed as a vision of the type of map the Committee would like the City to create for its key parks and trails that would identify trail entrances, slopes, amenities, parking, trail surfaces and a map.</p>	<p>Notify the Committee when the public consultation for the design of Markham Trail will occur – Alain Cachola</p>
<p>3. Review of Business Plans 2021</p>	<p>Committee discussed the importance of completing projects it previously started, such as the “Did you Knows?”, and possibly focusing on a few new projects. It recognized that during COVID the Committee may focus on different types of projects. For instance, it may focus less on the Accessibility Award in 2021 due to the pandemic.</p> <p>Committee also suggested that there should be an update on the status in the Committee’s Business Plan at each meeting to help keep the Committee on track, and engaged.</p> <p>Further discussion on this item was deferred to a future meeting.</p>	<p>Add “Review of Business Plan” to a Future Meeting Agenda – Laura Gold/ Barry Martin</p>
<p>4. Sub-Committees</p>	<p>Committee discussed re-visiting its Sub-Committee Membership once the Committee decides what it would like to focus on, and due to Members recently resigning from the Committee.</p> <p>Committee provided the following feedback on its Sub-Committees:</p> <p><u>Audit Sub-Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on developing a framework for conducting the audits; • Learn more about the legislation, and physical barriers that may impede accessibility; • Work on developing a framework for conducting the audits; • Work on finalizing the Civic Centre Audit, and on reviewing it with the staff that provided the tour. 	

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	<p><u>Award Sub-Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will likely remain inactive in 2021; <p><u>Fair Sub-Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can follow up on the status of the Markham Fair Audit. <p><u>Accessible Parks Sub-Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested starting an Accessible Parks Sub-Committee. 	
5. New Business	<p>A) Inclusion Grant Barry Martin noted that the Province of Ontario (Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility) has started a new grant program (Inclusive Community Grant) to help create communities that are inclusive for people of all ages and abilities. The grant is up to \$60,000. Committee encouraged the City to apply for the grant. Mona Nazif will circulate the grant opportunity to applicable staff.</p> <p>B) Chair and Vice-Chair Positions Committee noted that there needs to be continuation in the role of the Chair, and suggested that the term of the Chair should be for 2 years. Further discussion on the Chair and Vice-Chair was deferred to Spring when new Members are on Board.</p> <p>C) Resignations It was noted that Meenu Khanna, Valerie Kitazaki, and Anna Giallonardo resigned from the Committee for personal reasons.</p> <p>D) Proclamations Barry Martin advised that the City will be submitting a proclamation request to proclaim “International Day for Persons with Disabilities”, which will be held on December 3, 2020. Committee supported the submission of the proclamation request.</p> <p>E) Meeting on Markham Trails Committee was advised that Barry Martin, Mona Nazif, Alain Cachola, and David Plant met to discuss the accessibility of Markham’s trails and parks. At this meeting it was decided that Alain Cachola, and the City’s Consultant would come to the November meeting to provide a presentation on plan for</p>	<p>Circulate grant opportunity to applicable staff – Mona Nazif</p> <p>Put the discussion on the election of the Chair and Vice Chair on an agenda in the spring – Laura Gold/Barry Martin</p>

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	<p>the Markham Centre trail, and that David Plant would come to the December meeting to discuss the accessibility of Markham's existing parks. Staff are very committed to working with the Committee on improving the accessibility of Markham's parks and trails.</p> <p>Committee suggested that there should be two members of the Committee attending these type of meetings in the future, or that the staff person should be invited to speak with the entire Committee.</p>	
6. Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 5:00 PM.	
7. Adjournment	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility adjourned at 5:03 PM.	