

## Advisory Committee on Accessibility

**DATE:** Monday, December 13, 2022  
**Time:** 5:00pm  
**Location:** Zoom  
**Co-Chairs:** Robert Hunn & Nahid Verma

### Attendance:

Ayush Patel  
Councillor Isa Lee  
Dasola Dina  
Edward Lau  
Jewell Lofsky  
Kaushi Regunathan  
Kim Adeney  
Michelle Del Carmen  
Michelle Tremblay  
Mona Nazif, Senior Manager HR Client Services (Staff Liaise)  
Nahid Verma, Co-Chair

### Regrets:

Elham Mahootchi  
Robert Hunn, Co-Chair

### Guests:

Biju Karumanchery, Director, Planning & Urban Design  
Regan Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage, Planning & Urban Design  
Alain Cachola, Senior Manager, Engineering

**Scribe:** Mary-Jane Courchesne, Acting Council/Committee Coordinator

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	<p>The Advisory Committee on Accessibility convened at 5:05 PM with Nahid Verma in the Chair.</p> <p>The City's Indigenous Land Acknowledgement was read.</p>	
<b>2. Unionville Streetscape</b>	<p>Mona Nazif, Senior Manager, Human Resources, introduced Biju Karumanchery, Director, Planning &amp; Urban Design. Biju introduced Regan Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage and Alain Cachola, Senior Manager, Engineering.</p> <p>Regan provided a presentation, "Main Street Unionville Streetscape Improvement Master Plan" that included details of the Plan's objectives, stages, the area of study, current conditions and improvements to be explored, concepts/consultation and accessibility considerations.</p> <p>Regan asked for Committee's feedback as the project will be brought to Council for adoption in early 2022. The Committee discussed the following:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibility of stone pavers located on sidewalks to be converted to a smoother surface and wider space unimpeded by benches, trees etc.</li> <li>• Importance of ramps at each business entrance.</li> <li>• Description of drop off zones/off road area as persons with accessibility needs wait for their support person. Additional amenities were suggested such as overhead coverings or designated waiting areas.</li> <li>• Options for more ramps or elevator where there are stairs.</li> <li>• Explanation of way-finding feature.</li> <li>• Committee was encouraged to reach out to Regan and Alain with more feedback after today’s meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. Land Acknowledgment</b></p>	<p>Michelle Del Carmen shared a presentation on the history behind Indigenous Land Acknowledgments. Michelle suggested two recommendations to add to our City’s Land Acknowledgment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Committee’s name and that it is a committee within the City; and</li> <li>2. The Committee’s role and responsibility within the community.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>4. Subcommittees Plan Update</b></p>	<p>Nahid Verma reported that all four subcommittees met since the last committee meeting.</p> <p>Each subcommittee announced their Chair and their objectives:</p> <p><u>Audits</u>  Chair: Kaushi  Focus objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Indoor and outdoor spaces operated by the City;</li> <li>(ii) Sensitivity training for Recreation Services staff; and</li> <li>(iii) Checklists review, looking at other municipalities checklists as a template.</li> </ol> <p><u>Communications and Social Media</u>  Chair: Ayush  Focus objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Awareness at City events;</li> <li>(ii) Awareness on City website; and</li> <li>(iii) Improve City’s social media coverage.</li> </ol> <p><u>Community Outreach Subcommittee</u>  Chair: Michelle Tremblay  Focus objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Markham Public Library (MPL);</li> </ol>	

	<p>(ii) A couple of events in 2022;                  (iii) Awards; and                  (iv) Engaging with Communications subcommittee.</p> <p><u>Non-Physical Challenges</u>                  Chair: Michelle Del Carmen                  Focus objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Creating a definition for the Committee and a terms of reference;</li> <li>(ii) A few recommendations for the City such as a reading program at the MPL; and</li> <li>(iii) Advisor to the Audit subcommittee.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Committee Learning &amp; Development</b></p>	<p>Kim Adeney provided a presentation “Learning and Development Session One Introduction”. The highlights were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What the Committee will be exploring in the coming months, including: legislation that grounds our work; role of accessibility advisory committees in Ontario; disability definition, types, language and supports; accessibility resources to inspire us and other topics that arise.</li> <li>• History of accessibility related laws in Ontario;</li> <li>• Introduction to the <i>Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 (AODA)</i>;</li> </ul> <p>The next learning and development session topic in January will be on Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation.</p> <p>Mona provided the background to new members of the Committee of Accessibility Design Guidelines which were developed in 2021. An update of the guidelines were presented earlier to Committee by the Planning Department.</p>	<p><b>Circulate consultant’s presentation that was presented to Committee earlier.</b></p>
<p><b>6. Diversity Action Plan Update</b></p>	<p><u>Next Phase</u>                  Mona Nazif shared the emerging themes that came out of the close out session of last week. The survey results will take approximately a month to be analyzed by Ryerson.</p>	
<p><b>7. Approval of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility Minutes and</b></p>	<p><b>a. Approval of Minutes</b></p> <p>Moved by Jewell Lofsky                  Seconded by Ayush Patel</p>	

<b>Review of Action Plan</b>	That the Minutes of the November 15, 2021, Advisory Committee on Accessibility, be approved as presented.  <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Carried</b></p> <b>b. Review of Action Items</b>  There were no action items to review.	
<b>8. New Business/Questions</b>	<u>Budget</u> Nahid asked whether there is a budget for the Committee. Mona explained how City costs and budgets work as they relate to Committees.	
<b>9. Next Meeting Date</b>	The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility will be held on January 17, 2022.	
<b>10. Adjournment</b>	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility adjourned at 7:00 PM.	