

**Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee
Minutes
January 20, 2025
Ontario Room
5:00 PM**

Attendance:

<p>Members present Yoyo Chen (Chair) Jewell Lofsky (Vice-Chair) Kim Adeney Satya Arora Stephanie Mak</p> <p>Staff: Lois Davies, Accessibility Consultant Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>	<p>Regrets: Kinya Baker, Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Joann Sotiropoulos, Senior Manager, Transformation Office, Learning, Organizational Development and Inclusion Regional Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Ritch Lau Stephanie Mak Christina Lee</p>
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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee convened at 5:08 PM with Yoyo Chen in the Chair.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Yoyo Chen, Chair, read the Indigenous Land Acknowledgment:

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. We share the responsibility with the caretakers of this land to ensure the dish is never empty and to restore relationships that are based on peace, friendship, and trust. We are committed to reconciliation, partnership and enhanced understanding.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interests.

4. APPROVAL OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY MINUTES & REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Moved by Satya Arora
Seconded by Jewell Lofsky

That the Minutes from November 18, and December 16, Markham Advisory Committee on Accessibility be approved as presented.

Carried

5. PRESENTATIONS

Lois Davies, Accessibility Specialist, provided a presentation titled “All Things Accessibility – 2025”. The presentation provided a high-level overview of the Legislative foundation with respect to accessibility in Ontario. Some of the key legislations discussed included: the *Ontario Human Rights Code, 2016*, *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation*, and the *Accessibility Canada Act 2019*. The presentation also introduced actions identified in the Markham’s Multi Year Accessibility Plan.

Ms. Davies is seeking the Committee’s input for which projects they would like to advise on at Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings.

The Committee discussed the following in relation to the presentation:

- Requested the Clerk re-circulate the notable calendar dates for Accessibility to the Committee and remind Members to list their top 5 dates that they think should be proclaimed.
- Discussed the inclusion survey and possibly having the results presented to the Committee more comprehensively, noting high level information about the survey was presented as part of the Multi Year Accessibility Update.
- Suggested having an update from staff on the status of updating older Markham’s parks to meet AODA requirements.
- Suggested that the Committee should keep track of the staff presentations made at meetings so that they can follow-up or ask for status updates on projects.

- Discussed possibly conducting an audit on a City facility or creating guidelines that can be used to conduct an accessibility audit of a City facility.

6. ACCESSIBILITY UPDATES

- **Multi Year Accessibility Update**

The update on the Multi Year Accessibility Plan was provided as part of Item No. 5. Presentations – “All Things Accessibility - 2025”.

- **2025 Accessibility Award**

The Committee briefly discussed the 2025 Accessibility Award. Members suggested promoting nominations at the Committee’s National Accessibility Week event and reviewing the award criteria and form at the next meeting.

- **2025 Business Planning**

Members were asked to submit their 2025 Business Plan project ideas to Lois Davies.

7. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

City of Markham Vision Zero Road Safety Plan

Satya Arora advised that she attended a focus group/information session on the City’s Vision Zero Road Safety Plan. Ms. Arora will send information to the Clerk to share with the Committee. This item was requested and added to the next meeting agenda.

Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Update

Kim Adeney advised that she will be presenting a CPAC Accessibility Checklist/ report at CPAC’s next formal meeting. She also requested that this be added to the next agenda.

Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan

Members collectively agreed to focus on the following initiatives for the 2025 work plan:

- 1) NAAW and IDPD celebrations
- 2) Accessibility Award

No further initiatives have been raised at this time.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) Planning
- Accessibility Award – review of application form and award criteria
- CPAC Accessibility Checklist and Representative
- City of Markham Vision Zero Road Safety Plan

Suggested Future Agenda Items

- Update on Markham Parks and Accessibility conversions
- Inclusion Survey Results
- Marketing Materials Project Wrap Up

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on February 24, 2024, at 5:00 PM.

Future Meeting Dates of the Committee will be held on:

- March 17, 2025
- April 28, 2025
- May 26, 2025
- June 16, 2025
- September 15, 2025
- October 20, 2025
- November 17, 2025
- December 15, 2025

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Markham Accessibility Action Items

Meeting Date	Action	Member Responsible for Action	Action
January 20, 2025	Re-circulate the Accessibility Dates to the Committee and remind Members to list their top 5 dates that they think should be proclaimed.	Laura Gold	
January 20, 2025	Add the following items to the next agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan • Accessibility Award – review of application form and award criteria • CPAC Accessibility Checklist and Representative • City of Markham Vision Zero Road Safety Plan 	Laura Gold	