

**Advisory Committee on Accessibility**  
**February 21, 2018**  
**Ontario Room**  
**5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

**Committee Members Present:** Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong, Councillor Karen Rea, Jaqueline Bell, Tammy Mok , and Robert Hunn

**Staff Present:** Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Senior Diversity Coordinator, Andrea Berry, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications Department, and Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

**Regrets:**, Arlene Juanillo, Keith Irish, Brian Lynch, Kristen Hayes and Jason Tung

Item	Discussion	Action
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility convened without quorum at 4:11 pm with Jaqueline Bell presiding as Chair.	
<b>2. Approval of the Minutes</b>	The approval of the Minutes was deferred to the next meeting, as there was no quorum.	
<b>3. York University Presentation</b>	<p>Christopher Wong, Director, Transportation and Master Planning provided a presentation on the new York University Campus.</p> <p><u>Construction and enrolment</u></p> <p>The construction will begin the end of 2018 and continue for 30 months with campus opening in 2021. The City of Markham is contributing a 5 acre piece of the land for the campus. The construction will be in 3 phases with phase 1 comprising 10 floors (the 5 lower floors will be larger in size), targeting 4,400 students, and phases 2 and 3 aiming for about 10,000 students with additional new buildings. It is expected that there will be 1,000 students enrolled the first year. Student enrolment will grow from there to ensure financial sustainability.</p>	York University – to come back with more detailed design

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	<p>The first 5 floors of the building being built, as part of Phase 1, will have large lecture halls, common learning areas, and the resource centre. The top floors will have the smaller class rooms and laboratories. There will be ample space for student to congregate throughout the building. There will be gender neutral washrooms on most floor. The stairs will have safety railings and the elevators will be located close to stairs.</p> <p><u>Academic Programs</u></p> <p>The campus will have academic programs in the fields of arts, media, performance, business, education, environmental studies, computer science, social science, life sciences, biotechnology, and liberal engineering. It was noted that Seneca College will also have a significant presence on the campus.</p> <p><u>Location</u></p> <p>The campus needs to be well integrated into the community. The location of the campus serves this purpose with access to trails, sporting facilities (Pan Am Centre and Bill Crothers High School), new amenities at the Cineplex complex, the theatre, the YMCA and the hospital nearby. The location is close to Main Street Unionville and there is hope that the new development in the area will expand to the East, which may bring more enrolment. There is an opportunity for developers to build purpose built student residence, as there will be no student residence on site.</p> <p><u>Design Aspects</u></p> <p>The design is focused on enhancing student experience. The entire building will have a green/sustainable design, targeting LEED standard/certification. The design team has worked with the City and the Province to ensure all legal standards regarding accessibility are met, but the design will go beyond</p>	

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	<p>the legal accessible requirements. The design is aiming to match the University of Brock Facility Design Standards, which is considered the gold standard in terms of accessibility standards for university campuses.</p> <p>There will also be design features that will help people with invisible disabilities. There will be induction loops in the larger lecture halls to allow people to hear the lecture without having to declare they need assistance. The design team has engaged an acoustic specialist to work on this. The Committee suggested that for people with disabilities like ASD, there be rooms to isolate themselves, a timeout place to gain composure.</p> <p><u>Enable York University</u> The University will also start an advisory group called “Enable York University” to help address accessibility matters.</p> <p><u>Transit Focused</u> The campus will be pedestrian and transit focused. The campus will be designed keeping in mind that Ravis Road and YMCA Blvd will be elevated in the future. There will be transit stops on campus on Ravis Rd. Metrolinx will have transit service every 15 minutes all day long from Unionville Go Station.</p> <p><u>Landscape</u> The landscape design is aiming at bringing more people with disability into the space, but the design team is still working this out, as the grading of the land is a challenge. There will be longer and more generous stairs to improve accessibility. The surface material for the paths have not been decided yet.</p> <p><u>Security on Campus</u></p>	

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	<p>There will be emergency telephones, and cameras all over the campus for campus security.</p> <p><u>Parking on Campus</u> There will be 27 short term parking spots of which 22 will be handicap spots onsite, and there will be about 1000 parking spots offsite.</p> <p>There was a question on the distance of accessible parking spots from the campus, the actual dimensions were not known, but it was estimated to be about 60 metres.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u> The York University representatives were requested to come back to a future meeting to present more detailed design.</p>	
<b>4. Accessibility Award</b>	<p>Andrea Berry, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications Department discussed the marketing strategy for the Accessibility Award, including promoting the award in Markham Life magazine, on the City Page in the local newspapers, and through a social media campaign such as Facebook, Instagram, etc.</p> <p>Ms. Berry and Laura Gold will work on the design of the promotional material this month, then start the promotion of the award next month.</p>	Andrea Berry
<b>5. Relaxed Performance</b>	<p>There was a discussion on the first ever Relaxed performance, coming to the Flato Markham Theatre on March 11, 2018. The show is called “The Mercer-Park Duo”. A detailed flyer was distributed at the meeting.</p>	

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	<p>Relaxed performances are autism friendly performances with reduced sensory aspects avoiding flashing lights and expected bangs/ other noises. They help reduce stress levels and allows diverse audience to enjoy the show.</p> <p>The tickets are on sale now and for additional details one could contact Scott Hill from the Flato Markham Theatre.</p> <p>The Committee was asked to help promote the award.</p>	
<b>6. New Business</b>	None	
<b>7. Next Meeting Date</b>	The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility will be held on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 5:30 pm.	
<b>8. Adjournment</b>	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility adjourned at 5:40 pm	

**Advisory Committee on Accessibility Action Items**

No.	Action Item	Responsibility of Staff/Committee Member	Completion Date	Status
1.	Tammy Mok to research possible awards that could be provided to the award winners.	Tammy Mok	March 2018	
2.	Finding a performer(s) for Accessibility Fair and Award	?		