

Advisory Committee on Accessibility

April 20, 2017

Canada Room

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Committee Members Present: Councillor Karen Rea, Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong, Arlene Juanillo, Kristin Hayes Tammy Mok, Robert Hunn, Jaqueline Bell, Keith Irish, , Brian Lynch, and Jewell Lofsky (guest)

Staff Present: Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

Regrets: Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Senior Diversity Coordinator, Catherine Hughes and Jason Tung

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility convened at 4:06 pm with Tammy Mok presiding as Chair.	
2. Approval of the Minutes	Moved by Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong Seconded by Keith Irish That the Minutes from the March 15, 2017 Advisory Committee on Accessibility be approved as presented. CARRIED	
3. Deputation	There was no deputation, as the resident was no longer able to come to the meeting.	
4. Gender Neutral Signs	Graham Seaman, Director of Sustainability and Asset Management came to speak to the Committee about gender inclusive signs that were recently installed at single stall washrooms at Markham Civic Centre. Staff are still deciding if the new signs will be rolled out at other City facilities. The signs appear as follows: <u>Universal Washrooms</u>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • active wheel chair sign • picture of a baby • picture of a toilet • All genders welcome in print and in brail <p><u>Single Stall Washroom</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • picture of toilet • All genders welcome in print and in brail <p>The Committee provided the following feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make the emergency button more visible in the universal washrooms • suggested that people who do not understand English may not understand the toilet symbol or that the washroom is for all genders • suggested using the universal symbol for washroom 	
<p>5. Accessibility Award</p>	<p>The Committee discussed whether it should continue to sponsor the Markham Board of Trade Accessibility Award or if it should proceed to run its own award.</p> <p>The Committee Clerk provided the following responses to the Committee's questions from the previous meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Markham Board of Trade proceed with the Accessibility Award if the City discontinues its sponsorship of the award? No • Could the Committee do both an in-house award and the Markham Board of Trade Award? Yes, but will be 6K plus the cost of the in-house award. • Could the City lower its sponsorship of the Markham Board of Trade Award (and still keep the current Accessibility Award)? No • Would an in-house business award have the same prestige as the Board of Trade Accessibility Award? Committee would need to 	

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	<p>decide this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Could some of the funds used to sponsor the Board of Trade Accessibility Award be used toward the in-house award? Yes <p>Regional Councillor Armstrong advised that Richard Cunningham had requested that the decision on the award be deferred to the next meeting so could come discuss the award. The Committee considered his request, but decided the decision needed to be made now so he can proceed with a City run award.</p> <p>After some discussion the Committee agreed to proceed with a City run Business Accessibility Award. The award would be tied to another community award. The Committee would be responsible for meeting with the businesses to see if they are accessible.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating a sticker that accessible businesses could put on their windows• Approaching the Economist & Sun to see if it will help promote the award• Booking a bus to visit and conduct interviews with the nominees• Issuing a media release• Awarding older businesses that did accessibility retrofits that are not required to do so by law• Using meeting time to undertake the planning of the award• Developing award categories and a nomination form <p>Moved Tammy Mok Seconded by Robert Hunn</p>	

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	<p>That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility withdraw its \$6,000 of the Markham Board of Trade Accessibility Award; and</p> <p>That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility run its own City of Markham Business Accessibility Award.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>	
6. Accessibility Fair	<p>Tammy Mok provided an update on the Accessibility Fair to be held on September 23rd and 24th, as part of Applefest. She visited the Markham Museum site and thought it was a great venue for the event. The fair will be held in the Transportation Building. Residents attending the festival can park in front of the museum.</p> <p>The following was discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need volunteers (Councillor Rea said will ask the Cadets to volunteer at the event) • Need brochures and banner for the booth • Will have demonstrations of wheelchair ballroom dancing and tai chi • Recommended not having wheelchair basketball this year, as the ceiling of the Transportation Building is too low • Work with Museum to promote the fair – Keith Irish 	
7. New Business	<p><u>Canada Day</u></p> <p>Tammy Mok asked the Committee if it would like to participate in the Canada Day Parade. Members were interested in participating in the parade.</p>	
8. Next Meeting Date	<p>The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility will be held on May 17, 2017.</p>	
9. Adjournment	<p>The Advisory Committee on Accessibility adjourned at 5:40 pm</p>	

Advisory Committee on Accessibility Action Items

No.	Action Item	Responsibility of Staff/Committee Member	Completion Date	Status
1.	Invite organizations representing different types of disabilities to present at future Advisory Committee on Accessibility Meetings	Senior Diversity Coordinator	On going	
2.	Bring frequently asked questions on accessibility matters to the next meeting for the committee to review	Cheryl McConney-Wilson	April 19, 2017	
3.	Review the proposed award categories to ensure they still fall under the Committee's mandate.	Cheryl McConney-Wilson and Laura Gold	April 19, 2017	