

**Advisory Committee on Accessibility**  
**February 15, 2017**  
**Canada Room**  
**3:30 PM – 5:30 PM**

**Committee Members Present:** Arlene Juanillo, Tammy Mok, Robert Hunn, Jaqueline Bell, Catherine Hughes, Jason Tung, Brian Lynch, Keith Irish and Jewell Lofsky (guest)

**Staff Present:** Josh Machesney, Assistant to Committee/Council, Richard Kendal, Manager, Development-Central Sabrina Bordone, Senior Planner, Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Senior Diversity Coordinator, Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

**Regrets:** Councillor Karen Rea, Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong, and Kristin Hayes

Item	Discussion	Action
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility convened at 4:06 pm with Tammy Mok presiding as Chair.	
<b>2. Approval of the Minutes</b>	Moved by Brian Lynch Seconded by Robert Hunn  That the Minutes from the January 18, 2017 Advisory Committee on Accessibility be approved as presented.  CARRIED	
<b>3. Accessibility Fair</b>	A. <u>Accessibility Fair</u> Cathy Molloy, Director of Markham Museum, and Cynthia Szeta, Business Development & Events Coordinator were in attendance to speak about the possibility of holding the Accessibility Fair as part of Applefest. The following details regarding the event were shared with the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be held on September 23, and 24, 2017</li> <li>• Charged \$6 per person for admission in 2016</li> <li>• Run as a non-profit event – fee is used to help cover the cost of</li> </ul>	

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	<p>holding the event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a variety of family oriented activities some of which include: a fire truck, quilters, dancers, sustainability activities, recreational activities, and a mini train;</li> <li>• Has food trucks, but no other items are sold at the event.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee provided an overview of past Accessibility Fairs. Past fairs had information booths, and interactive activities, such as wheelchair basketball, tai chi and ballroom dancing. The Committee is looking at holding the fair in conjunction with another event to increase attendance at the fair. The fair is typically planned by a sub-committee appointed by the Committee.</p> <p>A Member suggested demonstrating technology that can remove barriers for persons with a disability at this year's Accessibility Fair.</p> <p>Cathy Molloy and Cynthia Szeta felt the fair would fit well with Applefest. They were confident that space could be allocated to the fair's interactive activities, but suggested that the Committee visit the site. It was noted that the fair should run for the full duration of the event.</p> <p>The Committee did not make a decision at this time regarding whether it will hold the Accessibility Fair as part of Applefest.</p>	
<p><b>2. Review of Site Plan</b></p>	<p>Mike Everard, Consultant presented the proposed site plan for the Weins Canada Corporate Head Office, and parking structure. The head office will be located close to Victoria Park and Steeles. The parking structure will be used primarily for housing new cars. Customer parking is located in front of the facility. The Committee was asked to provide its feedback on the proposed location of both the customer and employee accessible parking spots.</p>	

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	<p>The Committee suggested that three of five customer accessible parking spots be located directly in front of the building. In the current proposal two of the five spots were located in front of the building.</p> <p>The Consultant asked if the Committee would support removing accessible spots from buildings where spots were not being used. Ron Blake advised that the number of accessible spots is mandated by the zoning by-law and that a business would need to apply for a zoning exemption to reduce the number of accessible spots at its offices/facility. It was noted that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility does not have any authority over the matter.</p> <p>The Committee asked if Braille signs will be installed inside the building for employees. The Consultant was not aware of any Braille signs being installed at the building.</p> <p>The Committee approved the site plan with the suggested amendment to the customer accessible parking.</p>	
<b>4. Accessibility Award</b>	<p>Tammy Mok, Chair advised that a meeting was held to discuss the possibility of discontinuing the Markham Board of Trade Accessibility Award and replacing it with a broader City of Markham Accessibility Award. The meeting was requested at the last meeting, as the Committee had concerns regarding the high cost of the award, lack of nominations, and its lack of control over the adjudication of the nominations.</p> <p>At the meeting the expansion of the award categories was suggested. Expanding the award categories was suggested to increase the number of nominations. The following categories were suggested: 1) Individual - awarding individuals with a disability for their accomplishments and/or</p>	

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	<p>awarding individuals who have helped remove a barrier for a person with a disability; and 2) business - awarding businesses that employ persons with a disability, that have removed barriers for an employee with a disability, or that have improved the physical accessibility of their business.</p> <p>It was suggested that a proposal of the new award be presented to the Committee prior to it making any decisions with respect to cancelling the Board of Trade Accessibility Award. A Committee Member suggested that staff review the Terms of Reference to ensure that the proposed new award categories still fall under the Committee's mandate.</p> <p>Other ideas suggested by members included: reducing the City's sponsorship of Board of Trade Accessibility Award from gold to platinum, and holding the Accessibility Fair in conjunction with the Accessibility Award.</p>	<p>Present proposal of proposed new award – Cheryl McConney-Wilson</p> <p>Review the proposed award categories to ensure they still fall under the Committee's mandate – Laura and Cheryl</p>
<b>5. 2017 Work Plan</b>	This item was not discussed.	
<b>6. New Business</b>	<p><u>York Region Accessibility Committee Update</u>            Brian Lynch reported that his term on the York Region Accessibility Committee will be complete this year. He suggested that another member of the Committee apply to serve on the Committee.</p> <p><u>Public Forum on the Proposed Canadians with Disabilities Act</u>            Brian Lynch advised that he attended a public forum on the proposed federal <i>Canadians with Disabilities Act</i> on February 8, 2017. The legislation is being created to help ensure the full inclusion of people with disabilities in Canada. People attending the forum were asked how attitudes can be changed to remove barriers for persons with a disability.</p>	
<b>7. Next Meeting Date</b>	The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility will be held on March 15, 2017.	
<b>8. Adjournment</b>	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility adjourned at 5:56 pm	

**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.	Include in the Site Plan for the gas station at Major Mackenzie and Don Cousens how it will provide accessible service.	David Miller	Fall 2016	
3.	Look into why an accessible parking spot was placed in front of the Church on Main Street Markham.	Cheryl McConney-Wilson, and Sally Campbell	Fall 2016	
5.	Bring frequently asked questions on accessibility matters to the next meeting for the committee to review	Cheryl McConney-Wilson	March 15, 2017	
8.	Review the proposed award categories to ensure they still fall under the Committee's mandate.	Cheryl McConney-Wilson and Laura Gold	March 15, 2017	
9.	Present proposal of proposed new Accessibility Award.	Cheryl McConney-Wilson	March 15, 2017	