

Advisory Committee on Accessibility
September 21, 2016
Ontario Room
3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Committee Members Present: Kristin Hayes, Chair, Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong, Councillor Karen Rea, Co-Chair, Robert Hunn, Jason Tung, Catherine Hughes, Brian Lynch, Tammy Mok, Jaqueline Bell, and Keith Irish

Staff Present:

Dennis Flaherty, Director of Corporate Communications & Community Engagement, Cheryl McConney-Wilson, Senior Diversity Coordinator, and Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

Regrets: Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong, and Arlene Juanillo

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility convened at 3:50 pm with Kristin Hayes presiding as Chair. .	
2. Approval of the Minutes	Moved by Tammy Mok Seconded by Bryan Lynch That the Minutes from the June 15, 2016, Advisory Committee on Accessibility be approved as presented. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	
3. By-Law & Enforcement Update	Christopher Alexander, Manager of By-Laws and Enforcement provided the following update: <u>Uber</u> Staff are looking at how Uber will impact accessible transportation in Markham. The Toronto community has supported Uber's approach to	

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	<p>handling accessible transportation. Currently, Uber connects riders with a licensed para-transit driver. In the future, Uber may acquire accessible vehicles that can be used by its drivers. These vehicles may serve a dual purpose, serving the non disabled community when not being utilized by the disabled community.</p> <p>The insurance model developed by the Insurance Bureau of Canada for Uber makes it much less expensive to be an Uber driver relative to a traditional taxi driver. Uber is only charged a commercial insurance rate for the time the car is used for shared rides. The time is calculated from the technology Uber uses. This change is anticipated to change the way the taxi industry operates.</p> <p>A report on Uber is scheduled to be brought forward to Council this fall. The report will include an overview of how Uber may impact accessible transit.</p> <p><u>Parking</u> Chris Alexander reported that as part of the City’s Parking By-Law review, it is looking at mirroring the City of Toronto’s policy on permitting vehicles with an accessible permit to park on City streets where parking is not permitted, with some exemptions. Some of the exemptions that exist in Toronto include not being able to park on certain streets during rush hour, or on street where it would obstruct emergency and fire vehicles.</p>	
<p>4. Accessibility Fair</p>	<p>Kristin Hayes provided an update on the Accessibility Fair. The fair is scheduled to be held on Saturday, October 15, 2016, at Thornhill Community Centre, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. There are currently about ten vendors. Some of the activities being planned for the event include a tai chi demonstration and wheelchair basketball.</p>	<p>Circulate the list of</p>

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	<p>The Committee Members signed up for volunteer shifts to work the day of the event. The Committee Coordinator will circulate the list after the meeting</p>	<p>volunteer shifts for the Accessibility Fair – Laura gold</p>
<p>5. Recreation Update</p>	<p>Janice Carroll reported that a onetime donation of \$28,000 was provided to the City to spend on accessibility improvements. The funds were provided to the Recreation Department, which decided to use the funds to improve the accessibility of Markham pools. The types of improvements that were made included: purchasing water wheelchairs; installing grab bars in change rooms; installing a wheelchair lift at an outdoor pool; and adding deck rails.</p> <p>The Committee thanked staff for this good news story. Dennis asked Janice Carroll to provide more information on the story so that it can be celebrated/promoted.</p> <p>Dennis Flaherty advised that he would help promote the Accessibility Fair through the City’s social media and on the City’s page in the <u>Economist & Sun</u>. He also suggested asking 105.9 and/or Rogers to do a community announcement. Councillor Rea advised that she will promote the fair in her newsletter.</p>	<p>Provide Dennis Flaherty with more information on the donation to the City to be spent on improving accessibility – Janice Carroll</p>
<p>6. Corporate Communications Update</p>	<p>Dennis Flaherty reported that an article will be put in Markham Life highlighting and promoting some of the City’s key Committees, including the Advisory Committee on Accessibility. The issue will be released in early November.</p> <p>The Committee Coordinator reported that the City will also be advertising new vacancies at the same time the issue is released.</p>	
<p>7. Election of the Chair</p>	<p>Kristen Hayes stepped down from the role of Chair.</p>	

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	<p>Moved by Keith Irish Seconded by Jaqueline Bell</p> <p>That Tammy Mok be appointed Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility; and,</p> <p>That Robert Hunn be appointed Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>	
<p>8. Markham Board of Trade Award</p>	<p>The Committee discussed briefly how it could increase nominations for next year. A suggestion was made to keep an ongoing list of businesses that have demonstrated excellence in accessibility. A Member suggested that a coffee shop on Main Street Markham that only hires persons with some type of a disability be added to the list.</p>	<p>Add to coffee shop on Main Street Markham to list of businesses that should be nominated for next year’s Markham Board of Trade Accessibility Award – TBD</p>
<p>9. New Business</p>	<p>Brian Lynch advised that he will provide a York Region Advisory Committee update at the next meeting.</p> <p>Members were asked if they would like to participate in the Seniors Fair being held on November 17, 2016. Members should let Kristin know by Monday.</p>	
<p>10. Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility will be held on October 19, 2016.</p>	
<p>11. Adjournment</p>	<p>The Advisory Committee on Accessibility adjourned at 5:35 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.	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	
4	Circulate volunteer schedule for Accessibility Fair.	Laura Gold	September 2016	
5	Add to coffee shop on Main Street Markham to list of businesses that should be nominated for next year's Markham Board of Trade Accessibility Award	TBD	October 19, 2016	