

Advisory Committee on Accessibility

June 18, 2014

Canada Room

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Committee Members Present: Councillor Valerie Burke, Councillor Don Hamilton, Councillor Alan Ho, Sidney Polak, Chair, Robert Hunn , Brendan Faulkner, Kristen Hayes, Joan Jenkyn, Brian Lynch and Tammy Mok

Staff Present:

Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility Coordinator, Graham Seaman, Senior Manager of the Sustainability Office and Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

Regrets: Arlene Juanillo, Vice-Chair and Keith Irish

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. South East Community Centre	Doug Warren, Architect, Perkins + Will, was in attendance to provide a presentation entitled “Assessment of As-Designed and Included Features Against the future Building Code Requirements – Effective January 1, 2014” . The tender for the design of the South East Community Centre was issued in August 2013. The tender was awarded to Perkin + Will. The designs for the Community Centre were created following Markham’s Accessibility Guidelines and under the 2012 Building Code, which was the legislation in effect at the time. The Advisory Committee on Accessibility, Site Plan Sub-Committee reviewed and approved the designs in 2013. On January 1 2015, amendments to the 2012 Building Code regarding accessibility will come into effect. The current designs of the Community Centre meet most of the new code requirements. Where possible revisions to the designs will be made to meet the new Building Code provided funding is available. The Consultant reviewed the following: (1) the revisions that have already been made to the	

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	plans to comply with the new legislation; (2) the costs of the recommended revisions to the plans to be in compliance with the new legislation; and (3) features of the designs that will not be in compliance with the new legislation and that will not be revised, as the designs would need to be altered too greatly to comply with the new legislation. The revisions to the designs are being priced by the contractor. The estimated total cost to enhance the current designs is \$60 K. It will be Council's decision regarding whether these revisions will be made to the designs of the South East Community Centre.	
2. Rotary Club	Joe Dale and Mark Wafer were in attendance to speak about the project 'Rotary at Work', which encourages businesses to hire persons with a disability. Some of the highlights of the presentation included the following: • 16 % of Ontario's population is disabled • The government spends four billion dollars a year on disability benefits • 46 % of disabled persons are unemployed; this number is as high as %70 when including disabled persons who have stopped looking for employment • Most job accommodations cost less than \$500 • Only 6% of persons with a disability use a wheelchair • 800,000 unemployed persons with a disability in Canada are trained and ready to work • 340,000 unemployed persons with a disability in Canada have a post secondary degree and are ready to work • Not for profit agencies, like Community Living will train disabled employees free of charge • Organizations that have hired disabled employees have experienced positive productivity gains • Organizations will more likely hire persons with a disability when highlighting the productivity benefits to their business rather than when forced to do so by legislation	

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	The Committee suggested that this presentation be presented to the General Committee and possibly to Markham's Business Improvement Areas. A Member requested that a copy of the presentation be circulated to the Committee by email. Staff asked how to recruit qualified disability persons for employment opportunities in Markham. It was recommended that a separate screening processes be used that does not involve the electronic submission of employment applications, as this recruitment strategy may discourage some persons with a disability from applying.	
3. Accessible Taxi Cabs	This item was deferred to the next meeting due to agenda items running overtime.	
4. Review of the Minutes	The Committee reviewed the action items from the previous meeting. Moved by Brendon Faulkner Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton That the Minutes from the May 21, 2014 Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting be approved as presented. CARRIED	
5. Sub-Committee Reports	A. Site Plan Sub-Committee No report was provided. B. Promotions Sub-Committee Brendan Faulkner advised that the date of the Accessibility Fair may be moved to October. The activities and location of the fair have been determined. Members were encouraged to join the Promotions Sub-Committee and to assist with the event undertaking. Meetings are being held via teleconference throughout the summer.	

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	C. Accessibility Outreach Sub-Committee No report was provided.	
6. Markham Board of Trade Award	Warren Rupnarain reminded the Committee that all Board of Trade nominations need to be submitted by July 8, 2014 and that more nominations are required.	
7. New Business	<u>Accessibility Coordinator</u> Warren Rupnarain reported that he has accepted a position at the City of Vaughan, as their Accessibility/Diversity Coordinator. The Committee wished him the best in his future endeavours. In the interim Graham Seaman will be the contact for all committee matters overseen by Warren. <u>Stop-Gap-Ramps</u> Warren Rupnarain provided an update on the stop-gap-ramps project. <u>Service Ontario</u> Warren Rupnarain contacted Service Ontario regarding the Committee's concerns about the lack of accessibility of the Service Ontario locations in Markham. The Provincial Liaison will be addressing the Committee's concerns. Joan Jenkyn requested a copy of the email response from the Provincial Liaison. <u>Meeting Time</u> The Committee will discuss the meeting time at the next meeting.	Provide Joan Jenkyn with Service Ontario's response – Laura Gold
Adjournment	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility adjourned at 5:30 p.m.	

Advisory Committee on Accessibility Action Items

No.	Action Item	Responsibility of Staff/Committee Member	Completion Date	Status
1.	Engagement with Markham's BIA's	Accessibility Coordinator	On going	
2.	Invite organizations representing different types of disabilities to present at future Advisory Committee on Accessibility Meetings	Accessibility Coordinator	On going	
3.	Include in the Site Plan for the gas station at Major Mackenzie and Don Cousens how it will provide accessible service.	David Miller	Fall 2014	
4.	Bring Committee's accessibility concerns regarding Markville Mall to the malls attention	Councillor Don Hamilton	September 2014	
6.	Ask Christopher Alexander about Toronto's accessible taxi cabs	Laura Gold	September 2014	
7.	Email Regional Councillor Landon regarding the Committee's traffic control concerns	Brendan Faulkner	September 2014	
8.	Review the interview criteria for the Accessibility Award in Feb. 2015	All Committee Members	February 2015	

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9.	Survey the Committee regarding the meeting time.	Laura Gold	September 2014	
10.	Provide Joan Jenkyn with the Provincial Liaison's email response regarding Service Ontario.	Laura Gold	September 2014	