Advisory Committee on Accessibility
February 19, 2014
Ontario Room
3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Committee Members Present:, Councillor Don Hamilton, Councillor Alan Ho, Sidney Polak, Chair, Arlene Juanillo, Vice-Chair, Robert Hunn, Kristen Hayes, Brendan Faulkner, Keith Irish, Joan Jenkyn and Tammy Mok

Staff Present:
Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility Coordinator and Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

Regrets: Councillor Valerie Burke, Brian Lynch and Cindy Jones Shrek

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility convened at 3:41 p.m. with Sydney Polak presiding as Chair.	
2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda	The following items on the agenda were deferred to the next meeting, as the presenters were no longer able to attend today's meeting: • 2015 Pan Am Games Update • James Robinson Public School, Accessible Park Update	Add deferred presentations to the next agenda – Laura Gold
3. Approval of Minutes and Review of Action Items	Two dates in the list of action items were updated. Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton Seconded by Brendan Faulkner That the Minutes of the January 15, 2014 Advisory Committee on Accessibility be approved as amended. CARRIED	

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4. Accessible Taxi Cabs	Christopher Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing and Animal Control was in attendance to provide an update on the City's plans with respect to having accessible taxicabs in Markham. The following update was provided: • An update on what other municipalities are doing with respect to having accessible taxicabs; • Background information on the latent demand for accessible taxicabs; • An overview of Markham's plans to issue new taxi licenses for dual purpose vehicles, which at this point in time will only be permitted to provide accessible rides; • An update on the industry interest in operating accessible taxicabs, reporting that two organization have demonstrated an interest in operating accessible taxicabs in Markham and one of them will offer the service at the metre rate; • Information on converting a vehicle to an accessible taxicab, advising there is no subsidy for the conversion currently available; • Need identification of the need to promote accessible taxicabs once the service is in place; • Clarification that all licensed Markham accessible taxicab drivers will be properly trained in all matters pertaining the handling of an accessible vehicle. An open house for taxicab stakeholders is being held on March 12, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. Markham's plans for issuing accessible taxicab licenses will be one of the	

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	issues being discussed at the meeting. The Committee was invited to attend. A report is being targeted to be brought forward to the General in April 2014 on Markham's plans for having accessible taxicabs in Markham. Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton Seconded by Joan Jenkyn That the Accessible Taxicab Report be received. CARRIED	
5. Sub-Committee Reports	A. Site Plan Sub-Committee <u>Service Ontario</u> A Member expressed their concern that none of the Service Ontario Offices in Markham are accessible. A field trip to the Service Ontario Offices in Markham was being planned to conduct an accessibility audit of the facilities. The Accessibility Coordinator will pass the Committee's concerns onto the City's Provincial Liaison. An invitation to address the Committee's concerns at a future Advisory Committee on Accessibility will also be provided. B. Promotions Sub-Committee The Accessibility Coordinator suggested that the Committee start the planning and undertaking of the Accessibility Fair.	Contact Provincial Liaison regarding Committee's concern that Markham's Service Ontario Offices are not accessible and invite them to come to a future meeting to address this concern – Warren Rupnarain

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	The following Members volunteered to assist with the planning and undertaking of the event: • Arlene • Joan • Kristen • Brendan The meeting scheduled will be determined by the Sub-Committee. Meetings in the past were sometimes held by teleconference. C. Accessibility Recreation Sub-Committee The next meeting of the Accessibility Recreation Sub-Committee will be held in April 2014. The next update will be provided after this meeting. D. Accessibility Outreach Sub-Committee <u>Markville Mall</u> Members identified the following accessibility concerns regarding Markville Mall: 1. An accessible parking spot was removed from the entrance close to Good Life Fitness and relocated to an unknown location to create a patio area; and, 2. The snow is being piled at the end of the ramp to Good Life Fitness with not leaving enough room for a person in a wheelchair or scoter to get up	

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	the ramp; and, 3. The area on the west side of the Mall near Joey's Restaurant does not have enough curve cuts; and, 4. The accessible door openers are too far from the doors. Councillor Don Hamilton will bring these matters up will the mall and report back at the next meeting to the Committee. <u>Traffic Matters</u> The Committee discussed problematic intersections in Markham and the need for extending the lights at some intersections, where the traffic signals are too short for seniors or some persons with a disability to cross safely. This issue was anticipated to grow with the aging population. It was suggested that Markham should have an integrated traffic plan for managing accessibility concerns that were anticipated to increase with the aging population. The Committee recommended that Regional Councillor Gordon Landon, Chair of the Regional Transportation Committee be invited to the next meeting to discuss the Committee's concerns.	Bring Committee's accessibility concerns regarding Markville Mall to the malls attention – Councillor Hamilton Invite Regional Councillor Landon to the next meeting to discuss the Committee's transportation concerns – Laura Gold
6. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair	Clarification was requested regarding whether Councillors are permitted to be Chairs of Advisory and Statutory Committees, as the <u>Rules of Procedure Governing Statutory Advisory Committees</u> does not permit Members of Council who sit on a Committee to be Chair, but in practice Councillors are often appointed as Chair of Advisory/Statutory Committees of Council. The Committee Clerk will investigate this matter and report back.	Find out if Councillors are permitted to Chair Advisory/Statutory Committees of Council – Laura Gold

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	Election of the Chair Sidney Polak was acclaimed Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility for a one year term. A Member noted the importance of having changeover in the elected positions on the Committee. **Election of the Vice-Chair** Moved by Joan Jenkyn Seconded by Tammy Mok That Arlene Juanillo be elected as Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility. CARRIED	
7. New Business	A. Mobility Plus Eligibility Panel Update Don Hamilton will ask Deputy Mayor Jack Heath for an update on the Mobility Plus Eligibility Panel and report back to the Committee. An article from the Toronto Star entitled "Faulty equipment, driver training issues result in painful, frigid 4-hour bus ordeal" was provided to the Committee. The Clerk will scan and circulate the article to the Committee. B. Performance Indicators The performance indicators will be reviewed with the work the Committee did in past on its focus.	Ask for an update on the Mobility Plus Eligibility Panel – Councillor Don Hamilton Scan article and circulate to Committee – Laura Gold Review performance indicators with work the Committee did in the past on

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	C. ACRA Video The Accessibility Coordinator will view the ACRA video to incorporate it into his report on options for the Accessible Board of Trade Award. The Committee will watch the video at the next meeting due to the time.	its focus – Sidney Polak and Warren Rupnarain
8. Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility will be held on March 19, 2014 in the Canada Room.	
9. Adjournment	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility adjourned at 5:32 p.m.	

Advisory Committee on Accessibility Action Items

No.	Action Item	Responsibility of Staff/Committee Member	Completion Date	Status
1.	Decide whether the Committee will support a 2014 Accessible Board of Trade Award	All Committee Members	March 2014	
2.	Engagement with Markham's BIA's	Warren Rupnarain	On going	
3.	Invite organizations representing different types of disabilities to present at future Advisory Committee on Accessibility Meetings	Warren Rupnarain	On going	
4.	Include in the Site Plan for gas station at Major Mackenzie and Don Cousens how it will provide accessible service.	David Miller	Spring 2014	
5.	Undertake a review of the Markham Board of Trade Accessibility Award and present options for improving the award effectiveness –	Warren Rupnarain and Graham Seaman	March 2014	
6.	Add deferred presentations to the next agenda.	Laura Gold	March 2014	
7.	Contact Provincial Liaison regarding the Committee's concern that Markham's Service Ontario Offices are not accessible and invite them to come to a future meeting to address this concern	Warren Rupnarain	May 2014	
8.	Bring Committee's accessibility concerns regarding Markville Mall to the malls attention	Councillor Don Hamilton	March 2014	

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9.	Invite Regional Councillor Landon to the next meeting to discuss the Committee's transportation concerns	Laura Gold	March 2014	
10.	Find out if Councillors are permitted to Chair Advisory/Statutory Committees of Council	Laura Gold	March 2014	
11.	Scan article and circulate to Committee.	Laura Gold	March 2014	