

Advisory Committee on Accessibility

January 15, 2014

Canada Room

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

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

Staff Present:

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

Regrets: Councillor Alan Ho, Kristen Hayes and Cindy Jones Shrek

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order	The Advisory Committee on Accessibility convened at 3:35 p.m. with Sydney Polak presiding as Chair.	
2. Approval of Minutes and Review of Action Items	<p>A Member asked that the website address for the website helping disabilities stay connected be added to page 4 of the November 20, 2013 Advisory Committee on Accessibility minutes under New Business.</p> <p>It was requested that the key performance indicators for the committee created by Arlene Juanillo be added to the next agenda.</p> <p>Moved by Bryan Lynch Seconded by Joan Jenkyn</p> <p>That the Minutes of the November 20, 2013 Advisory Committee on Accessibility be approved as amended.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	<p>Update the November 20, 2013 Minutes – Laura Gold</p> <p>Add the key performance indicators to the next agenda – Laura Gold</p>
3. Board of Trade Award	Warren Rupnarain provided background information on the Markham Board of Trade Accessibility Award. This year Toronto Dominion Bank won the award. It cost the city approximately \$6K to run the awards program. The following concerns have been raised with respect to the award: (1) the high cost of the	

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	<p>awards program; (2) the lack of businesses being nominated for the award; (3) some businesses declining to be nominated for the award; (4) the lack of promotion of the award; and (5) that the award has been typically won by large organizations.</p> <p>On a go forward basis the Committee would like to see smaller organizations that have made great strides to make their businesses accessible being recognized through this awards program, as this was the original intent of having the award. The Committee recommended that staff discuss their concerns regarding the award with the Markham Board of Trade and report back to the Committee with options for the awards ceremony at a future Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting.</p> <p>Members suggested that the Accessibility Award could be presented at the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Special Council Meeting • Achievement and Civic Recognition Awards Ceremony • Markham Accessibility Fair <p>Moved by Joan Jenkyn Seconded by Arlene Juanillo</p> <p>That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility request that staff undertake a review of the Markham Board of Trade Accessibility Award; and,</p> <p>That staff review options for increasing both the awareness and the cost efficiency and effectiveness of the Accessibility Award.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	<p>Undertake a review of the Markham Board of Trade Accessibility Award and present options for improving the award's effectiveness – Warren Rupnarain and Graham Seaman</p>

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<p>4. Mobility Plus Deputation</p>	<p>Kim McKinnon, Community Legal Worker, Community Legal Clinic and Sheri Upper, Regional Services Coordinator, York Region Spinal Cord Injury Ontario were in attendance representing the concerns of Concerned Citizens for Accessibility and Mobility Group, regarding York Region's proposed plans to outsource the Mobility Plus Eligibility Appeal Panel to Medisys Health Group.</p> <p>The following concerns were presented to the Committee regarding York Region's Plans to outsource the Mobility Plus Eligibility Appeal Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed changes to the panel have not been vetted through York Region's Advisory Committees on Accessibility. • The Report to York Region Council requesting this change did not include that in the event that an appeal cannot be heard within the designated timeframe prescribed by the <i>Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act</i>, compliance can be met by providing the rider with temporary ridership status until the appeal is heard. • That the Report to York Region Council did not make it mandatory for the members of the panel to be residents of York Region or for the panel to include a person with a disability. • The organization that the panel is being proposed to be outsourced to is a for profit organization that would be hired by York Region; • The transparency in the operations of the panel if outsourced to an external organization; • The high cost of outsourcing the panel and the use of taxpayer dollars. <p>The Committee considered the information presented and was in support of the deputation.</p>	

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	<p>Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton Seconded by Arlene Juanillo</p> <p>That based on the information presented by the Concerned Citizens for Accessibility and Mobility Group at the January 15, 2014 Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting, the Advisory Committee on Accessibility expressed its concerns regarding York Region's proposal to outsource the Mobility Plus Eligibility Appeal Panel; and,</p> <p>That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility request that Markham Council recommend to York Region that it maintain the current structure of the Mobility Plus Eligibility Appeal Panel until a more comprehensive review is conducted; and,</p> <p>That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility request that Markham Council recommend to York Region that a Member of the Markham's Advisory Committee on Accessibility be included in this review; and,</p> <p>That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility request that Markham Council recommend to York Region that all York Region Advisory Committees on Accessibility be consulted on any future changes to the structure of Mobility Plus.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CARRIED</p>	
<p>5. Metrolinx Presentation</p>	<p>Eve Wyatt and Sylvan Bruno, Metrolinx were in attendance to provide a presentation on Metrolinx's accessibility initiatives. Some of the initiatives included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-boundary transit improvements, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognition of eligibility to use accessible transit across 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ municipalities; ○ Building on accessible long-distance transit routes to make cross-boundary travel easier; ○ Improving transfer locations and better connections to accessible conventional transit; ● Implementation of a program that helps transit agencies introduce travel training in their communities; ● Making the complete Go Transit network accessible; ● Other Go Transit improvements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New automated next stop information on buses; ○ Re-work of web timetables; ○ Policy change to accommodate standees on bus lifts; ○ Converting non-accessible municipal bus stops; ○ Procuring low-floor buses as an alternative to highway coaches for faster boarding without lifts; ○ New mobile website and GO Mobile 2 underway; ● Presto Accessibility Improvements; ● Accessibility included in new rapid transit. <p>The Committee was requested to email any questions, comments or concerns to Eve Wyatt at eve.wyatt@gotransit.</p>	
6. Sub-Committee Reports	Warren Rupnarain reported that the Accessibility Fair Sub-Committee will start to meet soon to plan the 2014 Accessibility Fair.	
7. Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility will be held on February 19, 2014 in the Canada Room.	
8. 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.	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	February 2014	
5.	Update November 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes	Laura Gold	February 2014	
6.	Add the key performance indicators to the next agenda	Laura Gold	February 2014	
7.	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 2013	