

**Advisory Committee on Accessibility**  
**November 21, 2012**  
**Canada Room**  
**3:30 PM – 5:30 PM**

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| <p><b>Committee Members Present:</b> Councillor Don Hamilton, Sidney Polak, Chair , Robert Hunn, Vice-Chair, Kristen Hayes, Joan Jenkyn, Cindy Jones Shrek , Arlene Juanillo and Margit Swift</p> <p><b>Staff Present:</b><br/> Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility Coordinator, Graham Seaman, Sustainability Office Lead &amp; Manager of Climate Change &amp; Energy and Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p> <p><b>Regrets:</b> Councillor Valerie Burke, Councillor Alan Ho and Brian Lynch</p> |  |
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| <b>Agenda Item</b>                   | <b>Discussion</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Action Item</b>                                                                                       |
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| <b>1. Call to Order</b>              | The Advisory Committee on Accessibility convened at 3:39 p.m. with Sidney Polak presiding as Chair.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                          |
| <b>2. Site Plan Process</b>          | <p>Staff reported that Planning &amp; Design staff will come more frequently to the Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) meetings. This will give the Committee an opportunity to provide feedback on site plans and it will give staff a better understanding of the type of things they should look for when reviewing site plans. Planning &amp; Design Staff will also try to improve the site plan review process independently of this Committee.</p> <p>Biju Karumanchery, Senior Development Manager, will come to the December or January ACA meeting to discuss the site plan review process. Moreover, staff were open to inviting other senior Planning &amp; Design staff to a future ACA meeting.</p> | Have Biju attend the December or January ACA meeting to discuss the site plan process – Warren Rupnarain |
| <b>3. Accessible Taxi Cab update</b> | <p><u>Accessible Taxi Cabs</u><br/> Christopher Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing &amp; Animal Control, was in attendance to provide an accessible taxicab update. It was advised that two open houses for taxicab stakeholder were held in July and August, 2012. The following feedback was obtained from these sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The market for accessible taxicabs has been taken over by Mobility Plus;</li> <li>• The taxicab industry does not think it is financially viable to have accessible taxicabs in Markham at this time;</li> </ul>                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                          |

| Agenda Item | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Action Item                                                                                                                                                                             |
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|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is currently no grant program to subsidize the cost of having an accessible taxicab in Markham;</li> <li>• The taxicab industry is currently not willing to provide accessible taxicab service in Markham.</li> </ul> <p>Based on this update the Committee discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lack of awareness of Mobility Plus programs currently being offered;</li> <li>• The lack of awareness of the taxi script program;</li> <li>• The need for accessible taxicabs due to limited ability to book Mobility Plus rides at the last minute;</li> <li>• The possibility of having multipurpose taxicabs;</li> <li>• The latent demand for accessible taxicabs in Markham;</li> <li>• The need to change the behaviour of both able bodies and of persons with a disability in regards to the use of accessible taxicabs.</li> </ul> <p><u>Serving Persons with Disability with a Service Dog</u></p> <p>Christopher Alexander reported that a resident and his partner were denied service to a restaurant due to the fact that the resident had two service dogs. There was no complaint filed with the province, as the resident did not choose to pursue this option. However, staff were investigating whether there is a penalty for being in contravention with AODA.</p> <p>There was a discussion in regards to adding a clause to Markham's Stationary Business Licensing By-law regarding prohibiting businesses from refusing access to goods and services to persons with a disability with a service dog or a person accompanying them.</p> <p>Moved by Margit Swift</p> | <p>Provide status update on having accessible taxis in Markham – Chris Alexander</p> <p>Investigate what the penalty is for being in contravention with AODA –Christopher Alexander</p> |

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| Agenda Item                                                             | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Action Item                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                         | <p>Seconded by Arlene Juanillo</p> <p>That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility recommend that Markham's Stationary Business Licensing By-law be amended to add a clause prohibiting businesses from refusing access to goods and services to persons with a disability with a service dog or any person accompanying them.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>4. Approval of the Minutes and Matters Arising There From</b></p> | <p>Moved by Kristen Hayes<br/>Seconded by Robert Hunn</p> <p>That the Minutes from the October 17, 2012 Advisory Committee on Accessibility be adopted.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>5. Review of Terms of Reference</b></p>                           | <p>Warren Rupnarain circulated a copy of the proposed revisions to the ACA Terms of Reference. This document will be emailed to the Committee for it to review prior to the next meeting. Further discussion on this matter was deferred to the next meeting.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Email revised Terms of Reference to the Committee – Warren Rupnarain</p>                                                                                                                       |
| <p><b>6. STOP-GAP RAMPS</b></p>                                         | <p>Luke Anderson from Stop-Gap Ramps was in attendance to speak to the Committee regarding its ramps.</p> <p>To date these ramps have been provided to stores and restaurants in participating neighbourhoods free of charge. This was achieved through local community initiatives where both the labour and materials to build the ramps were donated. The ramps are to be used at the business's own risk and are typically placed at the store front only when required. These ramps have been claimed to have transformed the accessibility of certain neighbourhoods in the Greater Toronto Area.</p> <p>This type of project is typically taken on by people within a community with a desire to improve the accessibility of their community. The Committee discussed the possibility of initiating a community project to provide Stop-Gap Ramps to businesses on Main Street Unionville and on Main Street Markham free of charge. The project could</p> | <p>Look into initiating a community project to provide Stop-Gap-Ramps to businesses on Main Street Unionville or on Main Street Markham free of Charge – Warren Rupnarain &amp; Graham Seaman</p> |

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| Agenda Item                 | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Action Item                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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|                             | <p>possibly be done in partnership with a local high school with a wood shop or with the Mayor's Youth Task Force.</p> <p>Warren Rupnarain and Graham Seaman will investigate the possibility of initiating this project in Markham. In order to proceed with this type of a project, staff will need to investigate possible liability issues with the City of Markham being associated with providing the ramps free of charge. It was noted that all business that receive a free ramp are required to sign a waiver, which removes any risk from Stop Gap-Ramps and any other participating organization .</p> | <p>Look into any possible risk associated with the City of Markham initiating a project to provide Stop-Gap-Ramps free charge to local businesses - Warren Rupnarain &amp; Graham Seaman</p> |
| 7. Other Business           | <p>The following correspondence was provided to the Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Information on the Movement and Exercise for Neurological Disorders (M.E.N.D) Fitness Program</li> <li>2) A document on key performance indicators for ADA.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 8. Date of the Next Meeting | December 19, 2012, 3:30 p.m., Canada Room                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 9. Adjournment              | The Advisory Committee on Accessibility adjourned at 5:35 p.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**Advisory Committee on Accessibility Action Items**

| No. | Action Item                                                                                                                                                                                      | Responsibility of Staff/Committee Member | Completion Date | Status                    |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
|     | <b>Barriers Subcommittee</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |                 |                           |
| 1.  | Provide an update on the new development on Highway 48, south of Major Mackenzie Drive, as the Developer has agreed to implement the Committee's suggestion regarding its accessibility concerns | Warren Rupnarain                         | December 2012   | Underway                  |
|     | <b>Recreation Sub-Committee</b>                                                                                                                                                                  |                                          |                 |                           |
| 2.  | Provide continuous updates from the Recreation Sub-Committee                                                                                                                                     | Joan Jenkyn and Jacqueline Bell          | Continuous      | Underway                  |
|     | <b>Lack of accessible parking on Main Streets in Unionville and Markham.</b>                                                                                                                     |                                          |                 |                           |
| 3.  | Present the benefits of having accessible businesses to the UBIA and MVBIA                                                                                                                       | Sidney Polak                             | March 2013      |                           |
|     | <b>Heritage/Accessibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                    |                                          |                 |                           |
| 4.  | Committee to decide its next steps with respect to the retrofitting of heritage properties                                                                                                       | All Committee Members                    | December 2012   |                           |
|     | <b>Other</b>                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |                 |                           |
| 5.  | Investigate the model banks are using to locate their accessible parking spots                                                                                                                   | Warren Rupnarain                         | December 2012   | Underway                  |
| 6.  | Invite a representative from Markville mall to discuss parking issues at Markville Mall                                                                                                          | Warren Rupnarain                         | December 2012   | Deferred to December 2012 |
| 7.  | Write a letter to the (3) medical clinic owners with no or poorly placed accessible parking with a disclaimer                                                                                    | Warren Rupnarain                         | December 2012   | Underway                  |
| 8.  | Ask the Kiwanis Club for suggestions on criteria for allocating funds to residents/organizations in need of funds for accessibility purposes                                                     | Warren Rupnarain and Margit Swift        | December 2012   | Underway                  |
| 9.  | Email revised Terms of Reference to Members                                                                                                                                                      | Warren Rupnarain                         | December 2012   | Underway                  |
| 10. | Meet with Communications to discuss way to improve the communication of accessibility related matters                                                                                            | Warren Rupnarain and Graham Seaman       | December 2012   |                           |
| 11. | Present findings from Meeting on Main Street Markham Designs at next meeting                                                                                                                     | Warren Rupnarain and Jacqueline Bell     | December 2012   |                           |
| 12. | Contact Councillor Moretti or Councillor Campbell about the designs for Main Street Markham                                                                                                      | All Committee Members                    | December 2012   |                           |
| 13. | Speak with the Markham Centre Advisory Group staff liaison about the Advisory Committee on Accessibility representation on the committee                                                         | Warren Rupnarain and Graham Seaman       | December 2012   |                           |

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| <b>No.</b> | <b>Action Item</b>                                                                                                                                  | <b>Responsibility of Staff/Committee Member</b> | <b>Completion Date</b> | <b>Status</b> |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 14.        | Look into initiating a community project to provide Stop-Gap-Ramps to businesses on Main Street Unionville or on Main Street Markham free of Charge | Warren Rupnarain & Graham Seaman                | December 2012          |               |
| 15.        | Look into any possible risk associated with the City of Markham initiating a project to provide Stop-Gap-Ramps free charge to local businesses      | Warren Rupnarain & Graham Seaman                | December 2012          |               |
| 16.        | Investigate what the penalty is for being in contravention with AODA.                                                                               | Christopher Alexander                           | December 2012          |               |
| 17.        | Have Biju attend the December or January ACA meeting to discuss the site plan process                                                               | Warren Rupnarain                                | January 2013           |               |
| 18.        | Provide status update on having accessible taxi cabs in Markham                                                                                     | Christopher Alexander                           | Spring 2013            |               |