

**Town of Markham  
Advisory Committee on Accessibility**

**Wednesday, April 16, 2012, 3:30 p.m.  
Ontario Room**

**Minutes**

**Committee Members Present:**

Councillor Don Hamilton  
Councillor Alan Ho  
Jaqueline Bell (Guest)  
Kristen Hayes  
Robert Hunn, Vice-Chair  
Joan Jenkyn  
Cindy Jones Shrek  
Brian Lynch  
Sidney Polak, Chair  
Margit Swift

**Staff Present:**

Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility Coordinator  
Don Taylor, Manager, Executive Operations  
Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

**Regrets:**

Arlene Juanillo  
Councillor Valerie Burke

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility convened at 3:37 p.m. with Sidney Polak presiding as Chair.

**1. MOBILITY PLUS ‘FAMILY OF SERVICES’ DELIVERY MODEL**

The Committee discussed the York Region document regarding the Mobility Plus ‘Family of Services’ Delivery Model that was circulated to Members by email. The Committee agreed that a representative from York Region should be invited to come to a future meeting to provide a presentation on this matter. The Committee can provide its feedback regarding the proposed changes to Mobility Plus services at this time.

**2. GREEN PRINT PRESENTATION**

Ms. Katie Burns, Sustainability Coordinator, provided a presentation on the Green Print.

There was a discussion on food poverty in Markham. It was noted that a food charter is being established for Markham and that food poverty is being researched as part of this initiative.

There was a discussion on Markham’s strategy with respect to protecting farmlands. It was advised that Markham Council approved its growth management strategy in 2010 and that a residential intensification target of 60 % within the built boundary was approved. It was noted

that Markham is no longer an agricultural based economy and that intensifying Markham could possibly save farmland elsewhere in Ontario.

There was a brief discussion on what is local? It was noted that procurement for Markham Civic Centre defines Ontario as local.

The Committee recommended that the following items be added to the Green Print recommendations:

- That the use of scooters and accessible transit be referred to when discussing accessible roadways (note: this should also be reflected in the PowerPoint presentation );
- That covered walkways be considered as part of creating accessible roadways;
- That helping local businesses become more accessible be added under economic vibrancy.

There was a discussion on how staff are engaging Markham's diverse community regarding the Green Print. It was noted that the document has been translated into Chinese, designated staff can answer questions in other languages and that Markham's new website has translation capabilities.

Katie Burns will work with the Accessibility Coordinator, the Chair and Vice-Chair to obtain further feedback on the Green Print recommendations.

It was questioned how the Town defines net zero energy. Staff advised that net zero energy is using the same amount of energy you are producing.

It was questioned if the Green Print has set goals for tree planting. Staff confirmed that the plan does reference tree planting. It was not confirmed if the plan included the type of trees that will be planted.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was requested that it be added to the March 21, 2012 minutes that the document "Refuelling for Drivers with Disabilities" was circulated to members.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Second by Councillor Alan Ho

That the March 21, 2012 Advisory Committee on Accessibility minutes be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

#### **4. NATIONAL AWARENESS WEEK DISCUSSION**

This item was discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

#### **5. TIM HORTONS DISCUSSION**

There was a discussion on the accessible parking at Tim Hortons and how the site plan review process can be improved. In part, the site plan review process will be improved by the Accessibility Coordinator and the Barriers Sub-Committee reviewing the site plans. The Committee questioned if the banks model for locating and designing accessible parking spots could be provided to developers as a flagship model for accessible parking, as part of the site plan review process.

The Accessibility Coordinator was requested to investigate the model banks are using to locate and design their accessible parking spots. It was noted that both the grading and width of the parking spot must be considered when designing an accessible parking spot. The Committee strived to think of ideas that would help ensure that accessible parking spots are being designed optimally in Markham on a going forward basis.

#### **6. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA**

The Accessibility Coordinator reported that the Markham Village Business Improvement Area has agreed to participate in a workshop on the benefits of improving the accessibility of businesses on Main Street Markham. The Unionville Business Improvement Area stated that it may participate in the workshop in the summer months.

#### **7. POTENTIAL ACCESSIBLE PARKING INITIATIVE AT MARKVILLE MALL**

Mr. Warren Rupnarain confirmed that in accordance with Markham's Parking Control By-law, Markville Mall has the authority to issue parking tickets to mall patrons parked illegally in accessible parking spots. Mr. Rupnarain was requested to invite a representative from Markville mall to discuss this matter and to encourage the mall to be more proactive with respect to issuing parking infractions.

#### **8. DISCUSSION ON MEDICAL CLINICS**

There was a discussion on how the Committee should be encouraging medical clinics to have well located and designed accessible parking spots. It was noted that retrofitting of medical clinics may be required by legislation in the future.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton  
Second by Joan Jenkyn

That a letter be sent to the medical clinic owners of (1) 8 Cox Boulevard (2) 9249 Kennedy Road and (3) 2-9255 Woodbine Avenue, addressing the Committee's concerns with respect to the accessible parking at these facilities.

CARRIED.

**Note: The letter shall include a disclaimer that "the ideas reflected are the personal views of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and are not endorsed by the Town of Markham".**

## **9. NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS**

There was a discussion on National Access Awareness Week. It was noted that Markham will be holding its National Access Awareness Week event on June 28, 2012 (tentative) and that York Region will hold its event on June 6, 2012. The Markham event will be held from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the Great Hall and there will be a barbeque outside. A weekday was chosen so that Markham staff can attend the event.

This year's event is an educational fair and the theme will be "Enabling you Independence". There will be a number of booths providing information on accessible services in Markham. The event will be promoted on the Town page, Markham's website, electronic message boards and possibly through the local media. The Mayor's attendance at the event is to be confirmed.

Committee Members will be asked to man the booth and to assist with the barbeque.

It was questioned if there is a keynote speaker. It was confirmed that there is no keynote speaker this year, but that this could be considered for next year's event.

## **10. RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IN MARKHAM**

Moved by Margit Swift  
Seconded Kristen Hayes

That the Recreation Advisory Committee for Persons with Disability be officially acknowledged as a Sub-Committee of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility; and,

That Joan Jenkyn be appointed to the Recreation Advisory for Persons with Disability Sub-Committee.

CARRIED.

## **11. ACCESSIBLE GAS STATION UPDATE**

Mr. Rupnarain reported that he surveyed Esso, Petro Canada and Shell gas stations in Markham and surrounding areas to inquire if they were accessible. The following gas stations were reported to be accessible:

- 1) Shell (Woodbine and Highway 7) – one pump is full service
- 2) Petro Canada (Woodbine and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue) – full service
- 3) Petro Canada (10<sup>th</sup> Line and Main Street) – full service
- 4) Petro Canada (Yonge and Centre) – full service

It was noted that none of the Esso gas stations in Markham are currently full service and that some of the Esso stations surveyed indicated that their staff are currently being trained to provide accessible customer service. The Husky gas stations in Markham were excluded from this survey.

The (4) accessible gas stations will be placed on Markham's website.

## **12. NEW BUSINESS**

### Guest Speakers at Meetings

It was agreed that speakers of interest will be invited to future meetings. Community Living, the March of Dimes and the Multiple Sclerosis Society were some of the speakers the Committee will invite to speak at upcoming meetings.

### Agenda Items

On a going forward basis the Advisory Committee on Accessibility sub-committees will be placed on the agenda as standard agenda items. This is to ensure regular sub-committee updates are provided.

### Markham Mobility Foundation

The Accessibility Coordinator reported that a partnership with the Markham Mobility Foundation was being explored. More details will be provided at the next meeting.

## **13. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility will be held on May 16, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. in the Canada Room.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility adjourned at 5:25p.m.

### **Advisory Committee on Accessibility Action Items**

**1. Promotions and Business Initiatives Subcommittee**

- a) Board of Trade Awards: invite winner to AAC meeting to celebrate the achievement.

**2. Barriers Subcommittee**

- a) The developer of the new development on Highway 48, south of Major Mackenzie Drive, has agreed to implement the Committee's suggestion regarding its accessibility concerns - Warren Rupnarain will provide update in 2012

- b) Biju Karumanchery is to add Warren Rupnarain to the distribution list for site plan reviews. The email should include the completed site plan checklist – February 2012

**3. Lack of accessible parking on Main Streets in Unionville and Markham.**

Markham BIA has attended to discuss parking issues. AAC members were encouraged to attend a future BIA meeting and submit an article for their newsletter. (Sidney to attend)  
- Upcoming Markham Seminar

Unionville BIA attended in September, 2010 and encouraged AAC to work on parking and washroom issues with the Town – Upcoming Unionville Seminar

**4. Main Street Environmental Assessment**

Warren and Markham BIA to coordinate efforts to ensure accessibility issues are not missed.

Dale MacKenzie will present digitally enhanced drawing at the next stage in design process – March 2012

Town engineering staff will encourage existing business owners to explore accessibility opportunities – Dale Mackenzie, throughout 2012

Committee plans to make presentation to the BIA in 2012.

**5. Heritage/Accessibility**

- Staff to provide info on coordination of accessibility (Warren) - ongoing
- Update on the BIA mandate to be provided following Council/BIA workshop
- email the committee the meeting minutes from the meeting when the Manager of Heritage Planning presented to the Committee on accessibility retrofitting of heritage properties – Laura Gold– Complete by March 21, 2012

**6. National Access Week Event**

- Start the Planning and Execution of a larger scale event for the 2012 National Access Week in the fall of 2011 – All Committee Members.
  - Invite Wayne Chang from Primerica Financial to have a booth at 2012 National Access week – Warren Rupnarain
  - Email or phone ideas for the National Awareness Week event to Warren – All Committee Members
7. Provide update on accessibility concerns at the Hilton Hotel – Warren Rupnarain
  8. Obtain clarification regarding whether the Recreation Advisory Committee would like to be part of the Committee or a Sub-Committee of the Committee – Warren Rupnarain
  9. Investigate standards for super mailboxes in Markham – Waste Management Staff
  10. Investigate having door-to-door mail service for persons with a disability in Markham – Warren Rupnarain
  11. Decide what the Committee next steps are with respect to accessibility retrofitting of heritage properties – All Committee Members
  12. Discuss the pros and cons of Markham having a disabled parking reserve - Chair and Council Liaison's
  13. Provide the Tim Horton's located at Major Mackenzie and Kennedy with clarification regarding where the accessible parking spot shall be located – Warren Rupnarain
  14. Invite a representative from York Region to come speak to the Committee regarding the changes to the Mobility Plus 'Family of Services' Delivery Model – Warren Rupnarain
  15. Work with the Accessibility Coordinator, the Chair and Vice-Chair to obtain further feedback on the Green Print recommendations – Katie Burns
  16. Investigate the model banks are using to locate their accessible parking spots - Warren Rupnarain
  17. Invite a representative from Markville mall to discuss this matter and to encourage the mall to be more proactive with respect to issuing parking infractions – Warren Rupnarain

18. Write letter to (3) medical clinic owners with disclaimer – Warren Rupnarain
19. Arrange for the accessible gas stations in Markham and in surrounding areas discussed at the March 21 meeting be placed on the Markham website – Warren Rupnarain
20. Place sub-committees as a standard item on the agenda on a going forward basis – Laura Gold
21. Provide more details on the possibility of having a partnership with Markham Mobility at the May meeting – Warren Rupnarain