

**Town of Markham  
Advisory Committee on Accessibility  
Wednesday, February 15, 2012  
Ontario Room**

**Minutes**

**Committee Members Present:**

Councillor Valerie Burke  
Councillor Don Hamilton  
Councillor Alan Ho  
Jaqueline Bell  
Sidney Polak, Chair  
Kristen Hayes  
Joan Jenkyn  
Arlene Juanillo  
Brian Lynch  
Cindy Jones Shrek

**Staff Present:**

Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility Coordinator  
Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

**Regrets:**

Robert Hunn  
Margit Swift  
Don Taylor, Manager, Executive Operations

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility convened at 3:42 p.m. with Sidney Polak presiding as Chair.

**1. SITE PLAN REVIEW PROCESS**

Mr. Biju Karumanchery, Senior Development Manager was in attendance to speak about the site plan review process. It was advised that staff use a site plan checklist to review site plans and that the list addresses accessibility concerns. The site plans approved prior to the creation of this checklist may not meet the Town's current standards with respect to the placement of accessible parking spots. Upgrades to the site plan checklist had been identified at previous meetings. These changes were accepted and made by staff. The change includes reflecting the Committees comments. It was noted the location of the accessible parking spots can change after the site plan has been approved by Staff.

The Committee expressed its concern regarding the location of accessible parking spots at some developments, noting that accessible parking spots should be located close to the building entrance and to a curve cut. The Committee requested that Warren Rupnarain be included on the distribution list for all site plans from this point forward. The email should include the completed site plan checklist.

The Committee discussed its accessibility concerns regarding the following businesses:

- King Edward Pub (located at Warden and Highway 7) – the pub is not accessible for people with walkers or wheelchairs;

- Hwy. 48n Commercial Development – This site plan was previously reviewed by committee and changes were proposed. The recommended changes were brought forward to the developer for their consideration. The developer decided to leave the disabled spots at the rear of buildings near the loading docks. The Committee expressed its disappointed with this outcome;
- Markham Main Street GO Station – the automatic door opener is not working;
- Boston Pizza (Woodbine & Major Mackenzie) – the building is not accessible;
- Tim Hortons (Kennedy & Major Mackenzie) – the accessible parking spots are poorly located;
- Health Clinic (8 Cox Boulevard) - there is currently no accessible parking spots at this facility .

It was agreed that the following persons will take a field trip to the Tim Hortons located at Major Mackenzie and Kennedy – Councillor Don Hamilton, Councillor Alan Ho, Councillor Valerie Burke, Warren Rupnarain and Biju Karumanchery.

There was a brief discussion on providing disabled persons with a parking permit that permits them to: (1) park in no parking zones and (2) park for free after 6:00 p.m. in metre spots.

## **2. ENABLING YOUR INDEPENDENCE**

Mr. Wayne Chang, Primerica Financial, provided a presentation regarding obtaining financial independence and the Registered Disability Savings Plan.

Mr. Chang confirmed that persons with a disability working full time qualify for the Disability Tax credit. The Committee suggested that Mr. Chang have a booth with financial information for persons with a disability at the National Access Week event.

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A minor correction was made on page 5, paragraph 3 of the minutes.

Moved by Jaqueline Bell

Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

That the Minutes of the January 18, 2012 Advisory Committee on Accessibility be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

## **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **a. National Awareness Week Discussion**

Mr. Rupnarain reported that the National Awareness Week will occur either at the end of May or in early June. The Sub-Committee will meet next week to start the planning of the event. Members were asked to submit their ideas to Warren Rupnarain by phone or email.

Some ideas for the event included:

- Promoting the Board of Trade Accessibility Award
- Recognizing champions of accessibility in Markham

**b. Next Steps with Respect to Retrofitting of Heritage Properties**

The Committee Clerk was requested to email the Committee the meeting minutes from the meeting that the Manager of Heritage Planning presented on retrofitting of heritage properties.

**c. Romulo S. Romero Workshops**

The Committee briefly discussed the possibility of having Romulo speak at a future meeting and possible speaking topics. The Committee decided to pass on this opportunity.

**d. Recreation Advisory Committee**

The Committee Clerk was requested to obtain clarification regarding whether the Recreation Advisory Committee would like to be a sub-committee of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility or be part of the Committee. This item was deferred to the next meeting until clarification is obtained. Ms. Joan Jenkyn advised that she would like to sit on this sub-committee.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business reported.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility adjourned 5:28 p.m.

**Attachment: Outstanding Items List (updated September, 2011)**

**1. Promotions and Business Initiatives Subcommittee**

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

**2. Promotions Subcommittee**

**3. 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

**4. 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

**5. 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.

**7. 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

## **8. 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
9. Provide update on accessibility concerns at the Hilton Hotel – Warren Rupnarain
  10. 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
  12. Investigate standards for super mailboxes in Markham – Waste Management Staff
  13. Investigate having door-to-door mail service for persons with a disability in Markham – Warren Rupnarain
  15. Provide a more comprehensive Accessible Gas Station update at the March meeting – Warren Rupnarain
  16. Discuss the Committee's concern regarding the site plan process with Staff – Warren Rupnarain
  17. Decide what the Committee next steps are with respect to accessibility retrofitting of heritage properties – All Committee Members
  18. Email the Committee the Board of Trade nomination form when it becomes available – Warren Rupnarain
  19. Schedule a date to present the benefits of making businesses accessible with the UBIA and MVBIA – Warren Rupnarain
  20. Go on a field trip to the Tim Horton's located at Major Mackenzie and Kennedy – Councillor Don Hamilton, Councillor Alan Ho, Councillor Valerie Burke, Warren Rupnarain and Biju Karumanchery.

