

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at Regional Headquarters, Council Chambers, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:00 PM. In accordance with Provincial legislation, electronic participation was permitted at this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: C. Boose, Chair
D. Campbell, Whitby, Vice-Chair
A. Beach, Oshawa
H. Hall, Participation House
D. Hume-McKenna, DMHS
Councillor R. Mulcahy
R. Purnwasie, Ajax
M. Roche, Oshawa
L. Schisler, Whitby
S. Sones, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Staff

Present: S. Austin, Director of Corporate Policy and Strategic Initiatives
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Robins, Director, Housing Services, Social Services
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by R. Purnwasie, Seconded by D. Campbell,
That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting
held on June 22, 2021, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Alan Robins, Director, Housing Services, re: Micro-Homes Project

Alan Robins, Director, Housing Services, provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to the Oshawa Micro-Housing Pilot.

Highlights of the Presentation included:

- Oshawa Micro-Housing Pilot
- Alignment with Durham Housing Plan
- Additional Homelessness Resources
- Transitional Housing
- Intake Process
- Immediate Area Context
- Site Selection
- Preliminary Site Layout
- Preliminary Unit Concept
- Site/Unit Layout

A. Robins stated that in July 2020, Regional Council approved the expedited development of affordable and supportive housing to support those most vulnerable in the community. This includes the development of an innovative project to provide 10 micro-homes in the City of Oshawa. He advised that the Oshawa micro-home pilot project is in alignment with the Durham Housing Plan.

A. Robins advised that transitional housing refers to a supportive but temporary type of accommodation that is meant to bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing by offering structure, support, life skills and in some cases, education and training. He advised that the micro-homes project is intended to be time limited transitional housing and residents will have to enter into a participation agreement which means the time of occupancy will be tied to participation in the program. He provided an overview of the selected neighborhood for the micro-homes project. He advised that the 10 micro-homes will be built in clusters of five and provided an overview of the site/unit layout.

A. Robins responded to questions with regards to the intended audience for the micro-homes; how the micro-homes will support the multitude of disability types; the various support services provided and whether it includes access to employment; how someone considered homeless would get connected to access one of the micro-homes.

B) Ryan McCaul, Founder of Inclusive Instruments, re: Overview of Inclusive Instruments

Ryan McCaul, Founder of Inclusive Instruments, provided a presentation with regards to the Inclusive Instruments organization.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Inclusive Instruments
- Who are we?
- Our Story
- What I'll be Sharing Today
- #1. Trent's Adaptive Guitar
- The Guitar in Action!
- Other Versions of the Guitar that we have made
- Inclusive Music Sessions
- 'Happy Birthday' by Trent
- #2 Regena's Adaptive Clarinet
- The Clarinet in Action!
- Inclusive Music Sessions
- 'How Great Thou Art' by Regena, Anthony and Ryan
- #3 Justin's Adaptive Drums and Mic
- Justin playing his drums live!
- 'Only Human' by Justin, Ryan, Orko and Huimei
- We're looking for Participants!
- We're looking for Partnerships!
- How do I get involved?

R. McCaul stated that Inclusive Instruments is an organization that creates adaptive musical instruments and offers inclusive music making sessions for anyone living with a disability. They are located in Durham Region and their mission is to build an inclusive community through music.

R. McCaul shared the stories of three people they made instruments for. The first instrument made was an Adaptive Guitar that works by pressing a button to change the chords, and then strumming to play. The second instrument made was an Adaptive Clarinet that has a breath sensor built into it to sense when one is breathing and not breathing into it to. The third instrument made was a set of Adaptive Drums that has drum pads that slide under your elbow and wrists.

R. McCaul advised that they are offering inclusive music sessions this Fall. He stated that they offer, sell and lease custom instruments and have many ways for people to engage at different price points.

R. McCaul responded to questions with regards to how someone would connect to the organization as well as their cost structure.

The Committee recessed at 2:10 PM and reconvened at 2:15 PM.

Following the recess, the Committee Clerk conducted a roll call and all members of the Committee were present.

C) Councillor Mulcahy re: Autonomous Vehicle Pilot

Councillor Mulcahy advised that the Autonomous Vehicle Electric Shuttle Project is the first of its kind in North America. It is a self-driving electric shuttle that integrates smart infrastructure along the route to help create safer roads for pedestrians, transit customers and other drivers. She advised that the six-kilometre shuttle route starts at the Whitby GO Station and makes a loop through the Port Whitby area in south Whitby. It travels at 20 km per hour and has a safety attendant on board that can manually override the vehicle.

Councillor Mulcahy also advised that it will be integrated into the existing Durham Region Transit schedule as Route 300 and will operate on weekdays from 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM in off-peak times and on weekends between 7 AM and 7 PM. She further advised that she has reached out to SmartCone Technologies to arrange a ride for committee members.

5. Discussion Items

There were no items of discussion.

6. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

7. Information Items

A) Education Sub-Committee Update

S. Austin requested that the committee provide suggestions on the topics related to accessibility which can be included in the Region's social media channels to highlight some things going on in the community. She stated that some examples would be "did you know" pieces; service animal education; and inclusive customer service.

Discussion ensued with regards to the possibility of promoting the committee meetings to highlight the different presentations and information provided at the meetings, as well as the use of social media to share information, website links etc.

B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)

M. Roche advised that Andrea Labriola, Eligibility Coordinator for Specialized Services, provided an overview at the TAC meeting held on September 21, 2021, with regards to how people are selected or given access to specialized transit and what the procedure is. He also advised that his question regarding Specialized Services and clients who had to reapply to qualify to maintain their services, was not addressed.

H. Hall also advised that discussions were had with regards to service agreements for day service programs and the appeal process. She stated that she did not ask about the restructuring that was done in 2015 and how that affected some of DRT's services as well as how many people no longer have the eligibility to use the service due to the restructuring. S. Austin agreed to follow up with Durham Region Transit staff with regards to these questions.

Discussion ensued with regards to the number of people that are no longer able to use the specialized service, whether they have gone through the appeal process, and whether the appeal process poses an unnecessary systemic barrier. S. Austin advised that it may be beneficial to have a representative from Specialized Services attend a committee meeting to answer some of the committee's questions.

C) Accessibility Coordinator Update

S. Austin provided the following update:

- Accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Stations have been installed at the west entrance of the accessible parking area at Regional Headquarters. She also advised that the electric vehicle charging station policy has been updated to include specific language on the use of this space.
- The Joint Accessibility Advisory Forum is scheduled for November 23, 2021 from 5 to 6:30 PM and will be held virtually. The Honourable David C. Onley has been scheduled to speak at the Forum. A representative from the Robert McLaughlin Art Gallery will also provide a presentation with regards to a current exhibit that highlights accessibility.
- Members were reminded that the survey for the 2022-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is open for input and feedback until October 3, 2021.
- The return to the office for Regional staff has been pushed back from October 2021 to January 2022.

8. Reports for Information

There were no reports to consider.

9. Other Business

A) Accommodations and Exemptions with regards to Access to Public Spaces

With regards to vaccinations, C. Bose inquired about how people with disabilities are being accommodated in Durham Region regarding their medical exemptions or other exemptions as it relates to access into public spaces. S. Austin agreed to provide more information on this at the next committee meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 1 PM.

11. Adjournment

Moved by D. Campbell, Seconded by H. Hall,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM

C. Boose, Chair
Accessibility Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to
Council