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## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, January 25, 2022**

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at Regional Headquarters, Council Chambers, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:05 PM. Electronic participation was permitted at this meeting.

#### **1. Roll Call**

Present: D. Campbell, Whitby, Chair  
A. Beach, Oshawa  
H. Hall, Participation House  
D. Hume-McKenna, DMHS  
Councillor R. Mulcahy  
R. Purnwasie, Ajax, Vice-Chair  
S. Sones, Whitby attended for part of the meeting  
**\*all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: M. Roche, Oshawa

Staff

Present: J. Christianson, Program Coordinator  
A. Hector-Alexander, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer  
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

#### **2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

K. Smith called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by R. Purnwasie, Seconded by S. Sones,  
That D. Campbell be nominated for the position of Chair of the  
Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by D. Campbell, Seconded by S. Sones,  
That nominations be closed.

**CARRIED**

K. Smith asked if D. Campbell wished to stand. D. Campbell indicated she would stand.

D. Campbell was acclaimed as the Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

K. Smith called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by D. Campbell, Seconded by H. Hall,  
That R. Purnwasie be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by D. Campbell, Seconded by A. Beach,  
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

K. Smith asked if R. Purnwasie wished to stand. R. Purnwasie indicated she would stand.

R. Purnwasie was acclaimed as the Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

D. Campbell, Chair, assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **Introduction of New Members**

Lorrie Houston, Community Care Durham has been appointed to the Accessibility Advisory Committee (subject to Council approval). J. Traer invited members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee to introduce themselves. The members introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of their background.

### **4. Adoption of Minutes**

S. Sones requested that the minutes of the November 23, 2021 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be amended under Item 1 Roll Call to state that she was present at the meeting.

Moved by R. Purnwasie, Seconded by A. Beach,  
That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on November 23, 2021, as amended, be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved by H. Hall, Seconded by R. Purnwasie,  
That the minutes of the Joint Forum of the Accessibility Advisory Committees held on November 23, 2021, be adopted.

CARRIED

**5. Presentations**

A) Judy Christianson, Program Coordinator, re: Accessibility Widget Pilot

Judy Christianson, Program Coordinator, provided a presentation with regards to the Accessibility Widget Pilot.

J. Christianson advised that the accessibility widget is an additional tool on the Durham Region website that allows people to access information specific to their individual needs. She noted that the widget is an optional item for the public to use to enhance the user experience.

J. Christianson provided a live tutorial of how the widget works and discussed the options available which includes colour contrast, highlight links, bigger text, text spacing, pause animations, dyslexia friendly, cursor options, tooltips, line height, and text align. She also provided a tutorial of additional options including the move/hide option, the accessibility statement, how to report a problem, and the UserWay.org third party logo.

J. Christianson responded to questions regarding whether the widget is available to lower tier municipalities in Durham Region; how to reactivate the accessibility widget; if any feedback was received from the public; and how the accessibility widget appears on cell phones.

B) Mitch McFarlane, Museum Team Leader, Ontario Regiment Museum, re: Accessible Tank Ride Project

This presentation was heard later in the meeting. See Item 5. B) on page 5 of these minutes.

C) Mohammad Saifan, Keegan Dsouza, Henik Patel and Ugesh Chitram, Ontario Tech University Students, re: Accessible Tank Ride Project

This presentation was heard later in the meeting. See Item 5. C) on pages 5 and 6 of these minutes.

**6. Discussion Items**

A) 2022 Accessibility Advisory Committee Workplan – for Review and Approval

A copy of the 2022 Accessibility Advisory Committee Workplan was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda.

Moved by R. Purnwasie, Seconded by H. Hall,  
That the 2022 Accessibility Advisory Committee Workplan as  
provided be adopted.

CARRIED

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 with the exception of M. Roche and S. Sones.

**7. Correspondence**

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

**8. Information Items**

**A) Education Sub-Committee Update**

J. Traer advised that she is looking to have presentations for the March, May, and June meetings with a focus on cognitive and intellectual disabilities.

**B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)**

H. Hall advised she would review her notes and provide an update later in the meeting. See Item 8. B) on page 5 of these minutes.

**C) Accessibility Coordinator Update**

The following update was provided:

- Former Chair, C. Boose, has resigned from the committee.
- The tentative reopening of Durham Region Headquarters with a gradual return to the office is expected to be in April 2022, therefore the March meeting will be held virtually.
- J. Traer advised of a session being held in recognition of Bell Let's Talk Day and mental health on Monday, January 31, 2022 from 1:00 - 2:00 PM and added that committee members are welcome to join.
- J. Traer advised that Durham Region has submitted their Accessibility Compliance Report to the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, which is required to be sent in every two years, and the last one was due on December 31, 2021. She advised that input into the Report was received from all departments and that the Region expects to hear back from the Ministry on the Report within the next few months.
- J. Traer advised that she provided committee members with an email from the Metrolinx Consultation Outreach and Accessible Standards Canada and are asking committee members to provide feedback.

**8. Information Items**

**B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)**

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H. Hall advised there have been no new updates since the November 16, 2021 TAC meeting.

**9. Reports for Information**

There were no reports to consider.

**10. Other Business**

There were no items of other business.

**5. Presentations**

**B) Mitch McFarlane, Museum Team Leader, Ontario Regiment Museum, re: Accessible Tank Ride Project**

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M. McFarlane advised that he is the project leader for Project Uplift which was developed to create devices to help load people safely into military vehicles that are on display at the Ontario Regiment Museum.

M. McFarlane stated that the Ontario Regiment Museum is located in Oshawa and is the largest operational military museum in the world. He advised there are approximately 120 military vehicles from before World War II up until 2006.

M. McFarlane displayed pictures showcasing what the Ontario Regiment Museum offers such as the Aquino Tank Weekend; re-enactments; the Team involved with the Project Uplift project; vehicles selected to be part of Project Uplift; volunteers of the museum; Tank Weekend; and, the various military vehicles in the museum.

**C) Mohammad Saifan, Keegan Dsouza, Henik Patel and Ugesh Chitram, Ontario Tech University Students, re: Accessible Tank Ride Project**

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Mohammad Saifan, Keegan Dsouza, Henik Patel and Ugesh Chitram, Ontario Tech University Students, provided a presentation with regards to Project Uplift – Ontario Regiment Museum Accessibility Initiative.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Vehicles Involved
- Requirements from Potential Users
- Safety Requirements for the User
- What we Learned
- CAD Model – Lift Device
- CAD Model – LAV III

- CAD Model – M113

K. Dsouza advised that the museum requested that students from Ontario Tech University create a mechanism that could assist people into the vehicles on display at the Ontario Regiment Museum that is suitable for both M113 and LAV III military vehicles. The most important requirement was the safety of the user and the device had to take into consideration criteria such as the material, strength, and structures. He stated that the ramp that was developed was designed to rise gradually rather than with a steep ascent to allow ease of use for individuals using wheelchairs, crutches, or walkers.

U. Chitram advised that a volunteer is required to be present with the individual to ensure their safety during the lift and while entering and exiting the military vehicle. He also advised that once the individual is in the vehicle, they are required to be securely fastened in with a five-point harness as the terrain the military vehicles travel on is rough and uneven.

M. Saifan stated that the group learned a lot with respect to accessibility rules and regulations; multiple engineering tools and software; and, recognizing the needs of people with disabilities and their inability to enjoy rides.

H. Patel reviewed the specifications of the CAD Model Lift Device and how the lift device looks inside the LAV III and M113 military vehicles. He also reviewed the process for loading and unloading the CAD Model onto the military vehicles.

D. Campbell and J. Traer thanked the group for their presentation.

M. McFarlane added that the museum has been in contact with the Abilities Centre to request assistance and guidance on how to make the museum space more accessible within, and that the goal of the museum is to release the patent for the CAD Model to the world so that everyone can have access to it.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 1:00 PM.

**11. Adjournment**

Moved by H. Hall, Seconded by R. Purnwasie,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 PM

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D. Campbell, Chair  
Accessibility Advisory Committee

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K. Smith, Committee Clerk