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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:06 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

R. Purnwasie, Vice-Chair, read the following land acknowledgement:

We are currently located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among the Mississaugas Peoples and is the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation. We honour, recognize and respect this nation and Indigenous Peoples as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet today.

R. Purnwasie welcomed Councillor McDougall to the Accessibility Advisory Committee as the new Regional Council representative.

1. Roll Call

Present: D. Campbell, Whitby, Vice-Chair, left the meeting at 2:27 PM
A. Beach, Oshawa
H. Hall, TeachAbility
W. Henshall, Whitby, attended the meeting at 2:05 PM
Councillor I. McDougall
R. Purnwasie, Ajax, Chair
S. Sones, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: L. Houston, Community Care Durham
D. Hume-McKenna, DMHS

Staff

Present: N. Dash, Student, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
A. Hector-Alexander, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
K. Wall, Accessibility Coordinator, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
***all staff except R. Inacio participated electronically**

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

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

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

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

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

CARRIED

K. Smith asked if D. Campbell wished to stand. D. Campbell indicated she did not wish to stand.

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

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

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

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

Moved by R. Purnwasie, Seconded by D. Campbell,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

K. Smith asked if H. Hall wished to stand. H. Hall indicated she did not wish to stand.

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

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

R. Purnwasie, Chair, assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

K. Wall introduced Natalie Dash, Student, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Division.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by D. Campbell, Seconded by S. Sones,
That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on
Tuesday, November 22, 2022, be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved by D. Campbell, Seconded by Councillor McDougall,
That the minutes of the Joint Forum of the Accessibility Advisory
Committees meeting held on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Presentations

A) Dawn Campbell, Business Development Manager, Accessibil-IT, re: Accessibil-IT

Dawn Campbell provided a presentation with regards to Accessibil-IT.

D. Campbell stated that there is a lot of education and awareness required to help people understand why documents and websites being created need to be made accessible. She advised that Accessibil-IT has been providing services to all levels of government, education space, corporate Canada, small not-for-profits, and individual suppliers, for over 14 years.

D. Campbell stated that the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and Accessible Canada Act legislation has helped companies and organizations to develop accessible websites and accessible documents on their websites. She advised that Accessibil-IT assists companies to ensure the documents being created are accessible to anyone.

D. Campbell responded to questions with regards to how long Accessibility-IT has been in service; and whether accessible documents include an audio component.

B) Doreen Hume-McKenna, Regional Housing Coordinator, Lakeridge Health, re: Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty

The presentation was not heard as D. Hume-McKenna was not in attendance at the meeting.

C) Allison Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, re: Project SEARCH Durham

Allison Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Project SEARCH Durham.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- What is Project SEARCH?
- Canadian Project SEARCH Locations
- Partnership Opportunity
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Project SEARCH Annual Calendar
- Internship Opportunities
- Sample Daily Schedule
- Benefits to Host Business
- Project SEARCH in Action
- Student Testimonials

A. Hector-Alexander responded to questions with regards to when Project SEARCH was introduced to Durham Region; the age range for the program; funding availability for the program; capacity for individuals using the program; the possibility for an advisory committee within the program; if there is an opportunity for persons with disabilities to use the program; the potential for job opportunities in skilled trades; if there are any transitions into college available through the program; and the ratio of student to trainer throughout the program.

6. Discussion Items

A) Bill 23: More Homes, Built Faster Act: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-2023

K. Wall advised that Bill 23 was introduced by the province to facilitate increased housing supply by 1.5 million homes and introduces changes to the Planning Act, Development Charges Act, and other legislation. She also advised that there are no implications for the involvement of the committee at this time for the review of site plans under Section 41 of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

K. Wall advised that the 2023 project list will be provided to committee members when it becomes available and that there is an opportunity for committee members to join the site plan subcommittee if they are interested.

B) Honorarium Municipal Scan Update

K. Wall advised that she reviewed the municipal scan regarding the remuneration for accessibility advisory committees which was completed in August of 2021 by a member of the Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals, in collaboration with the City of Vaughan. She noted that from the scan, 6 of the 34 municipalities in Ontario that responded to the scan currently offer an honorarium for AAC members.

K. Wall advised that in September 2022, the Town of Ajax Council approved a \$65 honorarium for advisory committee members and that the City of Pickering is in the process of reviewing potential honoraria for its Heritage Advisory

Committee members. She also advised that the average remuneration for advisory committee members is \$55 per member per meeting.

Discussion ensued with regards to the frequency of meetings at the City of Pickering; if there is any consistency regarding receiving an honorarium throughout Durham Region; the frequency of receipt of honorariums; and if there are any Durham Region advisory committees that receive an honorarium.

C) New Accessibility Advisory Committee Members

K. Wall advised that the first meeting with the new Committee members will take place on March 28, 2023, and there will be an opportunity for fulsome introductions at that time.

D) Durham College Oshawa GO Station Accessibility

S. Sones expressed concerns regarding the location of the push button for the automatic door at the Oshawa GO station as it is located far to the left of the doorframe and hidden behind a sanitizer stand. K. Wall advised that Metrolinx has an Accessibility Advisory Committee and this could be brought to their attention.

Discussion ensued with regards to having representation on the Metrolinx Accessibility Advisory Committee from Durham Region.

E) Annual Accessibility Report Update for 2021 and 2022

K. Wall advised that the 2021 Annual Accessibility Report is currently being finalized and will be shared with committee members next week by email for comments and review of the final version with photos and design features ready for publication. She stated that the 2021 Annual Accessibility Report will be presented to the Finance and Administration Committee on February 14, 2023 and Regional Council on March 1, 2023.

K. Wall further advised that the call for submissions for the 2022 Annual Accessibility Report has gone out and a review of the annual report will begin in early March. She stated that it is anticipated the 2022 Annual Accessibility Report will be presented to the Finance and Administration Committee on June 13, 2023 and Regional Council on June 28, 2023. She also advised that there will be an opportunity for discussion of the report at the next Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

Discussion ensued with regards to the Annual Accessibility Reports being available in multiple formats.

7. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

8. Information Items

A) Education Sub-Committee Update

K. Wall advised that the sub-committee meeting scheduled for later today will be rescheduled and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)

H. Hall advised that the next regularly scheduled Transit Advisory Committee meeting is May 16, 2023.

C) Accessibility Coordinator Update

K. Wall provided the following update:

- She acknowledged the passing of The Honourable David Onley and provided a brief overview of his career and his advocacy for a barrier free society for people living with disabilities.
- There was a photoshoot in early January with three committee members that will be featured in photos and videos showcasing accessibility features at Regional Headquarters. There will be another photoshoot with Durham Region Transit Specialized Transit and will be featured in the accessibility reports and on the updated accessibility website.
- The second annual Virtual Accessibility Conference is being held on May 30, 2023 in collaboration with the DEI Team and Abilities Centre and the theme is The Power of Inclusion: Moving Accessibility from Awareness to Action.
- The DEI Team and disability subcommittee will be hosting a table at the Ontario ParaSport Games Opening Ceremonies on Friday, February 3, 2023 at the Abilities Centre.

9. Reports for Information

There were no reports to consider.

10. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 1:00 PM.

12. Adjournment

Moved by A. Beach, Seconded by W. Henshall,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM

Respectfully submitted,

R. Purnwasie, Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk