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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:00 PM.

Present: M. Sutherland, Oshawa, Chair
S. Sones, Whitby, Vice-Chair
M. Bell, DMHS, attended the meeting at 1:13 PM
C. Boose, Ajax
D. Campbell, Whitby
Councillor J. Drumm left the meeting at 2:29 PM
A. O'Bumsawin, Clarington
M. Roche, Oshawa

Absent: R. Atkinson, Whitby
S. Barrie, Clarington

Staff

Present: A. Gibson, Director of Corporate Policy and Strategic Initiatives
R. Halko, Supervisor, GIS, Corporate Services – Information Technology, left the meeting at 1:52 PM
J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Drumm made a declaration of interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* with respect to any items pertaining to Durham Region Transit. He indicated that his son is employed by Durham Region Transit.

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

A. Gibson called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by Councillor M. Roche, Seconded by S. Sones,
That M. Sutherland be nominated for the position of Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by M. Roche, Seconded by Councillor Drumm,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

A. Gibson asked if M. Sutherland wished to stand. M. Sutherland indicated she would stand.

M. Sutherland was acclaimed as the Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

A. Gibson called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by M. Sutherland, Seconded by M. Roche,
That S. Sones be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by A. O'Bumsawin, Seconded by M. Roche,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

A. Gibson asked if S. Sones wished to stand. S. Sones indicated she would stand.

S. Sones was acclaimed as the Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

At this point in the meeting, A. Gibson introduced C. Boose and D. Campbell, new Accessibility Advisory Committee members to the Committee and requested that everyone introduce themselves. Both C. Boose and D. Campbell provided the Committee with an overview of their backgrounds.

M. Sutherland, Chair, assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Drumm, Seconded by A. O'Bumsawin,
That the minutes of the November 28, 2017 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) R. Halko, Supervisor, GIS, Corporate Services – Information Technology, regarding the Improvement of the Public Map on the new Regional Website

M. Sutherland introduced R. Halko. She stated that R. Halko and his team are striving to be leaders in the GIS community by providing the latest capabilities in GIS technology as well as expanding the open data initiative at the Region of Durham. She further stated that public maps like the 'yourDurham' map are an important service that is maintained by his team.

R. Halko advised that staff has improved the public maps on the regional website and has been working towards improving the scalability, flexibility, and mobile-friendly and user-friendly aspects of the maps. He provided a live demonstration of the yourDurham map and its features as it is on the Durham Region website.

M. Sutherland vacated the chair from 1:32 PM to 1:41 PM. S. Sones assumed the chair in her absence.

Committee input with respect to the yourDurham map was provided with regards to font size; use of colour; keyboard shortcuts; search features and capabilities; and toggle features.

The Committee recessed at 1:52 PM and reconvened at 2:02 PM.

5. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

6. Information Items

A) Education Sub-Committee Update

J. Traer inquired whether anyone was interested in sitting on the Education Sub-Committee. D. Campbell and A. O'Bumsawin volunteered. J. Traer also requested that members forward any suggestions for future presentations to her.

B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)

There was no update on the Transit Advisory Committee.

C) Update from the Accessibility Coordinator

- J. Traer provided a recap of the 2017 National Awareness Week presentations and stated that she is open to ideas and suggestions for the 2018 National Awareness Week. D. Campbell, A. O'Bumsawin and M. Sutherland volunteered to be on the sub-committee.
- J. Traer provided an overview of the Site-Survey Sub-Committee. C. Boose, A. O'Bumsawin, M. Roche, S. Sones and M. Sutherland volunteered to be on the sub-committee.
- C. Boose and M. Sutherland volunteered to be on the Communications sub-committee.

- J. Traer advised that a number of municipalities are looking at adopting the Dynamic Symbol of Access. She inquired whether the Committee would be interested in receiving a presentation from The Forward Movement organization and the committee agreed that a presentation would be helpful in learning the advantages and/or disadvantages of adopting the symbol.
- J. Traer advised that there will be a new federal accessibility legislation that may be introduced by spring 2018. She stated that the new legislation will bring about real change for Canadians with disabilities and provided a booklet entitled, "Accessible Canada" for anyone interested in further information regarding the legislation.
- J. Traer advised that an accessibility compliance report was completed and submitted to the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario in November 2017. She stated that the compliance report confirms that the Region has met their current accessibility requirements under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*.
- J. Traer advised that the Region has an accessible web publishing policy that addresses AODA compliance, roles of staff, web content and the process for exceptions. A. Gibson advised that there may be some documents that are not accessible on the Region's website but that staff is working on making those documents accessible.
- J. Traer advised that there was an Accessibility Co-ordinator's meeting on January 18, 2018 at the Pickering Soccer Club. She advised that there were discussions regarding incorporating accessibility into voting processes. She advised that there was a demonstration of Blind Soccer and had the opportunity to try it.
- J. Traer advised that Bell Let's Talk day is January 31, 2018 and requested that M. Bell speak to the campaign. M. Bell stressed the importance of the campaign as it helps to reduce the stigmas related to mental illness.
- J. Traer advised that Lakeridge Health staff has requested that the community participate in providing feedback on their master plan to make local hospital services more accessible. She advised that she will provide the committee with a package which will be reviewed at the February meeting and then sent to Lakeridge Health.
- J. Traer advised that some local supermarkets are now offering online grocery orders. She advised that the service is free if picked up at the store.

D) 2018 AAC Meeting Schedule

A copy of the 2018 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received for information.

7. Discussion Items

A) Accessibility Advisory Committee 2018 Workplan

A copy of the 2018 Accessibility Advisory Committee Workplan was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received for information.

8. Reports

There were no Reports to consider.

9. Other Business

A) Durham Region Transit Specialized Services

A. O'Bumsawin advised of an issue with DRT's Specialized Service. He advised that he and friends booked DRT Specialized Service 7 days in advance of an event in December 2017 however, only 2 people were able to get a ride on the day of the event due to the lack of resources. He advised that customer service returned his call a month after his complaint. Discussion ensued and he was advised to register to speak as a delegation at the next Transit Advisory Committee meeting.

B) Whitby Taxi Service

A. O'Bumsawin stated that there are two taxi companies in Whitby and would like to explore the possibility of asking the Town to review their by-law to allow additional taxi services.

C) Snow Removal on Roads

A. O'Bumsawin inquired about snow removal on sidewalks and road corners. He was advised that snow removal of sidewalks falls under municipal services.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 1:00 PM.

11. Adjournment

Moved by A. O'Bumsawin, Seconded by S. Sones,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM

M. Sutherland, Chair
Accessibility Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk