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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:01 PM.

Present: M. Sutherland, Oshawa, Chair
S. Sones, Whitby, Vice-Chair
R. Atkinson, Whitby
C. Boose, Ajax
D. Campbell, Whitby
Councillor J. Drumm attended the meeting at 1:07 PM and left at 2:37 PM
A. O'Bumsawin, Clarington
M. Roche, Oshawa

Absent: S. Barrie, Clarington
M. Bell, DMHS

Staff

Present: A. Gibson, Director of Corporate Policy and Strategic Initiatives
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 later in the meeting 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. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by D. Campbell, Seconded by S. Sones,
That the minutes of the February 27, 2018 and the March 27, 2018
Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings be adopted.
CARRIED

3. Presentations

A) Line Millette, Emergency Management Coordinator, Durham Emergency Management Office (DEMO), regarding Alert Types for Emergency Response

L. Millette provided a presentation regarding the Durham Emergency Management Office (DEMO) and Alert Types for Emergency Responses.

She advised that DEMO is responsible for co-ordinating an emergency management program for Durham residents to prepare for, respond to, and recover from major emergencies.

L. Millette advised that DEMO has been a formally recognized office since 1996 and inherited the Rapid Notify mass notification from DRPS. She stated that the primary focus of the Rapid Notify mass notification was in case of a nuclear emergency for Darlington and Pickering out to 10 km; a downloaded list of landline phone numbers only; a one way message from the Region to households and businesses; and does not include unlisted numbers or numbers on the "do not call" list.

L. Millette advised that public alerting is paid for by the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) through a Memorandum of Understanding. She stated that DEMO has approached OPG to include a portion of Toronto within the Pickering nuclear zone; to increase the Rapid Notify contract limits to include all of Durham Region; and to bring local municipalities on board to allow them to issue their own emergency messages to their residents. She advised that DEMO now has sub-accounts under the existing Rapid Notify contract to allow for Toronto and the 8 area municipalities to create and push their own emergency messages, meaning full coverage for Durham Region.

L. Millette stated that today, 95% of households have cell phones which are used as the primary means of communications. DEMO is working with the area municipalities to start a self-registration initiative through the Rapid Notify system. She advised that the self-registration will require residents to create an online account and complete a form to register for and receive alerts for their local area. She also advised that out-of-towners can sign up their out-of-town phone numbers with a local address to also receive notifications for a specific area that would affect loved ones. She advised that meetings are scheduled for May 10, 2018 to discuss this initiative with stakeholders.

L. Millette also stated that as of April 6th, 4G Long Term Evolution (LTE) phones are able to receive emergency alerts. She advised that older phones will not have the technology and newer phones may have the technology but that the option to receive messages may be turned off and advised that citizens should contact their service provider to verify whether or not their phones can receive messages. As there will be a transition period for all cell phones to be compatible, the province will continue to issue red alerts along with cell broadcast messages for the next five years.

L. Millette responded to questions of the Committee with regards to access to the registration forms on municipal websites; whether the registration forms can be mailed out to individuals without internet access or computers; whether other disasters get the same attention as nuclear safety and preparedness; and how cell phone towers are affected by natural disasters.

The Committee recessed at 1:45 PM and reconvened at 1:55 PM.

At this time, Councillor Drumm addressed the Committee with regards to National Volunteer Week. He spoke of the importance of volunteers and thanked committee members for their work and dedication.

4. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

5. Information Items

A) Education Sub-Committee Update

J. Traer advised that two members from the 2019 Ontario Parasport Committee will be presenting at the May 22, 2018 meeting. She advised that there will not be any presentations at the June meeting.

B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)

At this time, 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.

M. Sutherland advised that there was a lack of quorum at the April 3, 2018 Transit Advisory Committee meeting. M. Roche advised that the details of Report #2018-DRT-08 regarding Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit were, however, reviewed at the meeting. He stated that the report provided information regarding the announcement of \$10 million of funding from the Province to advance project development work.

Discussion ensued with regards to the use of Uber in the Town of Whitby as well as the available taxi services in the Town of Whitby.

C) Update from the Accessibility Coordinator

- i) J. Traer requested that committee members review the current AAC Terms of Reference and advise what their thoughts were on possible revisions to the timing of committee meetings. The following options were provided and it was the consensus of the Committee to discuss further at the May meeting:
- Keep the same schedule and time
 - Keep the same schedule and change the time
 - Change the meeting schedule to quarterly meetings during the day or evening

Discussion ensued and following suggestions from the committee members were made:

- Have 6 meetings per year
 - Quarterly meetings may not work due to timelines on projects
 - Quarterly meetings may lose momentum and items that need approval would be delayed
 - Leave the meeting schedule as is
 - Have meetings every two months and sub-committee meetings on the months when the committee does not meet
 - There may be transit issues with regards to evening meetings
 - Increase the membership of the committee
- ii) J. Traer stated that the Dynamic Symbol of Access was adopted by the Township of Uxbridge. She advised that other municipalities may consider adopting the symbol in the future depending on provincial legislation.
- iii) J. Traer advised that as a follow up to the survey that was provided to members regarding best practices and challenges, the Accessibility Directorate has hired a consultant to facilitate focus groups to build on the feedback provided by way of the surveys. She advised that focus groups will be held by way of teleconferences.
- iv) J. Traer advised that the Accessible Employment Standards Development Committee is seeking public feedback to the recommendation report by way of a survey. The survey is available until May 5, 2018. J. Traer advised that she will provide the link to the survey and/or printed copies to committee members.
- v) J. Traer advised that she is working with DRT and several local accessibility co-coordinators with regards to setting up a meeting in June to discuss matters pertaining to accessibility and transit.
- vi) J. Traer announced that Gerri Lynn O'Connor was appointed as the Regional Chair and CEO on April 11, 2018. She advised that Regional Chair O'Connor is the fifth Regional Chair and the first female to hold the role of Regional Chair.
- vii) J. Traer advised that in celebration of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind's 100th Anniversary, there will be a 1918 themed tea party held on May 6, 2018 from 2 to 5 PM at the Ajax Lions Hall.

6. Discussion Items

A) Forward Movement re: Dynamic Symbol of Access

This item was dealt with under the Update from the Accessibility Coordinator [See Item 5. C) ii)].

7. Reports

There were no Reports to consider.

8. Other Business

A) Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charity – D. Campbell

D. Campbell stated that Jumpstart Charities has been granted a \$50 million commitment over five years to provide children with disabilities greater access to sport and play. She advised that the money will go towards building accessible playgrounds and retrofitting existing community centres, parks and arenas to remove physical barriers.

B) Youth Leads Project – D. Campbell

D. Campbell stated that the Harmony Movement is a leading provider of training programs promoting diversity, equity and inclusion. She stated that the movement has partnered with Durham Region to provide students in grades 5 to 12 with skill building workshops.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 1:00 PM.

10. Adjournment

Moved by M. Roche, Seconded by A. O'Bumsawin,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM

M. Sutherland, Chair
Accessibility Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk