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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:05 PM.

Present: M. Sutherland, Oshawa, Chair
S. Sones, Whitby, Vice-Chair left the meeting at 1:45 PM
R. Atkinson, Whitby
C. Boose, Ajax
D. Campbell, Whitby attended the meeting at 1:56 PM
A. O'Bumsawin, Clarington
M. Roche, Oshawa

Absent: S. Barrie, Clarington
M. Bell, DMHS
Councillor J. Drumm

Staff

Present: J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by R. Atkinson, Seconded by S. Sones,
That the minutes of the April 24, 2018 Accessibility Advisory
Committee meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

Moved by M. Roche, Seconded by A. O'Bumsawin,
That the minutes of the May 22, 2018 Accessibility Advisory
Committee meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

3. Presentations

A) Jessica Whitman, Quality and Development Facilitator, Paramedic Services
re: Accessibility

J. Whitman and D. Bird, Quality and Development Facilitators, Durham Region Emergency Medical Services, provided a presentation regarding paramedic services and accessibility.

J. Whitman and D. Bird stated that Durham Region Paramedics are provided with training with regards to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). They advised that when dealing with accessibility, some disabilities are not as obvious as others and communication is a huge factor in assisting with such cases. They advised that in addition to excellent communication, paramedics must be patient, understanding, flexible, adaptable, and accommodating.

J. Whitman and D. Bird responded to questions with regards to mobility devices and whether they can be transported on ambulances; service animals; appropriate identifiers for service animals; the training involved with regards to people that have anxiety and/or mental health issues; dealing with cases of extreme violence; mental health first aid training; how paramedics deal with their own mental health and what support is available to them in that regard; transportation of people down stairs; ambulance fees; up-to-date AODA training; whether they are provided with background information on various neurological conditions; and whether people with various accessibility issues are invited to answer questions to help with education.

The Committee recessed at 1:45 PM and reconvened at 1:56 PM.

4. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

5. Information Items

A) Education Sub-Committee Update

J. Traer advised that the Education sub-committee is scheduled to meet following the AAC meeting and an update will be provided at the September AAC meeting.

B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)

M. Sutherland advised that there is no update as there was no quorum at the May 15th TAC meeting.

Discussion ensued with regards to the Durham Region Transit Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on June 13, 2018. It was stated that many questions were not answered or discussed at the forum and it was suggested that the committee reach out to other accessibility advisory committees to see how they deal with transit issues; and that Durham Region Transit have better consultation with the public and better education with regards to the many barriers faced with accessibility and transportation.

C) Update from the Accessibility Coordinator

J. Traer stated that on June 20, 2018, the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science and Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, introduced the proposed Accessible Canada Act to Parliament. J. Traer advised that the legislation would enable the Government of Canada to take a proactive approach to end systemic discrimination of people with disabilities. She further advised that the Government of Canada is providing funding of approximately \$290 million over six years to further the objectives of the new legislation.

6. **Discussion Items**

A) AAC Terms of Reference

J. Traer provided the Committee with the following 5 options with regards to their meeting schedule for 2019 to 2022:

- Option 1 – 5 meetings per year (February, April, June, September and November)
- Option 2 – 6 meetings per year (January, March, May, June, September, November)
- Option 3 – Quarterly meetings (February, May, August, November)
- Option 4 – Monthly meetings in the evening
- Option 5 – Quarterly meetings in the evening

Discussion ensued with regards to the advantages and disadvantages of the options provided.

Moved by A. O'Bumsawin, Seconded by R. Atkinson,
That section 8.1 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference be amended by striking out the words, "once a month" and replacing them with the words, "six times a year, being January, March, May, June, September and November".

CARRIED

B) Email correspondence dated May 30, 2018 from Raymond Dell'Aera, Chair, TTC Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit, re: GTA Transit Accessibility Advisory Joint Meeting

J. Traer advised that the email correspondence from the Chair of the Toronto Transit Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit is regarding a proposed joint meeting with transit accessibility advisory committees in the Greater Toronto Area. J. Traer inquired whether anyone would be interested in attending. C. Boose, D. Campbell, A. O'Bumsawin, M. Roche and M. Sutherland expressed an interest in attending the meeting.

7. Reports

There were no Reports to consider.

8. Other Business

There were no items of Other Business.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Committee members were requested to advise whether they were in agreement to cancelling the August 28th meeting due to the fact that it is often difficult to obtain quorum during the summer months. It was the consensus of the Committee that the meeting scheduled for August 28, 2018 be cancelled.

J. Traer advised that the Joint Forum of the Accessibility Advisory Committees is scheduled for Monday, September 24, 2018 at 6 PM and inquired whether the Committee would be agreeable to rescheduling the September 25, 2018 meeting to September 24, 2018 from 4 PM to 5 PM. The Committee agreed to reschedule the September meeting to avoid having to attend meetings on two separate days.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Monday, September 24, 2018 in Boardroom LL-C, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 4:00 PM.

10. Adjournment

Moved by A. O'Bumsawin, Seconded by D. Campbell,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 PM

M. Sutherland, Chair
Accessibility Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk