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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at Regional Headquarters, LL-C Boardroom, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:02 PM.

Present: C. Boose, Ajax, Chair
D. Campbell, Whitby, Vice-Chair
Councillor R. Mulcahy attended the meeting at 1:05 PM and left at 2:05 PM
R. Purnwasie, Ajax
M. Roche, Oshawa
L. Schisler, Whitby
S. Sones, Whitby

Absent: R. Atkinson, Whitby
D. Hume-McKenna, DMHS

Staff

Present: S. Austin, Director of Corporate Policy and Strategic Initiatives left the meeting at 2:57 PM
J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

S. Austin called the meeting to order and J. Traer advised of the resignation of M. Sutherland.

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

S. Austin called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

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

Moved by L. Schisler, Seconded by M. Roche,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

S. Austin asked if C. Boose wished to stand. C. Boose indicated she would stand.

C. Boose was acclaimed as the Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

S. Austin called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by C. Boose, Seconded by L. Schisler,
That D. Campbell be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by R. Purnwasie, Seconded by S. Sones,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

S. Austin 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.

C. Boose, Chair, assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by D. Campbell, Seconded by M. Roche,
That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on November 26, 2019, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) George Bazios, Manager of Court Services, Corporate Services Department – Legal Services – Courts Administration Services re: Overview of Accessibility Initiatives

G. Bazios, Manager of Court Services, provided a presentation regarding an overview of accessibility initiatives undertaken in the Provincial Offences Administration Office.

G. Bazios stated that there are 5 courtrooms in the Provincial Offences Administration Office, four of which are operational. He advised that in addition to handling traffic offences, they work in conjunction with the provincial government on many levels and allow people to self-represent themselves. They are working towards simplifying things and making things user-friendly.

G. Bazios stated that some of the accessibility services available at the Courts are as follows:

- Accessible formats of documents
- Assistive listening devices
- Installation of equipment at ticket payment desk for hearing impaired
- Visual language interpretation support (American Sign Language)
- Rooms that can accommodate an individual with a disability
- Tablet located in hallway that gives more access to court services
- Scheduling meetings or proceedings at times that allows a person to deal with their disability of medical related needs
- Phone or email support in order to meet a disability related need

G. Bazios responded to questions with regards to if there are services to help assess whether there is an accommodation required and the type; and whether people can access services on-line as well as from their homes.

5. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

6. Information Items

A) Education Sub-Committee Update

J. Traer provided the following update:

- Steve Kemp, Manager, Traffic Engineering and Operations, will be attending the March meeting to provide a presentation on roundabouts and accessibility;
- Jamie Austin, Deputy General Manager, and Brad Eyre, Operations Manager, from Durham Region Transit will also be attending the March meeting to discuss specialized transit services; and
- Lori Schisler, AAC member will speak at the May meeting with regards to Community Care Durham and services offered.

B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)

M. Roche provided the following update on the Transit Advisory Committee via email on January 23, 2020:

- No new equipment purchases for Specialized Services for 2020; more integration of Specialized Services with conventional transit;
- Fare increases effective as of May 2020;

- Paper tickets will no longer be issued by 2022; options will be PRESTO or cash; and
- As of June 2020, there will be a pilot automated shuttle bus from Whitby GO to areas south of Highway 401 and the pilot will be for 12 to 18 months.

Discussion ensued with regards to whether requests can be made to be dropped off in-between stops; how the pilot automated shuttle bus will affect the availability of jobs; whether committee members will be able to take a test drive on the automated shuttle bus; and how feedback on the pilot will be solicited. J. Traer advised that members will have an opportunity to ask questions at the March meeting.

The Committee recessed at 1:55 PM and reconvened at 2:11 PM.

C) Accessibility Coordinator Update

J. Traer provided the following update:

- Staff is currently recruiting for two new AAC members, an agency and a community member.
- J. Traer played a brief video regarding the CNIB Phone It Forward Program. She stated that the program accepts used smartphones, refurbishes them, loads them with accessibility apps and provides them to people with sight loss. She advised that the Region will be donating to the program as part of the new accessibility initiative for 2020 and will be donating old work phones.
- With regards to the Joint AAC Annual Forum, she inquired what committee members thought about having the Forum during the day as a luncheon instead of a dinner. She suggested having one speaker and possibly having it at another venue. Discussion ensued and it was suggested that a luncheon or an earlier start time would work but that the other AACs be surveyed to find out what their preference would be.
- J. Traer provided a brief video from E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, regarding International Day of Persons with Disabilities. She advised that International Day of Persons with Disabilities was December 3, 2019 and Chris Power, a 16 year Veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces Military Police provided a powerful presentation at Regional Headquarters.

- J. Traer advised that Alzheimer Awareness Month is January. She advised that there was a flag raising on January 6, 2020 at Regional Headquarters to recognize the month. She also advised that the Alzheimer Society Durham Region hosted a number of events in January to also recognize the month. She advised that there will be a Frailty, Aging and Dementia event held on January 30, 2020 from 6:30 PM to 8 PM at the Jubilee Pavilion Banquet and Conference Centre in Oshawa.
- National Access Awareness Week is in May. J. Traer advised that a sub-committee will need to be formed to discuss the events to be held for the week. D. Campbell advised that she is looking into a flag to be flown at Regional Headquarters that week.

7. Discussion Items

A) New Whitby Development – Accessible Homes and Plans

J. Traer provided floor plans of the new development in Whitby and asked members to review them during the break earlier in the meeting. She stated that more information on the development will be provided at the March meeting.

8. Reports for Information

A) Report #2019-EDT-17 re: Durham Region 2019 Ontario Parasport Games Final Report and Legacy Fund

A copy of Report #2019-EDT-17 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding the Durham Region 2019 Ontario Parasport Games Final Report and Legacy Fund was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received.

9. Other Business

A) Reconstruction of South parking lot at Regional Headquarters

With regards to the reconstruction of the parking lot located on the south side of Regional Headquarters, M. Roche, S. Sones and J. Traer reviewed the plans and provided the following comments to the Works Department on behalf of the committee:

- Move parking spots closest to the building to allow for a rounded/curved corner walkway towards the south entrance doors;
- Agreed with the pathway identified for pedestrian crossing from one area of the parking lot to another which takes you to the walkway instead of having to make your way all the way over to the main walkway into the south entrance;

- Suggested that the main walkway closest to the south doors have more of a quarter circle curved, smoother transition in the pavement from the parking lot (doing away with the sharp corners which can be a barrier for people who use mobility devices). This allows the curb ramp to be moved from the area where utilities are buried;
- By changing the direction of the parking spaces in the larger area, it has allowed for two extra accessible parking spaces (from 15 to 17); and
- The curb which is a busy drop off and pick up area, cannot be a sloped transition to the walkway as it is needed for water drainage during heavy downpours.

B) 5-Year Pilot regarding Electric Scooters

M. Roche advised that on November 27, 2019, the Ontario Government announced a new pilot that allows the use of electric scooters on provincial roads. The 5-year pilot started January 1, 2020. The pilot allows e-scooters to be ridden on roads as well as sidewalks and does not require the driver to have a driver's licence or appropriate training. M. Roche stated that this poses a risk to everyone using sidewalks including people with disabilities.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 1 PM.

11. Adjournment

Moved by S. Sones, Seconded by D. Campbell,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 PM

C. Boose, Chair
Accessibility Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk