



Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

AAC#01-22

Thursday, April 7, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

(Electronic Meeting pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the Municipal Act, 2001)

An Electronic Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting, pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. via videoconference.

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Councillor Cilevitz - Chair
Bernadina Bathory
Joseph Frankfort
Marisol Pestana
Kidambi Raj
Lisa Rosenberg
Patricia Rybka
Paul Scotland
Simon Waldman

Regrets: Lopa Banerjee - Vice-Chair
Paul Edwards

The following members of staff were present via videoconference:

H. Ing, Manager, Transportation and Traffic
D. Guy, Manager, By-Law Education and Enforcement
J. Ward, Sustainable Transportation Coordinator
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
B. Inglis, Legislative and Projects Advisor
S Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and provided opening remarks with respect to this afternoon's electronic Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: P. Scotland

- a) That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried

2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest by members of the Committee under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

3.1 Minutes - Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting AAC#03-21 held October 7, 2021

Moved by: S. Waldman

- a) That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting AAC#03-21 held October 7, 2021, be adopted.

Carried

4. Scheduled Business

4.1 Correspondence from Councillor Cilevitz, Chair of the AAC, regarding Electric Scooters, dated February 11, 2022 and March 2, 2022

Moved by: L. Rosenberg

- a) That the correspondence submitted by Councillor Cilevitz, Chair of the AAC, dated February 11, 2022, regarding The Pointer article titled "Brampton City Council and Mayor Patrick Brown Should Not Endanger People with Disabilities, Seniors and Others by Allowing the Silent Menace of Electric Scooters," be received;

- b) That the correspondence submitted by Councillor Cilevitz, Chair of the AAC, dated March 2, 2022, regarding Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance news release titled "Disability Advocates to Tell Ottawa's Transportation Committee Today Not to Allow E- Scooters – A Wrong-headed City Staff Report Endangers Safety and Accessibility for People with Disabilities, Seniors, and Others," be received.

Carried

4.2 Electric Scooters and Richmond Hill

- Presentation by Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic, Josh Ward, Sustainable Transportation Coordinator, and Don Guy, Manager, By-Law Education and Enforcement, regarding Electric Scooters

Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic, began by introducing Josh Ward, Sustainable Transportation Coordinator, and Don Guy, Manager of By-Law Education and Enforcement, and reviewed the responsibilities of the City's Transportation and Traffic team's, and provided an overview of the presentation.

J. Ward began by describing the micromobility transportation category, noting that E-Scooters fell within that category and consisted of both privately owned and publicly shared systems. He shared the provincial definition of an E-scooter and touched on the evolving design. J. Ward described the E-scooter market, noting the growth of E-Scooter trips, market instability, and product and service innovation. He advised of the E-scooter Pilot introduced in Ontario, noted that municipalities must opt-in to participate and amend municipal by-laws, and outlined York Region's actions thus far with respect to E-Scooters. J. Ward advised that Richmond Hill had no plans to permit E-Scooters on the City's off-road trail network, and that the Transportation Master Plan update was underway and would lead to high-level micromobility policies and actions. He outlined the City's key considerations and concerns with respect to E-Scooters and shared next steps.

Staff addressed questions and concerns from Committee members regarding how speeds of E-Scooters would be regulated within the City, and if there were any suburban cities participating in the Pilot. Concerns were shared with respect to E-Scooters being silent, as well as the difficulties that would be encountered should by-laws governing E-Scooters differ across neighbouring municipalities. Committee members shared their opinion that E-Scooters posed a significant danger for the operator and those around them, and advised of concerns regarding monitoring, regulation and safety. Staff noted the concerns of the Committee, advised that they were advocating for alignment in their approach to E-Scooters and micromobility with neighbouring municipalities, and acknowledged the need for York Region to take a strong oversight position.

Moved by: L. Rosenberg

a) That the presentation by Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic, Josh Ward, Sustainable Transportation Coordinator, and Don Guy, Manager, By-Law Education and Enforcement, regarding Electric Scooters be received with thanks.

Carried Unanimously

4.3 Correspondence from Councillor Cilevitz, Chair of the AAC, dated February 6, 2022, regarding CBC News article titled "3 Years After Ontario Accessibility Report, 'Little Progress' Made, Former Lieutenant-Governor Says"

Brian Inglis, Legislative and Projects Advisor, provided a verbal update on the CBC News article dated February 6, 2022. He advised that the article interviewed David Onley, former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, who had disabilities stemming from polio as a child. B. Inglis advised that D. Onley had prepared a report in 2019 called "Listening to Ontarians with Disabilities – Report of the Third Review of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005", which was a review he was appointed to conduct by the Ontario government. B. Inglis noted that the article claimed that little progress had been made since D. Onley's report in areas such as employment equity, physical accessibility and social assistance. B. Inglis advised of the government's response included in the article, and provided details of the recommendations outlined in D. Onley's 2019 report.

Members of Committee shared their agreement with most of the concerns raised by D. Onley in the CBC News article, and shared their hope that AODA become more integrated in everyday conversation. Members of Committee also acknowledged that legislative documents were living documents that needed to be amended and revised as time passed.

Moved by: P. Scotland

a) That the correspondence from Councillor Cilevitz, Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, dated February 6, 2022 regarding CBC News article titled "3 Years After Ontario Accessibility Report, 'Little Progress' Made, Former Lieutenant-Governor Says", be received; and

b) That the verbal update from Brian Inglis, Legislative and Projects Advisor, with respect to the correspondence submitted by Councillor Cilevitz, Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, be received.

Carried Unanimously

4.4 Richmond Hill's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Status Update

- Presentation by Brian Inglis, Legislative and Projects Advisor

Brian Inglis, Legislative and Projects Advisor, made a presentation regarding Multi-Year Accessibility Planning with respect to Current and Future Strategies and Initiatives for a More Accessible City. He reviewed the City's obligations regarding the AODA, next steps with respect to reporting on the progress made in 2021, and planning that was underway for the next Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP). B. Inglis provided a summary of the progress made by the City with respect to providing accessible services, information, employment, and initiatives in 2021 pertaining to the design of public spaces. B. Inglis advised that the City continued to meet its obligations and commitments with respect to accessibility in 2021, and that all goals scheduled for 2021 completion were achieved and ongoing initiatives were maintained. He noted that preparation would begin on the 2023 to 2027 MYAP, that the AAC can help shape the plan, and reflected on the 2018 to 2022 MYAP. B. Inglis concluded by sharing questions for discussion to help inform the preparation of the next MYAP.

Committee members thanked staff for ensuring that the City and its public buildings conformed to AODA legislative regulations. Committee members questioned whether Council or staff can ask for more input from the AAC, and shared their observation that the Committee was seldom asked to provide advice or suggestions up front.

Members of Committee acknowledged that they occasionally failed to bring forward accessible matters to the Committee. They shared their opinion that Mill Pond Gallery was not accessible, and questioned the location of accessible seating at the Richmond Hill Performing Arts Centre.

Members of Committee inquired how they could be more involved in the accessible design of public spaces, and questioned why the AAC was not approached to provide comments on projects as they moved through the approval process. Staff advised that the AAC should be consulted with respect to construction of new Richmond Hill facilities, including major renovation projects within existing facilities, noting that there may not have been any active projects, but that City staff was aware of that obligation. The Committee requested that the Clerk's Office have discussions with Planning staff on how to ensure that the AAC was approached for

comments with respect to the construction of new public buildings or major renovations.

Moved by: P. Rybka

a) That the presentation by Brian Inglis, Legislative and Projects Advisor, regarding Richmond Hill's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Status Update, be received.

Carried Unanimously

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was scheduled on June, 23, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

6. Adjournment

Moved by: K. Raj

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.