



Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

AAC#01-23

Thursday, April 20, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

225 East Beaver Creek Road

Richmond Hill, Ontario

An Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

Councillor Cilevitz (Chair)
Maxine DiGiovanni
Ted Moritsugu
Lawrence Raifman
Patricia Rybka
Simon Waldman
Shahla Yaghoubian

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Lopa Banerjee (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Davidson
Sherry Caldwell
Yuwei Lin
Barry Munro

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

B. Inglis, Legislative and Special Projects Advisor
N. McLarty, Legislative and Special Projects Advisor
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

1.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

In the absence of a duly appointed Chair and Vice-Chair, Ryan Ban, Deputy City Clerk, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and called upon members of the Committee to appoint a Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the 2022 to 2026 Term of Office.

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

- a) That Councillor Cilevitz of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be elected as Chair for the remainder of the 2022 to 2026 Term of Council;
- b) That Lopa Banerjee of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be elected as Vice-Chair for the remainder of the 2022 to 2026 Term of Council.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Cilevitz assumed the Chair at 3:04 p.m. She welcomed members of the Committee, noted her gratitude to be able to serve the Committee, City and residents, and invited all members to introduce themselves.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: P. Rybka

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried Unanimously

3. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

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

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 Minutes - Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting AAC#02-22 held June 23, 2022

Moved by: P. Rybka

- a) That the minutes of Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting AAC#02-22 held June 23, 2022, be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

5. Delegations

None

6. Scheduled Business

6.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee Orientation - 2022 to 2026 Term of Office

- Presentation by Natasha McLarty, Legislative and Special Projects Officer

Natasha McLarty, Legislative and Special Projects Officer, reviewed the composition, purpose, mandate, and the Committee members' roles and responsibilities as outlined in the Committee's Terms of Reference. She provided an overview of the duty to declare a pecuniary interest, noted that the Committee members were subject to the Code of Conduct for Local Boards, and reviewed the importance of the Procedure By-law, members' rights at meetings, rules of etiquette of discussion, and the role of the Chair.

Moved by: P. Rybka

a) That the presentation by Natasha McLarty, Legislative and Special Projects Officer, regarding an orientation for Accessibility Advisory Committee members for the 2022 to 2026 Term of Office, be received with thanks.

Carried Unanimously

6.2 Review of Richmond Hill's Draft 2023 - 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

- Presentation by Brian Inglis, Legislative and Special Projects Officer

Brian Inglis, Legislative and Special Projects Officer, provided background information on the Multi-year Accessibility Plan (MYAP), including how the Plan was developed and its three interconnected and adaptable strategic principles. He reviewed the Plan's seven key initiatives, provided examples of actions undertaken by the City toward those initiatives, and concluded by outlining next steps.

There were inquiries from members of the Committee on what was meant by 'exceeding accessibility standards' in the design of public spaces; why accessible housing was not included in the MYAP; and how staff engage with the community with respect to the Plan. Members of Committee shared their ideas for consideration to adding to the priorities of the Plan which included, advocating for accessible housing, enhancing accessibility within the community, improving engagement with the public, and promoting the actions of the City with respect to accessibility.

Comments were made regarding the challenges of finding employment for persons with a disability. It was noted that ways to promote more opportunities for job seekers would be an item for discussion at a future meeting. In addition, staff advised that a representative from Design and Construction will be in attendance at a future meeting to present and address questions regarding accessibility in the design of public spaces.

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

a) That the presentation by Brian Inglis, Legislative and Special Projects Officer, regarding a Review of Richmond Hill's Draft 2023 - 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, be received and all comments be referred to staff for consideration in preparing the final 2023 – 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for Council approval.

Carried Unanimously

6.3 Proposed 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

a) That the 2023 meeting schedule for the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved as follows to be held on Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.:

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Thursday, June 8, 2023

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Carried Unanimously

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was scheduled on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Moved by: S. Waldman

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.