



Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

AAC#03-23

Thursday, September 28, 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, September 28, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

Councillor Cilevitz (Chair)
Lawrence Raifman
Sherry Caldwell
Simon Waldman
Ted Moritsugu
Yuwei Lin

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Lopa Banerjee (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Davidson
Maxine DiGiovanni

Regrets:

Barry Munro
Shahla Yaghoubian

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

K. Ash, Manager, Recreation Programs
B. Inglis, Legislative and Special Projects Advisor
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Assistant

Staff Member present via videoconference:

M. Young, Acting Manager, By-law Education and Enforcement

1. Call to Order

Chair Cilevitz called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: L. Raifman

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#02-23 held June 8, 2023

Moved by: S. Waldman

a) That the minutes of Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting AAC#02-23 held June 8, 2023, be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Scheduled Business

6.1 Richmond Hill's Age Friendly Community Strategy - Presentation by Karin Ash, Manager, Recreation Programs

Karin Ash, Manager, Recreation Programs, provided introductory remarks regarding the development of the City's Age-Friendly Community Strategy (AFCS), noting that the City was taking steps toward becoming an Age-Friendly Community. She reviewed the development phases, and framework for the AFCS, the current policy framework, data collected and feedback received during the research phase, and shared information gathered regarding demographic trends. K. Ash outlined the key messages heard from stakeholder engagement with respect to the

direction the City should take in age-friendly planning, and outlined the vision, principles, and preliminary strategies of the AFCS.

K. Ash in response to questions from the committee advised that the AFCS will work collaboratively with other strategies the City was working on, and through the Age Friendly Community Council they would continue to engage with the community to get feedback to work through the broader issues of affordable and accessible housing. Committee members suggested that the website and print media be used to solicit feedback from the older members of the community.

A member of the committee shared the work of the Accessible Housing Network, and commented on their advocacy toward universal design standards for all housing at the national level, and for changes to the provincial building code to ensure buildings were built accessible. There was discussion on improvements that can be made such as stability bars installed in washrooms, expanded doorways, lever handles, and questions on the inclusion of brail on signage.

Moved by: T. Moritsugu

a) That the presentation from Karin Ash, Manager, Recreation Programs, regarding the City of Richmond Hill's Age Friendly Community Strategy, be received and all comments be referred back to staff.

Carried Unanimously

6.2 Accessible Parking Permit Enforcement and Exemptions - Presentation by Mary Ann Young, Acting Manager, By-law Education and Enforcement

Mary Ann Young, Acting Manager, By-law Education and Enforcement, made a presentation regarding Accessible Parking Permit Enforcement and Exemptions. She reviewed the regulations that fall under Parking Control By-law 402-89 and Accessible Parking By-law 505-90. M. Young outlined accessible parking permit exemptions, how to report a parking or by-law complaint, accessible parking enforcement statistics, and public education campaigns undertaken to improve accessible parking awareness.

Committee members questioned if there were plans for on-street accessible parking spaces, and if the City was looking into whether those with accessible parking permits could be exempt from paying parking fees.

Concerns were shared regarding delivery trucks parking in accessible parking spaces at the No Frills located at Yonge Street and Elgin Mills Road. M. Young advised that she will have staff reach out to the business and will follow up with the committee member. It was suggested that committee members contact their Ward Councillor for assistance in such matters. Committee members also recommended that accessible parking spaces installed in new builds be in compliance with the width provisions.

Moved by: S. Waldman

a) That the presentation from Mary Ann Young, Acting Manager, By-law Education and Enforcement, be received for information.

Carried

6.3 2022 Status Report on the 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan - Presentation by Brian Inglis, Legislative and Special Projects Officer

Brian Inglis, Legislative and Special Projects Officer, provided background information regarding the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP), noting that the report confirmed that all initiatives planned under the 2018-2022 MYAP were implemented as planned. He reviewed on-going efforts to make customer service more accessible with respect to the provision of services by Access Richmond Hill, Inclusion Services, and the Richmond Hill Public Library.

B. Inglis provided an update on the City's ongoing initiatives related to providing clear and accessible information, accessible employment practices and the accessible design of public spaces. He touched on general accessibility initiatives undertaken in 2022, and concluded by advising that the 2018-2022 MYAP was successfully implemented and that the 2023-2027 MYAP would build on that progress.

A committee member advised of her participation in a tour of accessible parks in Simcoe Region hosted by ABC Recreation, and remarked on how existing parks can be adapted to be made accessible with minor improvements.

A committee member shared concerns conveyed to her by a resident with respect to the accessibility equipment at the Oak Ridges Pool, and it was recommended to follow up with the Ward 1 Councillor. Staff were also asked to investigate whether similar issues were present at other facilities.

There was a suggestion from a committee member that job applications include a question asking if a disability is visible or non-visible, as it would improve fairness among applicants that have a disability.

Concerns were shared regarding accessibility at the last election and the absence of voting centres at condominium complexes that historically had voting centres.

Moved by: S. Caldwell

a) That the presentation from Brian Inglis, Legislative and Special Projects Officer, regarding the 2022 Status Report on the 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, be received; and

b) That the 2022 Status Report on the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan be posted to the City's website in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

Carried Unanimously

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for November 2, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Moved by: T. Moritsugu

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.