



## **Accessibility Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes**

**AAC#04-23**

**Thursday, November 2, 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, November 2, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

Yuwei Lin  
Ted Moritsugu  
Lawrence Raifman  
Simon Waldman

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Councillor Cilevitz (Chair)  
Lopa Banerjee (Vice-Chair)  
Sherry Caldwell  
Councillor Davidson  
Shahla Yaghoubian

Regrets:

Barry Munro  
Maxine DiGiovanni

Also in attendance via video conference:

Councillor Thompson

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk  
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator  
C. Connolly, Legislative Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

- S. DeMaria, Manager, Development
- M. Dobbie, Manager, Park and Natural Heritage Planning
- H. Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic
- J. Li, Transportation Engineer
- S. Mowder, Planner II – Development

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by: S. Yaghoubian

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk with the following addition:

- a) Programs for Park Accessibility – Presentation by Andrew Fisher, Chairman, Richmond Hill Mobility Accessibility Foundation and Maayan Ziv, Chief Executive Officer, AccessNow – (Item 6.4).

Carried

**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#03-23 held September 28, 2023**

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

- a) That the minutes of Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting AAC#03-23 held September 28, 2023, be adopted.

Carried

**5. Delegations**

There were no delegations.

**6. Scheduled Business**

**6.1 Implementing the 2022 Parks Plan - Presentation by Michelle Dobbie, Manager, Park and Natural Heritage Planning**

Michelle Dobbie, Manager, Park and Natural Heritage Planning, advised that the City initiated a review of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Plans in 2020. She shared how the City delivers parks, legislative requirements regarding parkland, and Bill 23 funding implications. M. Dobbie outlined the 2022 Parks Plan review timeline and described the contents of each of the following chapters within the plan:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Richmond Hill's Park Planning Context
- Chapter 3: The Existing Park System
- Chapter 4: Outdoor Recreation Facilities
- Chapter 5: Parkland Needs
- Chapter 6: Improving and Enhancing our Parkland System

M. Dobbie also solicited feedback from the Committee on what areas of Richmond Green could most benefit from accessibility enhancements as part of the revitalization.

Committee members questioned if accessible family or all-gender washrooms were included in the Richmond Hill Parks Plan, and if there were plans to build outdoor pools and retrofit older parks to current *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* standards. Discussion followed on the difficulty in obtaining parkland from developers, implications on future parkland due to Bill 23, and questions on what Council can do to encourage or compel developers to provide greenspaces or respite areas.

Committee members questioned if there were plans to plow/winterize trails, and whether the City provided sports programs for residents with disabilities.

In response to questions of Committee, staff advised that the City actively pursues other sources of funding to mitigate budget constraints, and encouraged members of the Committee to share information on any applicable grants that they may learn of.

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

a) That the presentation by Michelle Dobbie, Manager, Park and Natural Heritage Planning, regarding Implementing the 2022 Parks Plan, be received and that all comments be referred back to staff

Carried Unanimously

**6.2 Site Plan Approval Process and Considerations - Presentation by Sandra DeMaria, Manager, Development, and Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic**

Sandra DeMaria, Manager, Development, made a presentation regarding Site Plan Approval Process and Considerations. She provided an overview of Site Plan Control as described in the *Planning Act*, and changes to the scope of the City's Site Plan Control as a result of the passing of Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* and Bill 97, the *Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023*. S. DeMaria described the City's new Development Application Review and Approval Process and its three phases.

Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic, advised of his team's mandate to carry out technical reviews of site plans, which included assessing accessibility elements. He advised that the reviews encompassed exterior paths of travel and accessible parking spaces, and were subject to the requirements of the Province's *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, and the City's Municipal Code. H. Ng provided further details on the elements reviewed by staff, and displayed illustrations of accessible elements at 12270 Yonge Street (Farm Boy).

Committee members questioned if audible pedestrian signals were helpful, if they were considered when new traffic signals were installed, and how the pedestrian crossing time was determined. Committee members expressed concerns with the changes to the City's Site Plan Control as a result of Bill 23 and Bill 97, with respect to the removal of Site Plan Control for residential development proposals up to 10 units and the removal of a municipality's power to regulate exterior design.

The Deputy City Clerk provided clarification on the purpose of bringing the site plan control presentation forward. He advised of the Committee's role with respect to site plans, noting that staff rigorously review site plans to ensure they are in compliance with current legislation and relevant standards.

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

a) That the presentation by Sandra DeMaria, Manager, Development, and Hubert Ng, Manager, Transportation and Traffic, regarding the Site Plan Approval Process and Considerations, be received.

Carried Unanimously

### **6.3 Proposed 2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule**

Moved by: S. Caldwell

- a) That the proposed 2024 meeting schedule for the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved;
- b) That the Accessibility Advisory Committee start time for Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings for 2024 be 1:30 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

**6.4 Programs for Park Accessibility – Presentation by Andrew Fisher, Chairman, Richmond Hill Mobility Accessibility Foundation and Maayan Ziv, Chief Executive Officer, AccessNow**

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

Andrew Fisher, Chairman, Richmond Hill Mobility Accessibility Foundation (RH Mobility), provided an overview of RH Mobility’s beginnings, their mandate, mission statement, and the Disabled Parking Reserve By-law. He shared information on their funding sources, current programs, and their new partnership with AccessNow.

Maayan Ziv, Chief Executive Officer, AccessNow, shared their corporate mission, and how the app connects people with trusted accessible places and experiences through partnerships with municipalities, for-profit, and not-for-profit organizations. She advised that they are mapping parks and trails to empower people to discover the accessible outdoors, noting that they have partnered with RH Mobility and the City of Richmond Hill to map a series of trails across the City. M. Ziv further described the app’s functionality and benefits.

Committee members shared their gratitude for the presentation and remarked on the usefulness of the app. In response to questions from Committee, M. Ziv advised that individuals are encouraged to provide feedback on places they visit in the app which would then influence its accessible rating. Committee members noted that they looked forward to further updates from RH Mobility and AccessNow in 2024.

There was a further inquiry from the Committee on whether RH Mobility had any influence on the Region of York with respect to lobbying for the installation of a traffic signal, or crosswalk near Lake Wilcox Park, as there have been occurrences of individuals with mobility issues crossing Bayview Avenue unsafely.

- a) That the presentation by Andrew Fisher, Chairman, Richmond Hill Mobility Accessibility Foundation and Maayan Ziv, Chief Executive

Officer, AccessNow, regarding Programs for Park Accessibility, be received.

Carried Unanimously

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

**8. Adjournment**

Moved by: S. Caldwell

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.