



Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

AAC#01-24

Thursday, February 22, 2024, 1:30 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, February 22, 2024 at 1:33 p.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

Councillor Cilevitz (Chair)
Ted Moritsugu
Simon Waldman
Shahla Yaghoubian

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Sherry Caldwell
Councillor Davidson
Yuwei Lin
Barry Munro

Regrets:

Lopa Banerjee (Vice-Chair)
Maxine DiGiovanni
Lawrence Raifman

Also in attendance via video conference:

Councillor Thompson

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

J. Anderson, Recreation and Inclusion Program Coordinator
K. Endicott, Recreation and Inclusion Services Assistant
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator

C. Connolly, Legislative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Chair Cilevitz called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: S. Waldman

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. Adoption of Previous Minutes

4.1 Minutes - Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting AAC#04-23 held November 2, 2023

Moved by: S. Yaghoubian

a) That the minutes of Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting AAC#04-23 held November 2, 2023, be adopted.

Carried

5. Delegation(s)

There were no delegations.

6. Scheduled Business

6.1 York Region Overview and the 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan - Presentation by Kim Bacani-Angus, and Valentyna Navolskyy, from the Regional Municipality of York

Kim Bacani-Angus, Lead, Accessibility, provided introductory remarks and displayed a video which provided an overview of York Region's two-tier government system. She described York Region's diverse community, outlined the Regional Municipality of York's Vision, Mission and Values, their core services, and reviewed how municipal service were delivered. Additionally, she provided an overview of the Region's Accessibility Unit, which formed part of a larger Inclusion, Diversity Equity and Accessibility Division.

Valentyna Navolskyy, Senior Policy Specialist, reviewed the legislative requirements to develop and publish a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) and to report on it annually. She advised that York Region's 2023 to 2027 MYAP applied to York Region and York Regional Police and outlined how both organizations met the requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*. V. Navolskyy described the seven keys steps in the development of the plan, its key elements, next steps in their pursuit of continuous quality improvement, and concluded by indicating how the members of the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee can contribute and become involved.

Committee members questioned how the Region of York and local municipalities work together to resolve accessibility issues, and concerns were expressed regarding the misuse of accessible parking permits. Committee members shared their opinion that the number of residents with a disability in York Region was under reported, and that more work needed to be done from an advocacy perspective by the Committee in support of change. Further concerns were expressed regarding accessible parking spaces, difficulty finding accessible services, and feedback provided by the York Region representatives on how the Region's Accessibility Advisory Committee consults on York Region projects.

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

a) That the presentation by Kim Bacani-Angus, and Valentyna Navolskyy, from the Regional Municipality of York, regarding York Region Overview and the 2023 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, be received with thanks.

Carried

6.2 Inclusion Services in the City of Richmond Hill - Presentation by Jennifer Anderson, Recreation and Inclusion Program Coordinator and Kaitlyn Endicott, Recreation and Inclusion Services Assistant

Jennifer Anderson, Recreation and Inclusion Program Coordinator, provided an overview of their presentation on Inclusion Services in the City of Richmond Hill, and Kaitlyn Endicott, Recreation and Inclusion Services Assistant, began by reviewing the different types of support available in recreation programs and camp. She noted that the Recreation and Culture Division offered adapted programs designed for participants with disabilities.

J. Anderson and K. Endicott summarized the number of registrations for Recreation and Culture programs in 2023, and advised that the City had recently hosted training for inclusion summer camp staff, drawing participants from municipalities within York Region. They described the Camp AdaptAbility program offered by the City, the Inclusive Information Fair that they hosted in partnership with the Children's Treatment Network, as well as the inclusive Santa photo event held at Richvale Community Centre. J. Anderson concluded by reviewing the future of Inclusion Services.

Committee members inquired if inclusive recreation programming was available for adults, and whether the City would consider adding programming for young adults who have graduated high school, as limited programs were available for that age group. In addition, staff were asked to consider providing assistance to adults with disabilities to enable their participation in recreational swimming.

Committee members questioned if there was staff involved in event planning to advocate for people with disabilities to ensure City-held festivals and events were inclusive, and a further inquiry on what could be done to encourage local sports clubs to be inclusive in their recruitment. Additionally, a suggestion was put forward that the City consider hosting a barrier-free Christmas market for people with disabilities.

Committee members complimented staff on the inclusion programming offered by the City and requested that further information be provided to Council members on how residents can access inclusionary programs.

Moved by: S. Yaghoubian

a) That the presentation by Jennifer Anderson, Recreation and Inclusion Program Coordinator, and Kaitlyn Endicott, Recreation and Inclusion Services Assistant, regarding Inclusion Services in the City of Richmond Hill, be received with thanks.

Carried

7. Adjournment

Moved by: S. Waldman

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.