



Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

AAC#02-24

Thursday, September 26, 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, September 26, 2024 at 1:34 p.m. in Council Chambers and via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

Councillor Cilevitz (Chair)
Sherry Caldwell
Ted Moritsugu
Simon Waldman

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Councillor Davidson
Yuwei Lin
Lawrence Raifman
Shahla Yaghoubian

Regrets:

Lopa Banerjee (Vice-Chair)
Maxine DiGiovanni
Barry Munro

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

N. Khan, Director, Building Division and Chief Building Official
N. McLarty, Legislative and Special Projects Officer
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator
L. Sampogna, Council/Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: S. Caldwell

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#01-24 held February 22, 2024

Moved by: S. Waldman

a) That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee AAC#01-24 held February 22, 2024, be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

5. Delegation(s)

There were no delegations.

6. Scheduled Business

6.1 Building Code - Accessibility - Presentation by Nadim Khan, Director, Building Division and Chief Building Official

Nadim Khan, Director, Building Division and Chief Building Official, provided an overview of the National Building Code, emphasizing its role as a legislative framework that informed provincial building codes. He discussed the scope of the Building Code Act (Act), its objectives, the responsibilities of municipalities under the Act, and the incorporation of accessibility principles within the legislation. N. Khan highlighted examples of specific accessibility requirements and addressed a few of the regulatory challenges within the Act. He also noted that a revised Building Code will take effect on January 1, 2025.

Committee members sought clarification on the scope of the Act, particularly regarding which types of buildings it applied to and whether it extended to elements outside of buildings. Concerns were raised about the Act's limitations in mandating accessibility requirements for smaller residential buildings, as well as the minimal number of units that are required to be accessible in larger buildings. Committee members inquired about how residents can advocate for changes to accessibility standards across various levels of government. Additionally, there were questions regarding the lack of public input in the City's building permit application process.

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

a) That the presentation by Nadim Khan, Director, Building Division and Chief Building Officer, regarding the Building Code, be received with thanks.

Carried Unanimously

6.2 Overview of the Programs and Support offered by York South Family Network to Lifetime Caregivers in Richmond Hill - Presentation by Monica Missaghi, Co-founder, York South Family Network, and Committee Member Sherry Caldwell

Committee member Sherry Caldwell and Monica Missaghi, co-founders of the York South Family Network (YSFN), made introductory remarks, and shared their personal experiences as caregivers for family members with special needs. They explained the role of a lifetime caregiver and emphasized how both caregivers and children with disabilities have been excluded from government funded programs. They further remarked on the financial, physical and emotional toll that caregiving has on caregivers.

M. Missaghi shared the history and purpose of the YSFN, explaining how it brings caregivers together through planned events that are either free or offered at minimal cost. She highlighted the benefits these gatherings provide to caregivers, emphasized the growing need in the community, as evidenced by the rising registration numbers for their events, and concluded by thanking Richmond Hill for their support.

Councillor Cilevitz thanked Sherry Caldwell and Monica Missaghi for their presentation and for the valuable support they provide to caregivers through their organization.

Moved by: S. Waldman

a) That the presentation by Monica Missaghi, Co-founder, York South Family Network, and Committee Member Sherry Caldwell, regarding the Programs and Support offered by York South Family Network to Lifetime Caregivers in Richmond Hill, be received with thanks.

Carried Unanimously

6.3 2023 Status Report on the 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan - Presentation by Natasha McLarty, Legislative and Special Projects Officer

Natasha McLarty, Legislative and Special Projects Officer, provided introductory remarks regarding the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP), and the legislative requirements to provide progress reports each year. She provided an update on Richmond Hill's ongoing efforts to deliver accessible customer service, ensure clear and accessible information, implement inclusive employment practices, and design accessible public spaces. She also highlighted the general accessibility initiatives in 2023, and outlined their goal to meet the targets specified in the 2023-2027 MYAP.

Committee members sought clarification on which parks had received accessibility improvements, and emphasized the importance of making parks accessible.

Moved by: S. Caldwell

a) That the presentation by Natasha McLarty, Legislative and Special Projects Officer, regarding the 2023 Status Report on the 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, be received; and

b) That the 2023 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

6.4 York Region National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) Professional Development Forum - Verbal update by Committee Member Sherry Caldwell

Committee member Sherry Caldwell advised of her attendance at the York Region National AccessAbility Week Professional Development Forum in May. She noted that the Accelerating Accessibility Coalition (AAC) was the keynote speaker, and shared their role in advocating to make accessibility

in housing more of a priority in Canada. S. Caldwell expressed her hope that the City of Richmond Hill will join the AAC, and encouraged all committee members to attend the forum next year, highlighting that it brought together members of accessibility advisory committees from across York Region and featured valuable speakers and relevant topics for discussion.

Moved by: T. Moritsugu

a) That the verbal update by Committee Member Sherry Caldwell regarding the York Region National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) Professional Development Forum, be received with thanks.

Carried Unanimously

7. Adjournment

Moved by: T. Moritsugu

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.