



Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

AAC#02-25

Thursday, April 24, 2025, 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, April 24, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers and via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

Councillor Cilevitz (Chair)
Saadia Mirza
Ted Moritsugu

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Lopa Banerjee (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Davidson
Sherry Caldwell
Yuwei Lin
Barry Munro
Lawrence Raifman
Shahla Yaghoubian

Regrets:

Simon Waldman

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

M. Rasouli, Policy Planner II
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
L. Sampogna, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

P. Chow, Manager, Policy
A. Clement, Legislative and Special Projects Officer

1. Call to Order

The Chair advised that at yesterday's Council meeting, Saadia Mirza and Wilson Wong, were appointed to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the remaining 2022 to 2026 Term of Council. She welcomed Committee Member Mirza, who was in attendance, and looked forward to Committee Member Wong participating at the next meeting.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Y. Lin

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

a) Presentation by Sherry Caldwell, Richmond Hill Accessibility Advisory Committee Member, regarding Red Shirt Day and National AccessAbility Week Conference hosted by York Region – (Item 6.2).

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#01-25 held February 20, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

a) That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting AAC#01-25 held February 20, 2025, be adopted.

Carried

5. Delegation(s)

There were no delegations.

6. Scheduled Business

6.1 Presentation by Mojgan Rasouli, Policy Planner II, regarding the Official Plan Update: Accessibility and Barrier-Free Policies

Mojgan Rasouli, Policy Planner II, made a presentation to Committee regarding proposed updates to the City's Official Plan (OP) to reinforce accessibility and barrier-free planning policies. She noted that these updates are part of a required provincial and regional conformity exercise and emphasized the importance of aligning with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA). She outlined the current planning framework, the status of the Official Plan update, and proposed policy enhancements. Key updates included stronger language in policy wording, expanded application of accessibility standards, and enhanced direction for the design of public spaces. M. Rasouli concluded the presentation by highlighting next steps in the update process, including upcoming public engagement sessions and timelines for draft amendments.

Committee members extended thanks for the presentation and requested clarification on the accessibility standards applied to new park developments as well as the City's plans to retrofit older parks to meet those standards. Committee suggested adding signage in parks and buildings to indicate AODA compliance and City contact information, and emphasized the need to go beyond standard public consultations by engaging with disability-focused organizations and experts with lived experience. They also inquired about the inclusion of sustainability in the OP, expressed support for the strengthened policy language, and requested that the registration link for the upcoming engagement sessions be shared with all committee members.

Moved by: S. Yaghoubian

a) That the presentation by Mojgan Rasouli, Policy Planner II, regarding the Official Plan Update: Accessibility and Barrier-Free Policies, be received with thanks.

Carried Unanimously

6.2 Presentation by Sherry Caldwell, Richmond Hill Accessibility Advisory Committee Member, regarding Red Shirt Day and National AccessAbility Week Conference hosted by York Region

Sherry Caldwell, Richmond Hill Accessibility Advisory Committee Member, provided a verbal update to Committee regarding the upcoming Red Shirt Day and National AccessAbility Week conference, which will be hosted by York Region on May 28, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in Newmarket. She highlighted that the conference would commemorate the 20th anniversary of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*

(AODA) and celebrate Easter Seals Ontario's Red Shirt Day of Action for accessibility and inclusion. Committee member Caldwell encouraged all members to attend, and outlined the event's key highlights including keynote speakers, as well as an extended Question and Answer session to promote community advocacy.

Committee members expressed gratitude for the shared information and recognized Committee member Caldwell's advocacy and commitment to improving accessibility for all. It was requested that the Clerk's Office forward the invitation to all Committee members once received from York Region.

Moved by: L. Raifman

a) That the verbal update by Sherry Caldwell, Richmond Hill Accessibility Advisory Committee Member, regarding Red Shirt Day and National AccessAbility Week Conference hosted by York Region, be received with thanks.

Carried

7. Adjournment

Moved by: T. Moritsugu

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.