

The meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 22 2017 in Council Chambers, 395 Mulock Drive, Newmarket.

Members Present: Steve Foglia (Chair)
Linda Jones
Jeremy Slessor
Councillor Bisanz

Absent: Richard Wilson
Stephen MacKeznie

Staff Present: Jeff Bond, Acting Manager, Parks, Public Works Services
Mike Ashworth, Capital Projects Parks Development Coordinator
Andrew Ferguson, Greenspace Development Coordinator
Hannah Leznoff, Council/Committee Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 AM.

Steve Foglia in the Chair.

Additions and Corrections to the Agenda

None.

Presentation and Deputations

None

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None

Approval of Minutes

1. Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2017.

Moved by: Linda Jones
Seconded by: Jeremy Slessor

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2017 be approved.

Carried

Items for Discussion

2. College Manor Park Update

The Acting Manager, Parks provided the Members with a verbal update related to accessibility in College Manor Park. He advised that Members of Council and staff met with the resident who had raised concerns regarding accessibility in the park and it was determined that an accessible ramp would not be constructed at the location.

The Acting Manager, Parks and the Capital Projects Parks Development Coordinator addressed additional concerns raised by the Accessibility Advisory Committee including accessible restrooms, accessible benches, bridge access in the park, signage and accessible parking availability. It was also noted that grant funding only applies to one restroom upgrade per year and the 2017 funding will be used to upgrade at the restroom at Ken Sturgeon Park.

There was discussion regarding accessible features, and barriers in parks.

3. Workplan Discussion

The Council/Committee Coordinator reminded Committee Members that the Committee Workshop presentation will take place on Monday, September 18th at 7:00 PM. She advised that all Committee Members are encouraged to attend and that one representative from the Committee will present Council with a workplan update and goals for the next year.

4. Facility Audit Update- Newmarket Theatre

The Chair provided Committee Members with an overview of the Facility Audit at Newmarket Theatre that was conducted on Thursday, June 12, 2017. He indicated that LED lights and tactile transitions slips are used to identify the stairs in the theatre, which was a concern that was raised. He also indicated that there was an adequate number of accessible seating and that the grounds and stage are all accessible. One area of improvement would be with the accessible washroom, specifically the hand rail and placement of the toilet paper dispenser and garbage disposal bin.

The Committee discussed performing a facility audit of the Old Town Hall in September.

5. Magna Centre Parking Lot Update

The Chair provided an update on the Magna Centre parking lot. He advised that two Committee Members had previously met with staff to provide input on the parking lot designs. The outcome was a drop of section and extra wide accessible spots near the entrance as well as additional accessible spots with a crosswalk between the additional spots and the main entrance, as per the Committee Members' suggestions.

6. Main Street

The Chair initiated discussion regarding Main Street and the lack of accessible entrances to business. He raised questions regarding property lines and how the entrances can be upgraded to be more accessible. The Committee discussed attending a Main Street BIA Board of Management meeting to discuss these issues with business owners and to bring photo examples. decided to bring photo examples to show the committee, both of good accessible entrances and areas of improvement. The Committee discussed how there would be a mutual interest, being increasing traffic on Main Street. The Committee is interested in looking into creative solutions to the accessibility challenges on the street. The Committee discussed developing a "seal of approval" decal incorporating the Town of Newmarket Logos as part of the campaign to make downtown Newmarket more accessible. Promoting accessible entrances to businesses will be a priority for the Committee in the fall.

7. Staff Updates

a. Committee Vacancy

The Council Committee Coordinator advised that the Town received an application for the vacant position on the Committee and that if the applicant is appointed at the June 26, 2017 Council Meeting, the applicant will be available to attend the next Committee Meeting in September.

The Committee discussed a current member that has not attended meeting since June 2016 and has not been responsive to emails circulated to the Committee regarding meetings. As per the Town's Appointment Policy the committee may request that the member be formally removed from the Committee and the seat be declared vacant and the Town advertise for a replacement Member.

Moved by: Jeremy Slessor
Seconded by Linda Jones

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee requests that Stephen Mackenzie be formally removed from the Accessibility Advisory Committee and that Council declare the seat vacant, as per the Town of Newmarket Appointment Policy.

b. Accessible Logo

The Committee discussed the proposal of a "Seal of Approval" or "Accessible" decal that could be designed with the Town of Newmarket logo to adhere on buildings that are fully or partially accessible. The development of a Committee Logo will be further discussed at a later time.

c. Accessible Taxis

The Council Committee Coordinator provided an update regarding the accessible taxi services offered through the City of Vaughan. She advised that after conflicting information regarding prices was provided to a Committee Member from one of the participating taxi companies, an investigation took place involving City of Vaughn By-law and Licensing officers. The Accessibility Coordinator in Vaughan confirmed that the three taxi companies are part of this service and should provide accessible taxi services at the meter cost. Prior to advertising this information on the Town website, the committee will do a final test call to ensure that the rates are accurate.

8. National Access Awareness Week Discussion

The Committee discussed National Access Awareness Week and the challenge with planning the event due to a lack of quorum for meetings this past year. The Committee suggested adding this item to the September meeting agenda to discuss this year's outcome and the plan for 2018.

New Business

The Chair provided an overview of the Regional Forum recently attending and provided the Committee with some details of a presentation regarding universal design. He also indicated that next year the Region is looking for other municipalities to host the meeting.

The Chair also reminded Committee Members that an AV demo is taking place on July 5th and July 6th regarding the technology upgrades in the Council Chambers.

Adjournment

Moved by: Linda Jones
Seconded by: Jeremy Slessor

1. That the meeting adjourn at 11:49 AM.

Carried

Date

Steve Foglia, Chair