

The meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, March 15, 2018 in the Council Chambers, 395 Mulock Drive, Newmarket.

Members Present: Steve Foglia Chair
Kelsy McIntosh
Linda Jones
Councillor Bisanz
Richard Wilson
Jeremy Slessor

Regrets: Aaron Firth

Staff Present: K Saini, Deputy Town Clerk
H. Leznoff, Council/Committee Coordinator
G. MacMillan Manager, Capital Projects
S. Scrofano, Capital Works Project Manager
M. Ashworth, Parks Development Coordinator
L. Traviss, Senior Planner
T. Horton, Planner
F. Dipassio, Licensing Officer
N. Evans, Supervisor, Parks
A. Fox, Operator, General Parks and Special Events

Guest: Danielle Liddy, ASL Services

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM, with Steve Foglia in the Chair.

Additions & Corrections to the Agenda

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Presentation & Deputations

There were no presentations or deputations.

Approval of Minutes

1. Newmarket Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2018.

Moved by: Linda Jones
Seconded by: Kelsy McIntosh

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2018 be approved.

Carried

Items for Discussion

2. Site Plan Process Review Presentation/Discussion

The Senior Planner and Planner addressed the Committee with a presentation regarding the new Site Plan Process review, and specifically addressing the role of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. He advised that the Committee can determine what type of applications they wish to review (e.g. commercial properties, public properties etc.), what plans they wish to comment on (e.g. Site Plans, Landscaping plans etc.) and how they would like the comments to be delivered to planning staff. The Planner further advised that with the proposed new process, the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be included as part of the technical review of Site Plan applications, in the same manner as other stakeholders such as the Engineering Department, Region of York and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

The Planner advised that comments from the Accessibility Advisory Committee would be required within four to five weeks of the application being distributed and that the comments made by the Committee would be sent to the applicant for response. He further advised that planning staff wish to consult with the Committee regarding updating the accessibility checklist that is provided to applicants who submit site plan applications. The Accessibility Advisory Committee agreed that the new process would suit the Committee's needs and advised that for the time being, they wish to be notified of all applications and provided access to plans related to each site plan application. It was determined that the Chair and Richard Wilson would be the points of contact for incoming applications, and would distribute the plans to Committee members for comment, where applicable.

3. Upcoming Capital Projects Presentation

The Manager, Capital Projects addressed the Committee to provide an update on ongoing capital projects as well as provide an overview of projects scheduled for 2018. The Capital Works Manager advised that staff are currently with the consultant to determine if it is possible for a sidewalk to be placed on the north side of Park Avenue; the sidewalk being a minimum of 1.5 metres in width. The Parks Development Coordinator provided an update regarding the Franck Stronach Park Splash Pad. The Accessibility Advisory Committee had reviewed the plans in 2017 and provided comments. The Capital Projects Parks Development Coordinator discussed how the Committee's feedback was incorporated into the final design. Discussion ensued regarding accessible outdoor patio tables, having a feature to adjust the table for various heights. The Manager of Capital Projects provided an overview of upcoming projects including water main projects on Gorham Street and George Street, soccer field improvements at George Richardson Park North, landscaping updates at the Magna Centre, a new trail near National Homes and updated streetscape at Bathurst Street and Davis Drive. He further advised that there will be updates to Armstrong Park and that a PIC will be held on April 19, 2018 to gather input on this project. He advised that his team will return to gather feedback from the Committee once concepts and designs have been established.

4. Playground Improvements Presentation

The Supervisor, Parks and Operator, General Parks and Special Events addressed the Accessibility Advisory Committee to discuss 2018 Park Improvements and to gather feedback from the committee on the proposed designs. The Parks undergoing renovations and improvements include: Beswick Park, Environmental Park, George Richardson Park, Whipper Watson Park, Fairgrounds Park Batting Cage. They advised that the proposed designs are available to view on the Town of Newmarket website. Discussion ensued regarding the use of wood chips and if the material is wheelchair accessible. Due to time constraints, only a few park designs were reviewed but the Supervisor and Operator, Parks advised that the Committee could review the designs posted on the Town's website and provide further comments through email.

5. Upper Canada Mall and Oxford Properties – Accessible Washroom Discussion

The Chair provided an update regarding the accessible washrooms at Upper Canada Mall. He advised that the owners, Oxford Properties confirmed they will be renovating an upstairs washroom into a fully accessible washroom equipped with an adult change table. He further advised that a temporary adjustable change table will be provided until this renovation is complete in 2019.

6. Accessible Taxis Discussion

The Chair provided an update regarding ADAPT's transportation service and expressed concern regarding the accessible taxi services. The Town of Newmarket amended its by-law to allow for accessible taxis from the City of Vaughan to operate in Newmarket without a licence plate. However, when members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee attempted to book transportation with the three companies offering accessible taxi services, they faced challenges such as the company cancelling the ride at the last minute or advising that they cannot provide the service in Newmarket. The Licensing Officer advised that she would raise this concern at the next York Region licensing meeting.

7. National Access Awareness Week – Update from Sub-committee meeting

The Chair advised that the next Sub-Committee meeting will be held on April 26, 2018 at 10:30 AM at the Community Centre.

New Business

There were no items of new business.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 12:39 PM.

Date

Steve Foglia, Chair