

Members present:

- Councillor Thompson – appointed as Co-Chair by the Committee
- Darlene Dautel – appointed as Co-Chair by the Committee
- Christine-Ann Fisher
- Mellisa Markin
- Daniel Drexler, Corporate Officer

1. Introduction of the Members – Corporate Officer

Please be prepared to briefly introduce yourself and provide a little bit of information why you're interested in participating in this committee.

Each member provided a brief introduction.

2. Land Acknowledgement – Corporate Officer

The Corporate Officer delivered the Land Acknowledgement

3. Call to Order – Corporate Officer

The Corporate Officer called the Meeting to order at 4:43pm

4. Adoption of Agenda – Corporate Officer

The agenda was adopted as presented by consensus.

5. Election of Co-Chairs – Corporate Officer

a. One Co-Chair from the City (Section 13 of Terms of Reference (TOR))
Councillor Thompson was appointed Co-Chair on behalf of the City.

b. One Co-Chair from the Community (Section 14 of TOR)
Darlene was appointed Co-Chair on behalf of the Community members.

The Corporate Officer advised that the chair role for the meeting commonly alternates between the Co-Chairs.

Co-Chair Councillor Thompson presided over the meeting from this point:

6. Review Terms of Reference (TOR)

a. Focus Area (Section 19)

- b. Public Feedback (Section 20)
- c. Annual Tasks (Section 21-22)
- d. Schedule A – Action Plans
- e. Other sections as desired

The Terms of Reference (TOR) were discussed by the Committee. The Committee was advised about the services that the City provides, what objectives the Province provided for Accessibility Committees in general, and the criteria's that Council set.

7. Action Plan 2023 item

- a. Develop feedback mechanism for the Public to the AAC (Short Term Action Plan Item #2, also see Section 20 of TOR)

The Committee discussed potential ways to garner feedback from the community. Some options included a subpage on the City website, email address, a survey to the public, and holding an open house.

City staff will configure an email address soon and begin work on a simple sub-page to the City's website to provide details about the committee and to share information with the community.

The possibility of an Open House would need to be further discussed especially what the intent of the Open House would be and at what stage of any of the projects. A potential location would be the City Park facility, also referred to as the Seniors Center.

A survey was discussed as a tool to garner information from the public regarding collecting feedback on challenges and obstacles throughout the City. Christine-Ann Fisher advised that she hosted an accessibility forum around 2015 and still has all the feedback that was collected. She plans to submit this to the Committee for review as it would provide a good starting point that the Committee could focus on at once.

The Committee also inquired if the City's website is capable of being read out aloud. City staff will review and report back to the Committee

- b. Develop 1 action item for Council for 2024 budget (Short Term Action Plan Item #1, also see Sections 1, 3, 19 and 22 of TOR)

The Committee discussed potential options for 2024 for Council to consider based on the TOR. The feedback from the accessibility forum in 2015 indicated a variety of mobility issues throughout the community, including:

- Accessible parking stalls
- Snow piles in accessible parking stalls
- Curb let downs for accessible parking
- Curb let downs at intersections
- Uneven/cracked sidewalks

The Committee determined that it may be a valid option to ask Council to further explore these mobility challenges; however, the Committee wanted to review the full list from the accessibility forum first. Co-Chair Thompson and the Corporate Officer advised of the budget cycle for the City and how the annual budget process would work for including a specific project by the Committee. It was noted that accessibility improvements were needed throughout the City and not just around mobility but also around sight challenges and communication especially as the world is becoming more and more digital.

8. Late Items

None

9. Next Meeting Date

Due to some of the technological challenges throughout the meeting for some members, the Committee discussed the potential to have a follow up meeting in-person early in October to review the accessibility forum list and finalize the request to Council for 2024.

The proposed date is Wednesday October 4, 2023, at 3:30pm at City Hall.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm.