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**ATTENDING**

- Chair, Councillor Jennifer Ingham
- Deputy Mayor Wendy Elliott
- Birgit Elssner
- Ramona Jennex
- Ian Brunton
- Meghan Swanburg (joined online at 4:46pm)

**ALSO ATTENDING:**

- Barb Shaw, Communications & Special Projects Specialist
- Laura Morrison, Recording Secretary
- Interested members of the community

**REGRETS:**

- Alex Leblanc

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Councillor Jen Ingham called the meeting to order at 4:31pm.

- 1. Approval of Agenda**      **MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.**

**CARRIED**

*(change in order)*

- 2. Approval of the Minutes**      **MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17, 2023, ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

- 3. Public Input**      No public input

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**4. Comments from the Chair**

- Attended Acadia Accessibility engagement. Spent time talking about what the Town is doing, people are interested.
- Manager of Communications & Strategic Initiatives now qualified to be a facilitator from Accessibility Directorate on Accessibility Foundations.
- Introductions of new members.

**5. Update on Standards from Accessibility Directorate**

- No update. Feedback submitted but standards have not yet been released.
- Could be some overlaps with other standards such as building code, public transport and communication standards causing delays.

**6. Update on Report Card (Town Project)**

- Funding secured for automatic doors at recreation centre, awaiting installation. Informed by feedback from this committee which provided important information around the challenge people in mobility devices can face trying to push buttons, therefore, long strips will be put in place.
- Funding in place for paved pathways at Clock Park.
- Building in accessible features to all infrastructure projects go forward. Parks & Open Spaces Master plan feedback provided through this committee.
- Ongoing Communication efforts – web rebuild, plain language, captioning, digital formats, ASL provided.
- Braille business cards.
- Train the trainer program Accessibility Directorate completed.
- HR policies and Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility policy under review.

- Working with Business community.
- Barriers to completion of report card include:
  - Communication Access Realtime Interpreters – no requests, how to activate.
  - NSFAM – advocacy is done through elected members.
  - Develop public awareness to help others understand barriers to accessibility.
- Lots achieved, not a lot of carry over, turn minds to next plan.

## 7. Accessibility Week

- Mobility Matters in May/June – discussion on public space event and what that could look like. Comments/suggestions included:
  - Interactive, engaging, educational, fun but not disrespectful.
  - Silent disco – option of speaker on a vibration to assist those that are hard of hearing.
  - L’Arche, CLAS and SMILE Program participation – having kids and adults from these groups teach.
  - Anyone from the community that has a disability, visible or invisible if they are willing could invite people to ask them about their disability to help break down barriers and increase comfort levels.
  - Sensory panels/Sensory spaces for neurodiverse people to accommodate them and to help them engage in a comfortable space.
  - Could have separate kids and adult oriented or family oriented activities but respectful.

- Parks & Open Spaces Master plan work – branch into discussion on what areas do they experience barriers. Draw out the narratives.
- Showcase each of the Five pillars and what they mean.
- Consider using a location that can be made accessible to learn from by using a beach mat for e.g. to gain access.
- Appropriate freebies to entice people to attend.
- Sign language interpreter.
- Coloured circle stickers people can write a phrase on what they experience as a barrier and if you agree you put a sticker on the comment.
- Find a way to demonstrate that accommodations for disabilities help everyone – not that someone is getting extra but rather levelling the playing field.
- Temporary disabilities.
- Pain as a disability.
- Discussion on providing Accessible Foundations program as a workshop to the community – lecture series or community presentation. More formal learning environment. Partner with Acadia to ease the workload. Need advice from Directorate about reworking the materials to see what we can do with them.
- Location considerations - Events Lawn ensure construction not an issue.
- Somewhere with accessible parking.

## 8. Roundtable

- Discussion on report card and plain language.

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**9. Next Meeting**                      April 8, 4:30pm

**10. Adjournment**                      • Meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

**Approved at the April, 2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting.  
As recorded by Laura Morrison, Town Clerk.**