



City of Barrie

70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Minutes - Final Accessibility Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 14, 2019

4:00 PM

Sir Robert Barrie Room

For consideration by the Finance and Corporate Services Committee on December 4, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair C. Kenwell at 4:01 p.m. and the following were in attendance:

Present: 6 - Vice Chair C. Kenwell
Councillor R. Thomson
T. Lowry
H. Morgan
L. Pope
D. Taylor

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor, S. Morales
Dawn Windross, Special Olympics
Kathy McCarrol, Special Olympics
Trevor Knight, Special Olympics

STAFF:

Accessibility and Diversity Advisor, C. Dillon
Acting Deputy City Clerk, T. Maynard
Infrastructure Planning Engineer, B. Gratrix
Supervisor of Enforcement Services, J. Forgrave
Supervisor of Transit Operations and Infrastructure, J. Zimmerman
Transit Coordinator, J. McDonald.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS - BARRIE CHAPTER

Dawn Windross, Community Coordinator for the Special Olympics Ontario - Barrie Chapter provided a presentation concerning the Barrie Community of Special Olympics Ontario.

Ms. Windross advised that there are currently 250 athletes that train year round for the Special Olympic sports programs and that the Barrie Chapter of Special Olympics is a non-profit organization which relies solely on volunteers and fundraised money to support their many programs. Ms. Windross noted that athletes who train for the Special Olympics sports programs have been shown to experience a boost in their confidence level and take great pride in their accomplishments.

Ms. Windross discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- Photographs illustrating the many Special Olympic sports programs;
- The Community Partnerships and Sponsors;
- The Special Olympics Provincial, National and World Games;
- The training associated with Special Olympics sports programs;
- The role of the Healthy Athletes program offered by Special Olympics; and
- Photographs illustrating Barrie's Top Special Olympic Athletes.

Ms. Windross discussed the challenges faced by Special Olympics Ontario Barrie Chapter such as fundraising, the need for more volunteers and training space for their athletes. Ms. Windross commented that their organization has seen an increase in the participants in the Special Olympics sports programs and are struggling to find an Olympic size rubber track for their athletes to train.

Trevor Knight, showcased the Olympic medals he has won at the Special Olympic Games.

The Committee provided their comments to Ms. Windross and received responses. The Committee will invite staff from Recreation Services to a future meeting to discuss potential training space.

DUNLOP STREET PROJECT UPDATE

B. Gratrix, Infrastructure Planning Engineer provided an update concerning the Dunlop Street Corridor Improvements from Ferndale Drive to Anne Street

Mr. Gratrix advised that the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is planning for Highway 400 improvements at the Dunlop Street interchange, Anne Street crossing and Sunnidale Road Crossing.

Mr. Gratrix discussed the following alternative design concept drawings:

- Alternative Design Concept 1 - Preliminary Preferred Alternative;
- Alternative Design Concept 2; and
- Alternative Design Concept 3

Mr. Gratrix commented that there are plans to enhance pedestrian infrastructure which will improve accessibility by providing sidewalks on both sides of the Dunlop Street Corridor.

Mr. Gratrix commented that the Ministry of Transportation plans to start construction of the Anne Street crossing bridge in 2020 followed by Sunnidale Road Crossing and then Dunlop Street interchange. Mr. Gratrix highlighted that the Ministry of Transportation have plans to schedule open houses related to the Highway 400 improvements in 2020.

ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT

D. Taylor and H. Morgan discussed the recommendation from the AAC Sub-Committee on Transit Report dated October 7, 2019 concerning lack of accessible alternative forms of transit (accessible taxis/private companies). H. Morgan explained her rationale and she commented that Barrie's current individualized Specialized Transit Service does not run 24/7 and can impact those community members with disabilities that may require accessible transit services after hours. Ms. Morgan noted that it can be quite challenging to get an accessible taxi after hours as she feels there are a lack of accessible taxis in Barrie.

D. Taylor suggested that by providing incentives may encourage taxi companies to increase the amount of accessible taxis.

D. Taylor and H. Morgan discussed and provided suggestions on the following:

- To provide incentives for accessible taxis;
- The scheduling process and length of service related to accessible transit;
- Alternative services for scheduling out of hours for accessible transit;
- Access to transit scheduling systems; and
- Community Routes for 2020.

J. Zimmerman, Supervisor of Transit Operations and Infrastructure advised that staff in the Transit Parking and Strategy Department have reviewed the report provided by the AAC-Sub Committee dated October 7, 2019 and will be providing a presentation to the Committee in January, 2020 regarding some updates to the Transit Services which may address some of the concerns related to accessible transit. Mr. Zimmerman commented that there are plans for a software update to the Specialized Transit Services scheduling system.

J. Forgrave, Supervisor of Enforcement Services provided an overview of the licencing requirements for taxi cabs and taxi companies.

ACCESSIBLE RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE

C. Dillon, Accessibility and Diversity Specialist provided an update regarding the Committee's selections related to the Accessible Recognition awards. Ms. Dillon commented that plans are to recognize the recipients at a Council meeting scheduled for January, 2020.

SELECTION OF CHAIR

T. Maynard, Acting Deputy City Clerk provided an update concerning the selection of the Chair for the Committee

The Committee selected C. Kenwell as Chair and H. Morgan as Vice-Chair for the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

The Committee met and discussed the 2020 meeting schedule and chose to continue meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 4pm with exception of July, August and December.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN