

City of Edmonton
Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)
Minutes
Monday Sept 11th, 2023
Heritage Room at City Hall
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

In Attendance: D. Akanpentiba-Achura, D. Antaya-Moore, B. Belsek, C. Brenneis, M. Dancsok, C. Decore, K. Ewig, P. Kocom, T. LaRiviere, S. Mason, D. Rudolph, I. Stephaniuk-Gaudet, P. Rzechowka, M. Vautour, Z. Weeks

Council Sponsors: Clr. Tang, Clr. Wright

Guest: Z. Jabeen, Y, Subramonian, S. Young

Regrets: N/A

Staff: C. Lamoureux, A.Szafranski, S. Wadi

Call to order at 5:11 pm

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: P. Rzechowka

To approve the agenda as presented.

Carried Unanimously

2. Approval of the July 10, 2023 Minutes

Motion: C. Brenneis

To approve the July 10, 2023 minutes as presented.

Carried Unanimously

3. Land Acknowledgement

Presented by S. Mason

4. New Business

City of Edmonton, Policy C602 - Corporate Accessibility Plan update

a. Guests - Y, Subramonian, S. Young

b. [Corporate Accessibility Plan](#)

c. Questions:

i. Advocating for the Accessibility Act - are there other organizations that you campaigned?

1. There is a grassroots movement #barrierfree that has been advocating for an Accessibility Act.

ii. What was the feedback or response or attendance on a safety code session?

1. Internal consultations with City of Edmonton staff members on barrier free building code designs, creating accessible awareness and historical building accessibility.
- iii. A number of questions on the City of Edmonton (CoE) stance on employment equity for persons with disabilities?
 1. Are there targets or quotas set with the recruitment and talent acquisition?
 2. What is the plan to encourage folks with mental health issues in the hiring and retention?
 3. How does inclusive hiring interact with the collective agreements and the duty to accommodate? (Can AAC members see a copy of these?)
 - a. ACTION: Administration to follow up with employee services.
- iv. What are you measuring within the internal dashboard?
 1. All of the Policy commitments. The intent of the dashboard is to show how the CoE is doing in terms of reaching the policy commitments. It's a long-term plan.
- v. Does digital accessibility include social media and making sure that accessible content includes the CoE's social media as well as if that's being communicated to City Council?
 1. The intent is that the social media and most of the communications as best it can be is accessible to the public using the best practices in the industry.
- vi. Is there a way to increase participation in the accessibility training for CoE staff? Do we know the statistics of those who have taken the training and what areas of the CoE are they from?
 1. To date, the accessibility training has not been made mandatory as it is not legislated, but there are opportunities to continue to promote.

5. Council Updates

- a. Transit Open House Events -
 - i. September 16 - Centennial bus garage (15520 Ellerslie Road SW) 10 - 3 pm
 - ii. September 21 - Percy Wickman Garage 5610 86 Street NW) from 11 - 2 pm
 1. Open house will focus on DATS and accessibility.
 - iii. September 23 - D.L. MacDonald LRT garage (13310 50A Street NW) 10 - 3 pm
- b. National Urban Park Project
 - i. Council approved to move into the planning, exploratory phase, which will be funded by the federal government. To further explore outstanding questions around governance, around funding, and what the model for a national urban park could look like.
- c. Upcoming report for Urban Planning Committee on September 19th for item 7.1 On standards for public realm Infrastructure.

- d. Zoning bylaw will be at Council at the Public hearings will be held on October 16, 17 and 18. If a fourth day is required, it will be in December.

6. Chair Update

- a. Member Attendance
 - i. Within the AAC's bylaw that there is an attendance requirement, that you do not miss three meetings in a six month period.
- b. Governance Review
 - i. A meeting is planned with the Committees of Council Chairs at the end of September.

7. Old Business

- a. Assisted Snow Removal Program - unfunded Service Package
 - i. The Assisted Snow Removal program (which assists seniors and persons with disabilities who are unable to remove snow and can't afford) is looking for any feedback on the program.
 - ii. Snow removal service standards have been prolonged (just want to be ahead of the plan)
 - iii. There is an \$750,000 unfunded service package coming forward in the Fall of 2023 to Council.
 - 1. AAC members are encouraged to speak to the item or write a memo to Council.
 - a. Executive committee to discuss an approach.

8. ETSAB - update

- a. City Council is hosting a transit focused event on September 20. Topics include: potential of transit, any risks, implementation and intergovernmental advocacy.
- b. Annual retreat was held on September 9th. Members came up with a list of actions that ETSAB will be working on during 2023/2024. The working groups will share the actions when they are finalized.
- c. Ridership improvement strategy working group is having active meetings with DAG. They are looking at providing accessibility suggestions to incorporate issues that would present for improvement items to improve ridership experiences.

9. Administration/Executive Update

- a. Heritage Room Technology
 - i. Any ongoing issues with the technology in the Heritage room, please Administration know. Issues are mostly identified and admin is working with operations to solve.

10. Other Committee Work

- a. Policy Review
 - i. The last Policy meeting was engaging with city staff around the imagining of Jasper Avenue work that's happening from 109 street through to 124th street.

- ii. A representative from Vehicle for Hire is coming to the Policy October meeting. Policy members are encouraged to think on potential questions for Administration.

b. Community Engagement

- i. Snow & Ice Control - Communications
 - 1. Looking at reviewing future social media posts with Parodos.
 - 2. Administration has an upcoming Rogers Place tour which could lead to a tour for AAC members.
 - 3. Treat Accessibly Halloween Village to be held in Edmonton on October 21, 2023 - 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Administration to send out the registration email.

11. Round Table

- a. Sign language
 - i. Are there any standards for captioning for CoE communications?
 - 1. Administration to respond.
- b. AAC meetings to be held in person while, sub committee to continue to held online.

12. AAC Calendar

- a. Non-Market Affordable Housing Options - Oct. 11
- b. ETSAB - A review of Winter Mobility & Accessibility of Pathways to TRansit Stops - Oct 11
- c. Edmonton's Plan to Prevent Homelessness - Lessons Learned
- d. Affordable Housing Strategy - Oct 30, 2023
- e. [Assisted Snow Removal Program - Fall Budget Adjustment](#)
- f. Co-mingling Paratransit and On Demand Transit - Nov 28, 2023

13. Adjournment at 6:48 pm.

14. Next Meetings

- a. Community Engagement - Tuesday, October 3 @ 4:30pm (online)
- b. Policy Subcommittee - Monday, October 2nd @ 4:30pm (online)
- c. AAC Main Meeting - Monday, October 16th @ 5:00pm - Heritage Room