

## **Clarington Accessibility Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes for the meeting of**

**October 6, 2021 6:30 p.m.**

### **Via Microsoft Teams**

If this information is required in an alternate format, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator at 905-623-3379 ext. 2131.

**Present:** Shea-Lea Latchford, Chair  
Sylvia Jaspers-Fayer, Vice-Chair  
Sarah Taylor  
Tim Van Leeuwen  
Sarah McConaghy  
Catherine McConaghy  
Councillor Janice Jones

**Also Present:** Jeannette Whynot, Accessibility Coordinator  
Donald Salah, Program Manager, Ontario Chamber of Commerce –  
Discover Ability Network

**Regrets:** Pinder DaSilva  
Deb Kalogris  
Marina Ross

#### **1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

#### **2. Declaration of Interest**

None

#### **3. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Sarah Taylor; seconded by Tim Van Leeuwen

That the minutes of the meeting of September 8, 2021 be approved.

**Carried**

## **4. Presentation**

### **Discover Ability Network Presentation**

Donald Salah, Program Manager, Ontario Chamber of Commerce – Discover Ability Network

Donald Salah presented information on the Ontario Chamber of Commerce's Discover Ability Network to the Committee. The Committee learned that the Discover Ability Network is free to join and focuses on three areas: Networking, Job Matching and Training.

After learning about the Discover Ability Network and the opportunities they can offer the Municipality, the following motion was presented:

**Moved** by Shea-Lea Latchford, Seconded by Sarah and Catherine McConaghy

**That** the Municipality of Clarington Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) is in support of the Discover Ability Network program and recommends endorsement with the broader Municipality of Clarington, and

**That** the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends the Municipality of Clarington joins the Discover Ability Network program to use as a recruitment tool for inclusive hiring

**Carried**

## **5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes**

### **5.1 December 3<sup>rd</sup> – International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

Jeannette requested ideas from the Committee on how to mark December 3<sup>rd</sup> – International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The following were requested and will be investigated further by Jeannette:

- Flag Raising
- Information tables in the Community Centres/Facilities
- Social media posts
- Community survey for feedback
- Movie night

Jeannette will investigate and report back at the November meeting. Other suggestions should be forwarded to Jeannette.

## **5.2 Trail Accessibility**

Sarah Taylor spoke about her experience along the waterfront trail and her discovery that one parking lot does not have an accessible connection to the waterfront trail. While the trail itself is excellent, she noted that the parking lot did not have an accessible connection and there was a pole in the middle of the walkway, in addition to a slope issue and being made of gravel.

Jeannette advised that she would speak with Public Works and see if they can come up with a solution. She will report back once there is more information.

Sarah also noted that the trails maps used outdated language and requested that they be updated. Jeannette advised she will speak with Public Works and have the maps updated as soon as possible.

## **5.3 Sidewalk Connectivity**

Sarah Taylor brought forward an issue and requested that the Committee work towards a solution. Recognizing that there is no easy or quick fix, Sarah wanted to get the issue in front of the Committee and staff so work could begin to address the lack of connectivity in sidewalks and multi-use pathways/trails in Clarington.

As an example of the issue facing people with disabilities, and the general public, there is no safe pedestrian connection between Courtice and Bowmanville. With no sidewalks or multi-use trail/path, people with disabilities are forced to either use their mobility device on busy (and fast) Highway 2 or try and navigate over gravel shoulders and grass covered private property.

Sarah requested that the Municipality address the lack of pedestrian connectivity throughout Clarington, which received support from all members of the Committee.

Jeannette will reach out to staff and invite them to speak/listen to the Committee at a future meeting.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 2021 Enabling Accessibility Fund Application(s)**

In June 2021 the Municipality applied for a large grant to make accessibility updates at Town Hall. We should know the result of our application in the new year. If successful, Town Hall would undergo a large 2-year transformation that would see a new accessible entrance, ramp, barrier-free universal washroom, updated customer service desks, updated furniture in the boardrooms, changing the lift to the library to an elevator and outdoor landscaping to provide a service animal relief area.

## **7. Other Business**

Sylvia Jaspers-Fayer asked if there would be snow removal on the trails again this year. Councillor Jones confirmed that there would be snow removal again and they are trying to determine if it can be expanded to more trails in the future.

## **8. Adjournment**

Moved by Sarah McConaghy, Seconded by Sarah Taylor

That the meeting be adjourned

**Carried**

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm

**Next meeting: Wednesday December 1, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams**