



AGENDA ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
River Plate Room, Town Hall
Meeting No.3

Online Agenda: Anything in **blue** denotes an attachment/link. By clicking the links on the agenda page, you can jump directly to that section of the agenda. To maneuver back to the agenda page use the **Ctrl + Home** keys simultaneously **OR** use the "Bookmark" icon on the navigation panel to the left of your screen.



1. Call to Order

1.1 New Member Welcome

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 **February 20, 2013** Page 3

4. Presentation/Discussion Items

4.1 **Diversity & Community Engagement Plan Annual Update (6:05 – 6:35 p.m.)** Donna Bright, *Chief Librarian Executive Officer, Staff DACE Committee Chair*

4.2 **Staff Integrated Accessibility Standards Training Update (6:35 – 7:05 p.m.)**

4.3 **2013 National Access Awareness Week Event Planning / Outreach**

4.3 **Accessibility Guidelines / Tip Sheets**

5. Standing Items

5.1 **2013 Work Plan** Page 8

5.2 **Previous Business Update**

5.3 **Site Plan Application Review**

6. Correspondence

6.1 **Volunteer Recognition Awards Nomination: Casey Malvern** Page 11

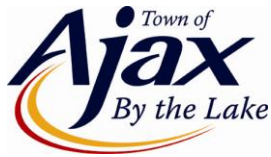
6.2 **Durham Deaf Accessibility Committee: Captioning for City and Town Council Meetings** Page 13

7. Update from Council

8. New Business

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., River Plate Room, Town Hall



DRAFT MINUTES
Accessibility Advisory Committee
February 20, 2013
River Plate Room, Town Hall
Meeting No.2

Committee Members:	Councillor Pat Brown Marcia Bowen Sepelene Deonarine Camille Gooden Vincent Plouffe, Co-Chair Kathreen Smith – Vice Chair Julia Stevenson
Staff:	Sarah Moore, Committee Coordinator
Guests:	Geoff Romanowski, Development Approvals Coordinator Steven McReelis, Senior Plans Examiner, Deputy Chief Building Official Donna Mullings, Ajax resident Angie Wilson, Ajax resident
Regrets:	Dawn Gabriel ,Barb Dowds, Michel St-Arneault

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Plouffe called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

With consent of all Members present, Item 4.1 Mental Health Awareness, was brought forward.

4. Presentation/Discussion Items

4.1 Mental Health Awareness

Ms. Casey Malvern, Ajax resident and mental health activist, spoke about the numerous programs and initiatives she is involved with to promote awareness about mental health and break down stigma. She is currently a community correspondent with Partners for Mental Health, was named a Scotia Bank 'Game changer', works with community organizations such as the Youth Centre and Ontario Shores, and has spearheaded several multimedia awareness projects including the #IAM twitter/Facebook campaign as well as creation of her short film 'Welcome to Reality'.

She shared her personal journey with Borderline Personality Disorder, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Bulimia Nervosa. Ms. Malvern spoke about how she took her negative situation and turned it into a positive by becoming an advocate for mental health. She shared links to several of her blogs as well as showed a video showcasing her portfolio of community involvement. She provided details of an upcoming national student mental health summit she will be participating in called Unleash the Noise.

Co-Chair Plouffe asked Ms. Malvern what the committee could do to support her initiatives. She encouraged Members to take part in public awareness through small community initiatives such as setting up an information booth at Town events. She indicated that she received very positive response from fellow youth and adults who are open to sharing their stories when they see someone do the same. On behalf of the Committee, Co-Chair Plouffe commended Ms. Malvern for her community awareness efforts and her use of social media as an educational tool, to outreach to youth.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: P. Brown
Seconded by: J. Stevenson

That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting held on January 23, 2013, be adopted.

CARRIED

4.2 Overview of the Planning & Development Process and Proposed Accessibility Changes to the Ontario Building Code.

Mr. Geoff Romanowski, Development Approvals Coordinator, and Mr. Steven McReelis, Senior Plans Examiner/Deputy Chief Building Official, introduced themselves and identified the differences between development applications and building permits.

Mr. Romanowski provided a detailed overview of the development application and approval process indicating opportunities for committee consultation and feedback during the pre-consultation and application review phases. Members posed questions relative to the time frame for processing applications and the appeals process. All applications were noted to be reviewed by staff from a cross-section of departments including building, fire, engineering, and landscape architecture, who all make considerations for accessibility during their review.

The Committee thanked staff for being included on the circulation of site plan materials for review and for the effort made to negotiate accessible design elements beyond what is legislatively required.

Mr. McReelis provided a review of building permit processes and noted that limited interior design layouts are available through the site plan review process as dictated by the Planning Act. Members inquired about the process, should a developer not comply with

accessible design requirements. Mr. Romanowski indicated that development securities are withheld to be used to remedy such matters. Mr. McReelis discussed elements of proposed accessibility changes to the Ontario Building Code that are likely to receive pushback from developers. Design requirements such as rough-ins for automatic power door operators and reinforcement for future installation of accessible amenities (counters, cupboards etc.), and wider door widths were noted.

Members shared anecdotal stories relative to inaccessible washroom amenities in older buildings, such as stall widths that do not accommodate an individual and service animal, as well as concerns with the height of change tables. Questions were raised relative to whether the Town will be revising the Town of Ajax Facility Accessibility Design Guidelines. Staff indicated that accessibility requirements will be incorporated in to planning documents such as the site plan review manual and zoning by-law.

The Committee requested clarity from staff as to the role to take relative to building permit and site plan review. Staff encouraged the Committee to provide a list of focus areas they are interested in reviewing above the required legislative consultation. Members expressed priority interest in reviewing municipal projects, large developments, commercial, retails, residential and multi-residential/assisted living facilities (retirement homes, long-term care facilities).

Mr. McReelis concluded by indicating the public feedback period for the proposed accessibility amendments to the Ontario Building Code is March 1, 2013. Members expressed interest in inviting Mr. McReelis to return to the committee for further discussion, once the revised Ontario Building Code has been approved.

4.3 Strong Neighbourhood Strategy Survey

Ms. Moore provided a brief update on the Strong Neighbourhood Strategy noting that eight community meetings are being conducted. Members were encouraged to attend and were asked to encourage others to attend as well. Details relative to a community survey were reviewed and Members were given the opportunity to complete the survey during the Meeting.

4.4 Volunteer Recognition Award

Members discussed the opportunity to submit a nomination for the Accessibility Volunteer Recognition Award.

Moved by: J. Stevenson
Seconded by: C. Gooden

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee pursue nomination of Casey Malvern for the 2012 Accessibility Volunteer Recognition Award.

CARRIED

Ms. Stevenson volunteered to prepare a draft summary for the Committee's review to be circulated by March 1, 2013.

4.5 2013 National Access Awareness Week Brainstorming

The Committee discussed options for organizing a public awareness event or display for the 2013 National Access Awareness Week. Members reviewed examples of activities from other municipalities including art displays, and the City of Pickering's Accessibility Day at the Pickering Town Centre. Ms. Stevenson expressed interest in accessibility demonstration. Potential event locations were identified as Town Hall, the Ajax Public Library, community centres and in Heritage Square. Members were encouraged to bring more detailed ideas to the March 21, 2013 Meeting for discussion.

5. Standing Items

5.1 2013 Work Plan

In the interest of time, this item was not discussed in detail.

5.2 Previous Business Update

This item was covered during discussion of Item 4.2 Overview of Planning & Development Process & Proposed Accessibility Changes to the Ontario Building Code.

Ms. Moore added that she had delivered the presentation on the Design of Public Spaces Standard to the Planning & Development Management Team.

5.3 Site Plan Application Review: Miller Creek Residential Developments

Members indicated that the designs reviewed provided insufficient details to provide comment. The Committee encouraged staff to identify principle accessibility elements, grade changes and access points on future plans in order to assist with a more thorough review.

5.4 Accessibility Guidelines / Tip Sheets

Ms. Bowen and Ms. Stevenson submitted their suggestions for tips to include on the accessible meeting guidelines brochure. Members were encouraged to forward their top ten tips to Ms. Moore for inclusion in the next Meeting agenda. Members proposed developing an accessible design element reminder checklist for building inspectors.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Update from Council

None

8. New Business

8.1 Snow Removal

Members participated in a discussion relative to accessibility concerns with snow removal during periods of heavy snow. Staff acknowledged that there exists a priority maintenance schedule for removal and agreed to look further into the matter and report back to the Committee.

9. Adjournment

Moved by: C. Gooden
Seconded by: P. Brown

That the February 20, 2013 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned (8:15 p.m.).

CARRIED

2013 Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan

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Item		Objective	Timeline	Status
1.	<p><u>AODA Integrated Accessibility Standard Update</u> <i>Participation in consultation and review of Town of Ajax compliance with Integrated Accessibility Standards Requirements</i></p> <p>2013 focus will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy development • staff training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy & Procedure • Service Delivery • Information & Communications 	January 1, 2014	ongoing
2.	<p><u>Mid-term Committee Update Delegation to Council</u> <i>Review of recent committee achievements and future projects. Presented by Committee Chair and Members</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Delivery • Community Partnerships • Information & Communication 	April 8	
3.	<p><u>Regional AAC Chairs Meeting</u> <i>Attendance at quarterly Regional AAC meetings with Committee Chairs and staff liaisons. Communication and participation in annual Regional Joint AAC Meeting (date TBD)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Partnership • Information & Communications 	Quarterly: May 1 August 7 November 27	
4.	<p><u>National Access Awareness Week</u> <i>Discussion/brainstorming for 2013 event(s), Council proclamation & delegation</i> Delegation – May 13 2013 May 26 – June 1, 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Partnership • Information & Communications 	Planning: March/April 2013 Event: TBD	
5.	<p><u>Multi-year Accessibility Plan (2012-2017)</u> <i>Review and comment on development and implementation of the accessibility plan document</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departmental & AAC consultation • Public Meeting? • Annual status report to Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy & Procedure • Service Delivery • Information & Communications • Facilities & Infrastructure 	Annual Status Reporting: Fall 2013	

2013 Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan

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Item		Objective	Timeline	Status
6.	<u>Taxi By-law Review</u> <i>Review and provide comment on Town's taxi by-law with attention to accessible taxi cabs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Delivery • Policy & Procedure 	early 2013	ongoing
7.	<u>2013 DREN Accessibility Award Nomination</u> <i>Nomination preparation and submission for annual Regional Accessibility Awards</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Partnership • Information & Communications 	TBD	
8.	<u>Volunteer Recognition Awards</u> <i>Nomination preparation and submission for annual Town of Ajax Volunteer Recognition Awards; participation in Award Selection Review Committee</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Partnership • Information & Communications 	Jan - March	complete
9.	<u>Accessible Ajax Web Content</u> <i>Review existing content and provide feedback for additional elements to include</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information & Communication 	TBD	complete
10.	<u>Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee Newsletter</u> <i>Contribution of article/content submissions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Partnerships • Information & Communication 	Submission Dates TBD	Ongoing
11.	<u>Durham Transit Specialized Services</u> <i>Annual presentation and discussion of accessibility improvements to DRT services & specialized services, including compliance plans for the Integrated Accessibility Standards, OR 191/11 Transportation requirements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy & Procedure • Service Delivery • Community Partnerships 	Fall 2013	
12.	<u>Highway #2 Bus Rapid Transit Project</u> <i>Monitor & review updates of the proposed implementation of a rapid transit system connecting Durham Region along Highway #2; provide comment on accessibility of service & infrastructure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities & Infrastructure 	Update TBD	

2013 Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan

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Item		Objective	Timeline	Status
13.	<u>2013 Building Approvals/Site Plan Review</u> <i>Participate in review of major community and Town development proposals to provide feedback on accessibility elements.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities & Infrastructure 	Monthly	Ongoing
14.	<u>StopGap Program</u> <i>Investigate opportunity for community partnership with local businesses (i.e. Home Depot) to participate in the Stop Gap program Potential for partnership with local BIAs/Rotary</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities & Infrastructure Community Partnerships 	TBD	In progress
15.	<u>Accessibility for Business Brochure</u> <i>Review and revise Town of Ajax Accessibility Brochure to include information on importance of accessibility for local businesses. To be included as part of informational awareness resource package for Ajax businesses</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information & Communications Community Partnerships Service Delivery 	TBD	
16.	<u>Accessibility Tip Sheets</u> <i>Development of clear guidelines for staff and external clubs/organizations on the following topics:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible event planning Hosting an accessible meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information & Communications Community Partnerships Service Delivery 	TBD	
17.	<u>Strengthening Community Partnerships</u> <i>Invitation of local accessibility related organizations to present educational information to the Committee.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casey Malvern, Mental Health Activist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information & Communications Community Partnerships Service Delivery 	February 20	ongoing

Nomination for Casey Malvern for Volunteer Recognition Award

On February 20th, 2013, the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the Town of Ajax was honored and privileged to hear a presentation from a young woman by the name of Casey Malvern on the subject of mental health awareness, and her efforts to bring awareness to the community of the many and varied issues facing those who deal with mental illness on a daily basis – including Casey herself. For the reasons outlined below, we, the Accessibility Advisory Committee of the Town of Ajax, wholeheartedly endorse and nominate Casey Malvern for the Volunteer Recognition Award.

Casey is a courageous young woman living with multiple mental illnesses including borderline personality disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder and bulimia nervosa and has overcome a lifetime of pain and distress.

Casey describes her adolescence in this way, “I cannot remember a time when I did not feel numb, miserable, confused and anxious. These feelings are not easy to live with.” In attempting to cope with these issues, Casey engaged in such behaviors as self-harm and eight suicide attempts. Due to this Casey was removed from mainstream school and admitted to an institution where she developed an eating disorder in an attempt to regain a sense of control over a life that to her seemed to be spiraling out of control. After eleven hospitalizations, Casey made a determination that it was time to challenge her negative perceptions and began the process of recovery, much of it self-motivated.

Casey, along with four other Community Correspondent volunteers for Partners for Mental Health, has been at the forefront of a growing social movement to transform the way Canadians perceive, and treat, mental health issues at the grassroots level, and her tireless efforts have been an inspiration both in her home community of Ajax (Ontario) and beyond. Casey’s passion is to spread awareness about this national charity and mental health issues in general. Further, Casey strongly encourages Canadians to take action, through social media, blogging and personal campaigns in her community. Casey also recently served as an ambassador for Partners for Mental Health on the April 30th Day of Action event in Toronto for this organization’s inaugural national campaign, “Not Myself Today,”

Though young, Casey has bravely, courageously and openly shared her mental health experience in a variety of forums, encouraging others who live with mental illness. Inspired by Partners for Mental Health’s activities, she also spearheaded her own “#IAM” campaign, which gathers and shares positive stories about mental health for future collection into a multimedia project. Along with these numerous other activities, Casey has produced art for the gallery of a local hospital’s child and adolescent inpatient psychiatry program, and also started up several mental health clubs at the schools she has attended. Her energy, enthusiasm and creativity have been invaluable in catalyzing the mental health movement.

Casey’s enthusiastic passion and dedication have been critical in helping build the social movement to effect change in the way mental health is viewed and treated. Her efforts demonstrate the power of individuals to take ownership of the issue and be a part of the solution. Her youth, rather than being a hindrance, has been a catalytic inspiration to others.

Casey has produced numerous courageous videos sharing her mental health journey that have had the direct result in hundreds of people pledging to take action to help transform mental health, and lifting the shame from others to feel confident to share their own stories on the Partners for Mental Health website.

Casey's contributions have helped Partners for Mental Health gather almost 750 stories and have added to the nearly 30,000 pledges signed in support of mental health. Her efforts have played an important role in demonstrating that mental health affects people from all walks of life, and that now is the time for change.

Mental health is one of the last social taboos, something that many are fearful of and afraid to educate themselves on, therefore making it the final frontier of "socially acceptable" discrimination. One in five Canadians will experience some type of mental health problem this year alone, yet many encounter stigma and a lack of support and services, often waiting months before receiving appropriate care. Casey believes she has been given a gift, share her journey with others to encourage society to change its negative view of mental illness, ultimately helping others living with mental illness realize their full potential.



13-575 Thornton Road North, Oshawa, ON L1J 8L5
deafaccessdurham@gmail.com

Lisa McClean Stellick
Station Manager, Rogers TV Durham Region
301 Marwood Drive
Oshawa, ON L1H 1J4

March 5, 2013

Dear Ms. McClean Stellick,

Re: Captioning for City and Town Council Meetings

The Durham Deaf Accessibility Committee was established five years ago with our main focus being advocacy for improved accessibility for the Deaf and hard of hearing community in the Durham Region. We had been in communication with you approximately two years ago regarding the provision of captioning for city and town council meetings in the Durham Region as it is our understanding that there are no captioning provided for local city and town council meetings in the Durham Region.

We have also communicated with various municipalities in the Durham Region who has their council meetings televised about this issue too as well. We had received some responses from them.

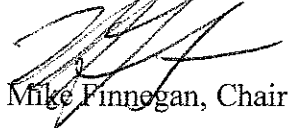
The issue of responsibility for the provision of captioning seems to be ambiguous but we believe that it is both the responsibility of city and town councils as well as Rogers to provide full accessibility for people with hearing loss as residents of the municipalities they live in and as consumers of Rogers TV. Recent statistics shows that 1 out of 4 Canadians have some degree of hearing loss and our population is aging so the number of people who may rely on captioning is likely increasing.

There are other cities in Ontario who have already taken steps to provide full accessibility for the residents of their municipalities by providing captioning for their televised council meetings such as Windsor, Hamilton, Toronto, Burlington and Halton Hills. We hope that the Region of Durham and the municipalities in this region will follow suit and take action to ensure that accessibility is being provided for Deaf and Hard of Hearing residents.

We are aware that the Canadian Television and Radio Corporation issued a decision that all channels will be provided with captioning by September 1, 2014 as a condition of re-licensing. We hope that you would honour this expectation and by late 2014, the Deaf and hard of hearing community in this area will be able to view televised city and town council meetings with captions. They should already have this privilege as we are also taxpayers just like any other resident of Durham Region.

We will be monitoring for any developments in September 2014 and we sincerely hope that there will be no need to further advocate on this issue by then.

With thanks,



Mike Finnegan, Chair

cc: Jean-Pierre Blais, Chair, Canadian Radio and Television Corporation
cc: Durham Deaf Accessibility Committee – Don Kinsley, Veronica Bickle, Gordon Ryall, Beverley Dooley, Kim Reid, Mirek Swiecicki, Behishta Mushtaq, Bryan Meany and Robert Lang.
cc: Maggie Doherty-Gilbert, Regional Director, The Canadian Hearing Society, Peterborough, York, Durham and City of Kawartha Lakes Regions
cc: Christine Elliott, MPP – Oshawa-Whitby
cc: Jerry Ouellette, MPP – Oshawa
cc: Laurie Scott, MPP – Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
cc: John O'Toole, MPP – Durham
cc: Joe Dickson, MPP – Ajax-Pickering
cc: Tracy MacCharles, MPP – Pickering-Scarborough East
cc: Roger Anderson, Regional Chair, The Regional Municipality of Durham
cc: Tracy Tyner-Cavanaugh, Accessibility Coordinator, The Regional Municipality of Durham
cc: Pat Perkins, Mayor of Whitby
cc: John Henry, Mayor of Oshawa
cc: Steve Parish, Mayor of Ajax
cc: David Ryan, Mayor of Pickering
cc: Adrian Foster, Mayor of the Municipality of Clarington
cc: Chuck Mercier – Mayor of Scugog
cc: Gerri-Lynn O'Connor, Mayor of Uxbridge
cc: Terry Clayton, Mayor of Brock
cc: Whitby Accessibility Advisory Committee
cc: Ajax Accessibility Advisory Committee
cc: Town of Brock Accessibility Advisory Committee
cc: Clarington Accessibility Advisory Committee
cc: Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee
cc: Scugog Accessibility Advisory Committee
cc: Oshawa Accessibility Advisory Committee
cc: Uxbridge Accessibility Advisory Committee
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