



## Accessibility Advisory Committee

### Minutes

**Meeting #:** 12  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 21, 2024  
**Time:** 6 pm  
**Location:** Electronic Participation

**Present:** Chair Vania Karam, Vice-Chair Holl Ellingwood, Wayne Antle, Ian Bourrie, Ana Maria Cruz-Valderrama, Jodi Fisher, David Humphries, William Van Veen

**Absent:** Matthew Eliot, Adele Furrrie, Murray MacDonald, Hannah Walhad

**Present non-voting member:** Councillor Marty Carr

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1. Notices and meeting information for meeting participants and the public  
Members of Committee and Council, City staff, media and the general public may join the meeting with this link:  
[Zoom meeting no. 83399258293](#)  
Notices and meeting information are attached to the agenda and minutes, including: availability of simultaneous interpretation and accessibility accommodations; personal information disclaimer for correspondents and public speakers; notices regarding minutes; and remote participation details.  
Accessible formats and communication supports are available, upon request.  
The deadline to register to speak, or submit written comments is 4 pm on the day of the meeting.
2. Declarations of Interest  
No Declarations of Interest were filed.

## 3. Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 AAC Minutes 11 – April 16, 2024**Carried**

## 4. Emergency and Protective Services Department

4.1 Snow Plow Contractor Licensing Review

The following staff from Emergency & Protective Services Department provided a slide presentation and answered questions from the Committee:

Ashley Cheslock, Specialist, By-law Review and Valerie Bietlot, Manager, Public Policy Development, Emergency & Protective Services Department.

Members shared concerns with staff on the proposed sounds of the snow plows pointing out that they were not loud enough. The Chair asked that staff report back to the Committee when they have consulted the public and advise them of the feedback received.

Furthermore, when asked why this sound was being introduced, staff explained it was a Council direction in efforts to reduce the noise. Members pointed out that concerns over safety should be prioritized over nuisance.

The Committee asked about education of the public of the change and staff mentioned that materials would be available. Concerns remained with how to access said materials.

Committee members also provided staff with feedback on snow removal and financial barriers as well as emergency vehicle access.

After discussion, the Committee RECEIVED this item for information.

A copy of the slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

**Report Recommendation(s)**

**That the Accessibility Advisory Committee receive the presentation and provide feedback as appropriate.**

**Received**4.2 Review of the Special Events By-laws

Jerrold Riley, Manager, Program Manager, Public Policy Development, Emergency & Protective Services Department provided a slide presentation and answered questions from the Committee.

Emergency & Protective Services Department staff members were available to respond to questions:

- Valerie Bietlot, Manager, Public Policy Development
- Joshua Davis, Specialist, By-law Reviewand,
- Kerry-Lynn Mohr, Program Manager, Traffic Management, Public Works Department

One delegation spoke to the committee, Kyle Humphrey. He spoke to issues of seating and accessibility for people with wheelchairs.

Members provided feedback on the financial cost of companions, lack of parking at events, and accessible seating is not always very accessible, especially for larger wheelchairs.

Members suggested that trained accessibility coordinators be hired by event venues and be available on-site at the event.

After discussion, the Committee RECEIVED this item for information.

A copy of the slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

### **Report Recommendation(s)**

**That the Accessibility Advisory Committee receive the presentation and provide feedback as appropriate.**

**Received**

## 5. Office of the City Clerk

### 5.1 Accessibility Office Update

Sarah Beriault, Corporate Accessibility Specialist from the Accessibility Office presented a slide presentation and answered questions from the Committee.

The presentation focused on City of Ottawa Municipal Accessibility Plan (COMAP) and Chair Karam suggested that the questions become a poll.

After discussion, the Committee RECEIVED this item for information.

A copy of the slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

**Report Recommendation(s):**

**That the Accessibility Advisory Committee receive the presentation and provide feedback as appropriate.**

**Received**

6. Responses to Inquiries
7. Committee Business
8. Information Previously Distributed
9. Motions of Which Notice has been Previously Given
10. Notices of Motions (For Consideration at Subsequent Meeting)

10.1 Motion - e-Scooters

**Motion No. AAC AAC 2024-12-01**

Moved by Wayne Antle

**Motion**

**WHEREAS, in Ontario, the use of e-scooters is prohibited, subject to any pilot projects adopted under O. Reg. 389/19 – Pilot Project – Electric Kick-Scooters;**

**WHEREAS the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) has been actively engaged on the City of Ottawa’s shared Electric Kick Scooter Pilot in Ottawa, including during the 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 pilot projects;**

**WHEREAS the AAC had, based on the results of the 2020 and 2021 pilot projects, passed a motion (AAC 2022 1/20) advising City Council:**

- A. **not to conduct any more pilots that would allow e-scooters to be used in any public places in Ottawa, whether the e-scooter is owned by, borrowed by, or rented by the rider; and**
- B. **to decline any further participation in O.Reg 389/19 – Pilot Project – Electric Kick-Scooters.**

**WHEREAS the AAC had subsequently passed a motion (AAC2023-01-01) which rescinded Motion AAC 2022 1/20, and further stipulated:**

**THAT the AAC supports the continuation of the City of Ottawa's shared Electric Kick Scooter Pilot, provided that the pilot:**

- A. Only allows the use of shared e-scooters provided by qualified providers;**
- B. Requires qualified providers to use accessibility barrier-preventing technologies on their shared e-scooters; and**
- C. Dedicates adequate resources to monitoring and enforcing the rules of the pilot, including a fifteen-minute response window for complaints, and adequate deterrents and consequences for misuse of e-scooters.**

**WHEREAS the AAC based this motion on the fact that the technology on shared e-scooters eliminated the accessibility barriers by preventing improper parking and sidewalk riding, and included sound emission that would alert pedestrians of their approach; WHEREAS this motion was passed without any input from public delegations, unlike the previous motion recommending against e-scooters;**

**WHEREAS there have been numerous reports of sidewalk-riding, improperly parked e-scooters, and e-scooters not emitting a sound that could be heard above the noise of city traffic reported to blind and partially-sighted stakeholder groups;**

**WHEREAS the City's own report on the 2023 pilot notes that more than half of all survey respondents encountered improperly parked e-scooters, and users riding e-scooters along sidewalks and further recognizes that only 4% of respondents took the time to report rule infractions to the City;**

**WHEREAS there is growing evidence, based on the above, that the barrier prevention technology is not as effective as the e-scooter providers indicate, and e-scooters continue to pose a threat to disabled, elderly, and vulnerable pedestrians;**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the AAC rescind Motion AAC2023-01-01; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:**

- A. the AAC express to City staff and City Council that they no longer uphold their support for the continuation of the e-scooter pilot, and further express their very serious concern over the safety issues posed by e-scooters, both shared and**

**privately-owned, to persons with disabilities, elderly and all vulnerable pedestrians; and**

**B. The AAC advise City staff to make it easier to report non-compliance and actively encourage all people who witness improperly parked e-scooters or e-scooters riding along the sidewalks to report this to the city; and**

**C. The AAC advise City Council to be prepared to stop the pilot if e-scooter riders continue to demonstrate that they are not operating the e-scooters in accordance with the rules and continue to pose a serious safety risk.**

11. Inquiries

There were no Inquiries.

12. Other Business

Chair Karam spoke to the need for a Site Plan Review working group. Members Ian Bourrie, David Humphries, Jodi Fisher and Wayne Antle agreed to volunteer for the working group.

Members are interested in a new training session and Megan Richards, Program Manager Accessibility Office will reach out to Planning staff to arrange a new training session.

13. Adjournment

Next Meeting

June 18, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

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Original signed by R. Ramos,  
Committee Coordinator

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Original signed by Vania Karam,  
Chair