

**City of Edmonton**  
**Accessibility Advisory Committee**  
**(AAC) Meeting Minutes**  
**January 8th, 2018**  
City Hall, Heritage Room  
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

**Present:** J. Ferguson                      E. Jackson                      C. Jones  
E. Lavallee                                  R. Marshall                      C. Minchau  
M. Orbell                                      J. Pisesky                        P. Reeves  
S. Thompson                                V. Van                                Z. Weeks

**Guests:** J. Drisner                      V. King

**Regrets:** J. Davies-Davis (Medical Leave)                      A. Jaffer  
K. Teske

**Staff:** H. Crowe                              C. Lamoureux                      L. Tanzi

<b>Notes</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. Call to order</b></p> <p>At 4:38 pm</p>	
<p><b>2. Approval of agenda</b></p> <p><b>Agenda of January 8th, 2018</b></p> <p>Moved by C. Jones ; Seconded by C. Minchau</p>	<b>Carried</b>
<p><b>3. Approval of minutes</b></p> <p><b>Minutes of November 20th, 2017</b></p> <p>Moved by C. Jones ; Seconded by R. Marshall</p>	<b>Carried</b>
<p><b>4. Vahen King presentation</b></p> <p>1) V. King is a motivational speaker, Minister and Miss WheelChair Canada winner.</p> <p>2) Challenges</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. First challenges after diagnosis: Fears and insecurities, self image and trying to answer questions: Did I still have a fiance and will my life matter?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">ii. Further challenges: accessible/affordable housing, no peer support, changing provinces, getting a new chair and physiotherapy funding.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">iii. Internal challenges: Did I still want to continue living?</p>	

- 3) How to make a difference to those who face barriers?
  - i. Be the change you want to be - Model it.
  - ii. Mission: Empower others to push past their fears and insecurities to reach their dreams.
- 4) Accolades
  - i. Won the first Miss Wheelchair Canada on September 4, 2017.
  - ii. Won Miss Kindness World.
- 5) Doors opening in Canada and world wide
  - i. Global TV - profiles on courage.
  - ii. Easter Seals will be hosting an event in April.
  - iii. V. King has been published in Russian and Polish.
  - iv. Working with Alberta and Toronto schools to speak on empowerment.
- 6) Achievements for 2018
  - i. Working towards becoming Miss Wheelchair Canada 2018. Looking for sponsorship for venue, etc. [YouCaring.com/mwc](http://YouCaring.com/mwc)
  - ii. Helping to recruit others for Miss Wheelchair Canada.
  - iii. Empower others to push past their fears and insecurities and reach their dreams.
  - iv. Discovering the Power in Me - a program designed for individuals living with the effects of trauma or disability and their family members. The focus areas: how the mind works, how to develop hope, belief in self and resiliency; and how to reassert control over their lives. Benefits:
    - a. Provides specific tools for growth that can be applied to all areas of life.
    - b. Provides hope through the realization of true potential.
    - c. Teaches goal setting skills.
    - d. Builds self worth as goals are achieved.

## **5. Sub-Committee updates**

- 1) Community Engagement
  - i. Ride Transit staff came and presented some of the challenges the City of Edmonton has to overcome to implement the program.
  - ii. Briefly discussed if the AAC should (and how) they should pursue the distribution of Ride Transit passes.
  - iii. Will be following up with ADF/VAD/Inclusion Alberta in response to their request for support.
- 2) Policy
  - i. Finalizing the taxi letter. There is a meeting with the new Director of Vehicle for Hire within the City of Edmonton on Wednesday. Looking to see if they agree with the current recommendations that the AAC is putting forward to Council.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. Policy work plan was reviewed. Most of the goals have been completed. Members will update and add new ideas.</li> <li>iii. Reviewing AAC mandate. Guideline for AAC Chair nominations were updated and are now included in the mandate. Executive reviewed, but there are still some remaining issues to be solved. Will be ready to present to our AAC assigned Councillor.</li> </ul>	<p>Executive to meet after the training on January 13, 2018 to finalize the mandate.</p>
<p><b>6. Event Champion Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 2018 Mayor's Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. C. Minchau worked on two new categories: Youth and Restaurant and Bar. All nominations can be found here: <a href="https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/recognition_awards/mayors-awards.aspx">https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/recognition_awards/mayors-awards.aspx</a></li> <li>ii. L. Tanzi is researching sponsorship for the vignettes.</li> <li>iii. Public service announcement to be released on January 19, 2018.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2) Accessibility Week (Community Conversation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Shared details on draft plan for National Access Awareness Week.</li> <li>ii. Community Engagement subcommittee to review plan and bring it back to the main AAC meeting in February.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3) City Council luncheon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Will be held on September 20, 2018.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>AAC members to share nomination forms with ten people or organizations.</p> <p>AAC members to review and if any questions, please discuss with L. Tanzi and champions.</p>
<p><b>7. Old Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) AAC number of hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Administration created a spreadsheet for AAC members to estimate number of hours they volunteered for the previous month. To be filled in at the meeting.</li> <li>ii. Alternatively, members can email their number of hours to Administration.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>8. New Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) ASL/CART video <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. C. Jones brought up the idea to create a video on how to book/use ASL/CART for City of Edmonton events, public engagement, meetings, etc.</li> <li>ii. In collaboration with C. Jones, H. Crowe and City Clerk's Office worked together to create a video.</li> <li>iii. The video is almost completed, waiting on an ASL interpreter to interpret the introduction and captioning to be added.</li> <li>iv. Once completed, the AAC can promote on social media.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>9. Administrative/Executive update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) AAC Work Plans</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. S. Thompson to compile both subcommittee work plans and present at the February 12, 2018 AAC meeting.</li> <li>2) AAC Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. AAC budget updates to occur three times per calendar year.</li> <li>ii. Event champions to create a proposed budget for each event. Present to Executive. Executive to review and create an overall proposal for the budget with a backup plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3) AAC Council and membership update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. AAC is excited to announce we will have a Councillor A. Knack to be attached to our committee.</li> <li>ii. The AAC is recruiting two new members. Recruitment is open. Recruitment information can be found here: <a href="https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/city_organization/accessibility-advisory-committee.aspx">https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/city_organization/accessibility-advisory-committee.aspx</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>4) Presenter ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. February - Dawson Park redevelopment attending main AAC meeting.</li> <li>ii. E. Jackson looking to book A. Martin to discuss mental health.</li> <li>iii. Z. Weeks looking to book J. Pigeau.</li> </ul> </li> <li>5) Premier's Council ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. AAC members worked in small groups to come up with ideas for the Premier's Council.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Tabled</p>
<p><b>10. Other Committee Work</b></p>	
<p>1) DAG update</p>	
<p><b>11. AAC Committee Voting</b></p>	
<p>1) AAC Chair nomination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. E. Jackson motioned that Z. Weeks be nominated for AAC Chair. J. Pisesky seconded the nomination.</li> <li>ii. Voting transpired.</li> <li>iii. By acclamation, Z. Weeks was elected the new Chair of the AAC.</li> </ul>	<p>Unanimous voting.</p>
<p>2) Policy Sub-committee Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. E. Jackson motioned that J. Pisesky be nominated for AAC Policy Subcommittee Chair. E. Lavallee seconded the nomination.</li> <li>ii. Voting transpired.</li> <li>iii. By acclamation, J. Pisesky was elected the new Chair of the Policy Subcommittee.</li> </ul>	<p>Unanimous voting.</p>
<p>3) AAC Chair/Sub-committee Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. S. Thompson motioned that C. Minchau be nominated for AAC Community Engagement Subcommittee Chair. Z. Weeks seconded the nomination.</li> <li>ii. Voting transpired.</li> </ul>	<p>Unanimous voting.</p>

iii. By acclamation, C. Minchau was elected the new Chair of the Community Engagement Subcommittee.

**12. AAC Round Table**

1) Salute to Excellence

- i. Salute to Excellence honours Edmontonians who have contributed to the unique and diverse fabric of our community. If anyone wishes to nominate, please see the attached link: [https://www.edmonton.ca/programs\\_services/recognition\\_awards/salute-to-excellence-awards.aspx](https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/recognition_awards/salute-to-excellence-awards.aspx).

**13. Next Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting will be held on February 12th, 2018 beginning at 4:30 pm at City Hall, Heritage Room.**

**14. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.