

City of Edmonton
Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)
Minutes
Monday February 13th, 2023
Google Hangout meeting
4:30 – 6:30 pm

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

Council Sponsors: Clr. Tang, Clr. Wright

Guest: Nisha Patel

Regrets: K.Boyd, M.Vautour

Staff: A.Szafranski, C.Bonbon Fon

Call to order at 4:35pm

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: I.Stephaniuk-Gaudet

To approve the agenda as presented.

Carried U

2. [AAC January Minutes - DRAFT](#)

Motion: Z.Weeks

To accept the minutes of January 9th, 2023 as presented.

Carried U

4. Land Acknowledgement

Presented by A.Szafranski

5. New Business

- Mental Illness, Addiction & Houselessness
 - Guest - Nisha Patel

[AAC -Addiction, Mental Health & Houselessness Presentation](#)

- N.Patel shared an impactful poem with the AAC.
- S.Klassen, M.Dancsok, C.Decore prepared and presented the linked presentation.

General discussion included: the gendered nature of the shelter system; affirming that mental health and addictions are included in legislations; the AAC has role to play in mitigating barriers; visible vs invisible disability; some shared their personal challenges with mental illness/depression; mental illness can be a result of genetics, trauma or even where and when you were born.

The presentation posed a number of potential actions for the AAC - resetting the tone of public conversation may play a key role.

6. Council Updates

- a. Clr. Tang - updates included a recent presentation at Council on the 'Effects of Homelessness on the Healthcare Ecosystem'; how we can keep using lived experience and qualitative data to shape public policy. AAC could connect with an inclusive community garden group in Clr. Tang's Ward; Vehicle for Hire Annual Report coming in March; Public Places bylaw looking at pepper/bear spray; sidewalk conversation on Feb 27th; budget conversation around reallocation.
- b. Clr. Wright - mingling of paratransit and on demand bussing bumped to November; sensory playground group working at Jackie Parker Park.

Both Clr Tang and Wright will be switching with Council Committees they are a part of. Ctr. Tang moves to Urban Planning and Clr. Wright moves to the Executive Committee.

CS01627 Effects of Homelessness on the Healthcare Ecosystem

7. Chair Update

Working on the annual report; short listing for two new members; members were reminded that the chair does an annual evaluation of the members - we will look for continual opportunities to refine the AAC work to stay on the mandate of advising City Council.

8. Old Business

- a. **Kairos Blanket Exercise** - Patricia/Douglas/Marie
The three AAC Members that participated in the Blanket Exercise shared the impact that the physical contextualization of history can have. .

9. ETSAB - no update for this meeting

10. Administration/Executive Update

- a. Chair and Sub-Committee Chair Elections - March 2023
Chair and Sub-Chair elections will take place at the March AAC meeting. Interested individuals are encouraged to put their name forward; ask questions of administration or current executive members.
- b. AAC Planning Meeting - March 2023
Members will receive a list of potential activities the AAC could consider for 2023. It is meant as brainstorming. Members will be asked to populate the list with additional ideas they may have. Once populated, members will be asked to rank options for 2023. This will be the starting point for facilitated planning in March.
- c. AAC Annual Report Presentation April 12-19, 2023
- d. AAC in-person May 2023
The AAC will meet in person for the May Meeting. The Heritage Room in City Hall has been booked. The room has good hybrid meeting technology. The Mayor will be invited to stop by, and we will be introducing two members at this meeting.

11. Other Committee Work

- a. **Policy Review update** - presented by Z.Weeks
Presentation from Integrated Infrastructure Services for the Clareview Entrance improvements for accessibility.
Robust discussion about benches (provide a variety of choice), curbing, adding large trees, eliminating the rolling curbs, move the crosswalk, painting the curbs

yellow, dropped curbs will have tactile warning strips, relocate the bike racks, examine lighting (but may be out of scope). Construction is scheduled for summer 2023.

While out of scope of the entrance conversation Kassi Boyd indicated families have provided feedback that the washrooms are so far from the inclusive playground that often puts an end to the play session if a washroom break is needed. Admin will be passing on that information.

There will be a google doc for comments on the CIVIDA Accessibility Framework.

There is keen interest in talking about a 'housing registry' There will be a separate meeting on Monday, February 28th to discuss this matter with guests from the UofA and VAD. People on Policy have been invited, but more could participate if interested.

Challenges in the pedway system were discussed, and the group was generally dissatisfied with the response and wished to speak directly with some of the City staff that participate in the Downtown conversations. 2/3rds of the pedway system is privately owned and controlled.

- b. Community Engagement update-** presented by S.Klassen
Marliss Weber from Parodos came and spoke to the Community Engagement Committee. Three options for Social Media were presented for consideration. Budget discussion, and contracts are being discussed within the City. The Social Identity and Social Inclusion Section are looking for efficiencies and intersectional opportunities between the Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton, the AAC and Youth Council.

12. Round Table

13. AAC Calendar

- a. Rapid Housing Initiative Investment Plan - Round 3 Mar 1, 2023
- b. Vehicle for Hire Annual Report and Training recommendations Mar 20, 2023
- c. Snow and Ice - operational performance report back to council - April

14. Adjournment at 6:27pm