City of Edmonton

Accessibility Advisory Committee

(AAC) Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2020

Heritage Room, City Hall

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Present:	C. Bakshi	K. Boyd	J. Davies-Davies
	J. Ferguson	C. Jones	S. Klassen
	C. Knack	R. Mazumder	C. Minchau
	J. Pisesky	P. Reeves	T. Rice
	V. Van		
Guests:	T. Flores	C. Nikel	
Regrets:	M. Orbell	T. LaRiviere	
Staff:	H. Crowe	C. Lamoureux	

Notes	Action
1. Call to order At 4:33 pm	
2. Approval of agenda with amendments **Agenda of February 10, 2020** Moved by R. Mazumder	**Carried**
3. Approval of minutes **Minutes of November 18, 2019** Moved by C. Minchau	**Carried**
4. Pilot Project for DATS 1) Councillor Nickel made a motion at the City Council meeting on February 3 that: a. Administration will provide a report on the feasibility, costs, and steps required to implement a pilot program (for medical trips only) for approved DATS passengers to receive vouchers for licensed accessible taxi services where the passenger pays the equivalent of the applicable DATS cash fare and the taxi service provider is compensated by the City for the difference	Councillor Nickel will speak to DATS and administration. AAC to request a meeting with DATS.

between the DATS fare and the approved taxi fare [or actual cost of providing the service].

b. Administration will explore whether the current accessibility surcharge imposed by the Vehicle for Hire bylaw can be a sufficient funding source for this program.

ii. This voucher will subsidize taxi cab fares for up to $8 - $12 and from the accessibility surcharge of $1.7 million dollars.

iii. Council unanimously approved.

5. Advocate for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Alberta

1) Office of the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities

i. T. Flores was appointed on October 30, 2018 as the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities.

ii. The legislation for persons with disabilities was proclaimed on October 30, 2018. This is the first one in Canada with such a broad scope. The Act represents the rights and interests and viewpoints of persons with disabilities in Alberta.

iii. Disability in the legislation is not defined so it is quite broad: pan disability, lifespan, cross ministries, cross programs, across jurisdiction and cross sectors.

iv. T. Flores is looking to build a relationship with the AAC and find opportunities to work together on accessibility.

v. Six points in the legislation:

a. Identify and study issues of concerns related to persons with disabilities.

b. To review programs and services that impacts persons with disabilities.

c. Participate in a consultation in which systemic decisions are made about persons with disabilities.

d. To deliver public education that promotes the rights interests and well being of persons with disabilities.

e. To provide recommendations to the government in terms of policies.

f. To make people aware of the resources available to them.

vi. Three main functions of the legislation is: individual resolution (promote advocacy), education and identify gaps in the system and bring recommendation to the government.

vii. Three key points in the legislation: submit an annual report to the Minister of Social Services and be tabled to the legislative assembly. The last key point is that T. Flores is mandated to evaluate the effectiveness of legislation. It has been two years since the date of proclamation, does the legislation serve its purpose?

AAC to share housing research report. T. Flores to connect back regarding the housing registry discussions.

viii. Uniqueness that T. Flores has the direct relationship with the Minister of Community and Social Services and he shares with her what he hears from the community.
ix. Tony is going to tour across the province to discover the issues for persons with disabilities in their communities (gaps in services).
x. The four top program areas that impact people with disabilities : AISH, PDD, FSCD and accessible housing across the province. Looking to work together to advocate for the lack of accessible housing i.e. Calgary has a lot of inventory (same as Edmonton) and they are not able to match housing to persons with disabilities. - proposed to the government to a one window registry. Calgary completed a feasibility study, unfortunately was swept under the rug.
xi. T. Flores is working with Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities and they are looking to revive the ability to match persons with disabilities with housing
xii. To resolve cases when people call the office and T. Flores has three staff and that will respond to inquiries). Seventy-three percent of the inquiries have been resolved (served 1000 inquiries) however, some of the cases could have many issues involved in them.

6. City Council update

1) Live Active group
    i. Shifting from free admission to live active day and how this shift would affect persons with disabilities.
2) Update on First KM/Last Km
    i. First look at the report will be at the end of this month on February 26, 2020.
    ii. The accessible vehicles are not meant to replace DATS, but are looking to assist DATS in the first kilometer/last kilometer issues.
    iii. In the Bus Network Redesign - ten communities that will require this service.
3) Voucher system
    i. Not sure if it is the right solution, but the accessibility fund could be used to assist with the accessible transportation issues.
    ii. DATs requests to meet with the committee. DATS has concerns with the system and points out what they were going to use for the funding. Provided different funding options?
4) DATS report update
    i. With the booking system, the only upgrades to the system happens every 3 years. All municipalities within Canada use a similar booking service.

ii. Municipalities should be going together to request more updates. Why does this company have such a monopoly?

5) Final Draft of the City Plan is now live
   i. Important guiding documents for the whole City of Edmonton. Reflects on different needs and abilities.

7. Old Business

1) AAC Stanley Milner Library tour update
   i. There should be tour dates available sent to C. Lamoureux by the end of February or early March, 2020.

8. New Business

1) Intake Committee
   i. The Intake Committee will look at the timing of the meetings and adjust the schedule accordingly.
2) Speakers/guests at meetings document
   i. Discussion ensued and updates were made during the meeting.

C. Lamoureux to send out a doodle poll by early March for potential dates.

Administration to book the next AAC Intake meeting.

9. Administrative/Executive Update

1) Strategic Planning session/meeting update
   i. The raw data has been typed up from the strategic planning session.
   ii. Administration is reviewing the transcript from the meeting to ensure there is nothing missing.
   iii. Administration will create a draft work plan for AAC to review at an additional AAC meeting on February 24, 2020.
2) NAAW event on June 2 (with Policy C602 PE)
   i. Working with Leger with HOBS (House of Blue Skies) on June 2nd on Public Engagement. They have lots of connections to the arts committees.
   ii. They are having an Accessibility Village, which will be a set up of different set up of stations of the City of Edmonton Departments feedback on Policy C602.
   iii. They are looking to create a Fringe type of program where we could host different artists (music, comedian, etc.).

Administration to update the document and send it to the AAC for further comments.

Administration to book a follow up meeting on February 24, 2020.

AAC members to review the offer from the Policy C602 Administration team and report back.

10. Other Committee Work

11. AAC Calendar

i. Upcoming event/tasks to do

12. Round Table/Social Media

13. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm. **Next Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting will be held on March 9, 2020 at 4:30 pm.**	