

City of Edmonton
Accessibility Advisory Committee
(AAC) Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2022
 Google Meet
 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Present: D. Achuroa D. Antaya-Moore B. Belsek
 C. Brenneis P. Kocon T. LaRiviere
 D. Rudolph P. Rzechowka C. Sneddon
 I. Stefaniuk-Gaudet M. Vautour C. Wright
 Z. Weeks

Guests: N. Chalifoux A. Jaffer M. Kolenc
 K. Hyshka

Regrets: K. Boyd M. Dancsok S. Klassen
 C. Tang

Staff: H. Craig C. Lamoureux A. Szafranski

Notes	Action
1. Call to order At 4:35 pm	
2. Approval of agenda with amendments Agenda of July 11, 2022 Moved by B. Belsek	Carried
3. Approval of minutes Minutes of June 13, 2022 Moved by D. Antaya-Moore	Carried

4. Land Acknowledgement

- i. Z. Weeks read the City of Edmonton Land Acknowledgment.

5. City Council update

- i. Council is on summer recess.
- ii. Councillor Wright is inquiring about King Edward Park tennis courts: are these facilities supposed to be wheelchair accessible?

Administration will follow up.

6. Civic Budget conversation

- i. Overview:
 - a. City embarking on a four year budget planning cycle. Starting to move onto the next budget.
 - b. Allows for longer term planning with short term spending.
 - c. There will be difficult choices as there are different (long term plan and short term needs that the CoE needs to look at: i.e. what programs and what infrastructure need support).
 - d. Online budgeting tool:
<https://engaged.edmonton.ca/budget>
- ii. When you think about the CoE, there are a lot of different changes/issues/things happening in our community that we want our City to be thinking about. What key community issues, opportunities or trends do you think the City of Edmonton should be paying attention to when making budgeting decisions?
 - a. Budget allotted to EPS is a lot higher than everything else, put our City into the mindset of harm reduction (social programming) and less funding to policing and security.
 - b. Consultant on staff who specializes in disability issues.
 - c. A lot of the modernized and newer facilities are fairly wheelchair accessible. Private dwellings and multi-family private dwellings are not accessible - there is a gap.
 - d. Ensure all voices are heard (some people do not have computer access or do not know how to share their voice).
 - e. Improve wayfinding for those with visual impairments (trail systems, City Hall, transit centres). Have an app on phones - more details to be able to navigate.
 - f. Some people have COVID and are unable to go back to work - increase in the number of people with disabilities who require help. And the aging

population is on the rise (social support should be considered).

- g. How will the City ensure that services are accessible to people with disabilities, the aging population etc.? i.e. how will the City ensure that women with disabilities experience an imbalance in their access to services.
 - h. Transit - responsive and reliable paratransit system (increase budget to DATS and accessible taxis) - heard multiple times.
 - i. An accessibility contingency fund (i.e. to go and remove barriers).
 - j. Encourage the City Council to put the money into policy development to ensure that accessibility is in the forefront (and not going with the minimums).
 - k. Increased number of APS (Auditory Pedestrian Signals) at major intersections.
 - l. To save money, consider putting the funds into in-house options such as the Mayor's Office on Disability and Intersectionality.
- iii. The City of Edmonton has a few options that will make a difference in the budget. I.e. increase property taxes or increase user fees and these have impacts on the community OR decrease or close existing services.
- a. Are there some projects that can be operated on a P3 (private Public Partnership) concept?
 - b. Concern that there will be cuts and accessibility will no longer be a priority.
 - c. EDI training for all. Accessibility is so much more than access.
 - d. Lack of coordination with provincial and federal governments.
 - e. Do not lose aspects of inclusion, equity and accessibility in the budget.

7. Presenter Nadine Chalifoux

- i. N. Chalifoux shared her personal story.
- ii. N. Chalifoux shared the importance of protocol.
- iii. What are the barriers to and within the disabled Indigenous community to accessing essential services in health, transportation, housing, city programming and services?
 - a. Racism is intergenerational just like trauma; it is shared throughout future generations.
 - b. It is not addressed in the government system.

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| <p>iv. What resources and organizations do you recommend we access for more information on the barriers and impacts those barriers have to the disabled community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A large number of Indigenous programs (i.e. help with cultural healing, educational resources) are generalized and separated from disability needs that are required. There is no intersectionality within the resource (i.e. an Indigenous person who is disabled and needs housing). The system does not allow the ability to reduce barriers. b. Organizations are fighting for money and not working together. c. Individuals are not taught how to deal with these barriers and how to get help for them. <p>v. In terms of our community engagement what questions should we be asking the disabled Indigenous community in order to develop a better understanding of what the barriers are?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A lot of the barriers are the same as the non-Indigenous community. b. There are barriers that feed off of others. c. Healing supports especially since they are suffering from intergenerational trauma. d. A lot of people do not think they are racist, but some things come out that turn out to be racist. Understanding and how to change their own behaviours. e. Everyone has a right to a better quality of life. f. No one should be judged on their past. <p>vi. What is the most effective way of collecting data to mitigate those barriers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Work with Indigenous groups as allies. b. Be open to learn more about their cultures and needs; work with them and not for them. c. Need more advocates; work collaboratively with non-Indigenous groups and Indigenous groups. d. Also be willing to learn our own internal, colonized biases and not shut out Indigenous Communities and Peoples when our own discomforts arise within the context of Indigenous truths. e. Some barriers have shifted (i.e. accepting genocide has occurred within the Indigenous community, learning more about the healing process). f. Front line services, EPS, AHS, Fire services need more education to shift their thinking (fatigue and racism). | |
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<p>8. Chair update</p> <p>9. Old Business</p> <p>10. New Business</p> <p>11. Administrative/Executive Update 1) September AAC meeting (in person)</p> <p>12. Other Committee Work 1) Intake 2) Policy Review update 3) Community Engagement update</p> <p>13. AAC Calendar i. Engage Edmonton - Mass Transit Survey</p> <p>14. Round Table/Social Media</p>	<p>Tabled</p> <p>Tabled</p> <p>Tabled Tabled Tabled</p>
<p>15. Adjournment</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.</p> <p>Next Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting will be September 12, 2022.</p>	