

City of Edmonton
Accessibility Advisory Committee
(AAC) Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2021
 Google Meet
 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Present: S. Amer K. Boyd C. Brenneis
 J. Caza J. Davies-Davies S. Klassen
 T. LaRiviere J. Pisesky P. Reeves
 V. Van

Guests: J. Goebel J. Ni

Regrets: C. Bakshi C. Jones C. Knack
 P. Koon T. Rice N. Sunderji

Staff: H. Craig C. Lamoureux A. Szafranski

Notes	Action
<p>1. Call to order</p> <p>At 4:37 pm</p>	
<p>2. Approval of agenda</p> <p>Agenda of January 11, 2021</p> <p>Moved by S. Amer</p>	Carried
<p>3. Approval of minutes</p> <p>Minutes of November 9, 2020</p> <p>Moved by J. Davies-Davis</p>	Carried
<p>4. Waste Management presentation - Edmonton Cart Rollout</p> <p>1) Assisted Waste Management - Current program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Assisted Waste Collection program helps Edmontonians with mobility issues take their waste to the curb or back lane. ii. Currently, there are over 300 Edmontonians enrolled in the program. iii. Collection is done by attendants from Monday to Friday. Their pick up dates could differ from neighbours. iv. Application process is currently done online and a resident provides comments to the City of Edmonton (COE) on why they cannot take their waste to the curb. 	

2) New Cart Rollout program

- i. Between March and August 2021, the COE will provide each household a green food waste cart (pickup: weekly in the spring to fall, then biweekly in the winter) and a black garbage cart (pickup: bi-weekly all year). There will be two different garbage cart sizes. The recycling program pickup program will not change.
- ii. Cart pickup will begin in April 2021.
- iii. The updated Assisted Waste Collection program has identified two different types of users:
 - a. Those who can put their waste in the cart, but cannot move the cart to the curb; and
 - b. Those who cannot put waste in the cart.
- iv. Pickups will now be the same day as their neighbourhoods. An attendant will come the day before the collection day and move the cart to the curb and come the day after to bring the cart back to a designated space.
- v. Edmontonians are still able to apply online and mail in requests. Starting on February 3, 2021, there will be a new webpage available. The application will now include an in-home interview and will require a witness signature (authorized medical professional). During the in-home interview, a designated location of the storage of the cart and the type of service required will be determined.
- vi. All current Assisted Waste program citizens will be grandfathered into the new program.
- vii. City of Edmonton and AHS were beginning to determine a streamlined process for Edmontonians. This service is delayed due to COVID-19 and talks to possibly start in 2022.
- viii. A benefit to the new program is that it will protect the individual's privacy better but will have higher operational costs.

3) AAC Questions/Concerns

- i. What was the test size for the Cart roll out? The new Cart Rollout program was tested in 13 neighbourhoods (8000 homes). There were tripled assisted cart requests during the test, but no one got to choose cart size. Some citizens reported back that if they got a smaller cart, they would be able to move it to the curb.
- ii. There will be annual check in for citizens on the program, but if there are concerns throughout they year they can contact 311.
- iii. What are the guidelines to witness the form for authorized medical professionals? The City of Edmonton is not able to judge without the expertise. Medical professionals will be able to determine this easier.

- iv. Currently the program does not include assisting Edmontonians with mobility issues with big ticket item pickups, Administration to look this for future.
- v. Feedback after the meeting:
 - a. Some persons with disabilities may not want to have to prove their “disability” to another person.
 - b. Some need change each week (i.e. persons with Multiple Sclerosis have good weeks and bad weeks).

5. City Council update

Tabled

6. Member Recruitment

- 1) Member recruitment
 - i. Recruitment for Agencies, Boards and Commissions - currently accepting applications. The deadline is January 17, 2021.
 - ii. The AAC is currently recruiting three new members as two members have maxed out their term and one is retiring due to personal reasons.

7. Old Business

- 1) Cuts to AISH
 - i. AAC members to start to reconvene on this. The AISH program has been frozen for two years now, and there are no current plans for the government to unfreeze the program.
 - ii. AAC members met with Marie Renaud (St. Albert MLA) who is fighting to change the AISH payment system. A survey closed today that was sent to 70,000 AISH recipients and 45,000 income support recipients. This survey is to look to build a consultation plan to create policies on changing the AISH payment plan.
 - iii. Once their report is completed, AAC will receive a copy and then tie into sending City Council a memo.

8. New Business

- 1) Meeting updates
 - i. In February, AAC Subcommittee meetings will start back up.
 - ii. Discussion on AAC Intake Subcommittee.

Administration to poll members on meeting dates/times and subcommittee choice.

Motion: The AAC would like the Intake subcommittee to be added as a permanent subcommittee of the AAC, and adopt the intake language in the bylaws.

Moved by: V. Van

Unanimous
Carried

2) Homes for the Disabled (email)

- i. An email was sent by Councillor Mckeen from an Edmontonian looking for options to facilitate persons with disabilities to move into long term housing situations (rather than renting).
- ii. The email has been forwarded to the Housing sector as well.

Administration to follow up with Housing to see their response.

3) Denied transit service (email)

- i. An Edmontonian sent an email to Council and the AAC stating that DATS users have to fill in a COVID questionnaire before booking a ride online versus Transit users who do not have to fill in a questionnaire. The DATS user is stating that this is unfair treatment.
- ii. DATS has responded to this user many times and stated that they are following AHS guidelines for using the questionnaire.
- iii. AAC to support DATS' response.

4) COVID Response table

- i. Administration met today and learned that the City of Edmonton and Calgary have created a community response table to respond to COVID-19 . First initiative was care packages of masks, hand sanitizers, and an information pamphlet to ethno-cultural groups.
- ii. The government also provided a free stay in a hotel if you were unable to self-isolate away from your family with a pay out of \$650 after a fourteen day stay.
- iii. The government has provided Calgary and Edmonton 1.6 million to be distributed.
- iv. So far, our section within the City of Edmonton has not been asked, but our director thinks we may be asked to provide consultations through communities of interest (i.e. Indigenous, LGBTQ2+ and accessibility).
- v. When vaccines come available, the practicality of a person with a disability to go get a vaccine might become an issue and how they might get to them.
- vi. Administration is bringing this topic to AAC's attention, in case others reach out to try to make a connection to the Community and City of Edmonton. As the accessibility field does not have an external body in the community, the

disability area is quite segregated and may rely on the AAC as it is not tied to one specific disability.

9. Administrative/Executive Update

- 1) Corporate Accessibility Plan - Public Engagement took place November 23- December 7, 2020.
 - i. Engagement is complete and currently awaiting the final report which Administration will share with the AAC.
 - ii. The next steps would be to send back to the different department committees and allow them time to review responses to see if they are going to make revisions to the actions (if so, then it will need to be taken back to leadership teams for approval).
 - iii. Finally, the results will be shared publicly within the Corporate Accessibility Plan. The AAC may want to review the feedback, as this may provide some clarity from the community on where the AAC should direct time and energy.

10. Other Committee Work

11. AAC Calendar

- i. Upcoming event/tasks to do

12. Round Table/Social Media

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5.59 pm.

Next Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting will be held on February 8, 2021.