

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2024 | 5-7pm

Attendees
T.LaRiviere, D.Antaya-Moore, Z.Weeks, B.Belsek, C.Brenneis, C.Sneedon, P.Rzechowka, D.Rudolph, M.Vautour, I.Stefaniuk-Gaudet, P.Kocon, S.Mason, K.Ewig, D.Akanpentiba-Achura
Council Reps: Clr. K.Tang, Clr. J.Wright Staff: A.Szafranski, H.Craig Guests: D.Shaw, Premiers Council; G.McMeekan, S.Mason, Voice of Albertans with Disabilities
Regrets
R.Popplestone, Office of Provincial Advocate; M.Dancsok;

1.0 Introductions and Welcome

2.0 Review	TIME / LENGTH
2.1 Agenda Review	5:02
2.2 Review of Previous Minutes Note: October minutes require approval	5:02 Z. Weeks, S. Mason
2.3 Land Acknowledgement	A. Szafranski

3.0 Discussion Items	TIME / LENGTH
<p>3.1 Panel Discussion: Connecting with other advisory/advocacy organizations. 5 to 10 minutes per organization to introduce</p> <p>S. Mason highlighted VAD's mission/vision, programs and supports. S. Mason is now RHFAC certified. Information on bursaries available at https://vadsociety.ca/participation/ VAD will provide advice/support to individuals and businesses/organizations</p> <p>D. Shaw Premiers Council - amplify voices of persons with disabilities to the Government. Communicate with the disability community. Provides advice to 32 ministries. Premiers Council award descriptions have changed to include people in the prime of their advocacy. Focus on government policy/events. In contrast the Disability advocate focuses on individual matters. Premiers Council is recruiting 7 positions. Open recruitment active.</p>	5:05pm

<p>3.2 General Questions Provided in Advance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>What do you consider to be your successes in moving toward provincial legislation?</i> 2. <i>What are the key barriers to making provincial legislation a reality in AB? How are you working to address these barriers?</i> 3. <i>How would provincial legislation support and/or accelerate moving your other priority/focus areas forward?</i> 4. <i>While each organization has a slightly different mandate, what are your thoughts on how we can use our collective energy and influence to advance legislation or other agenda items?</i> <p>Accessible Housing is within the Premiers Council scope.</p> <p>Office of the advocate would be better suited to respond to questions around Provincial legislation. R. Popplestone will be invited back to another meeting.</p> <p>There is agreement within the government that provincial accessibility legislation is needed and steps are being taken to engage. Premiers Council are not taking the lead but they are helping to engage community on their thoughts on provincial legislation</p> <p>Successes: Barrier Free Alberta</p> <p>Premiers Council priorities: Survey every 4-6 years to disability community asking top 3 challenges.</p> <p>VAD priorities Full participation, equity - need to remove societal and attitudinal barriers which legislation will help with.</p> <p>Collaboration: Keeping communication channels open. Band together to have a stronger voice. Learning what different organizations are doing and their role. Need to encourage more people to advocate.</p>	
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<p>3.3 General Questions:</p> <p>AISH - important to note the barriers and limitations to making money while receiving AISH. Makes it hard to better your life.</p>	
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4.0 Item Title	TIME / LENGTH
<p>4.1 Council Advisory Updates</p> <p>Clr.J. Wright - Upcoming public hearing for the public places bylaw. Comingling of DATS and On Demand on Monday. End of February there is a report coming to the Community and Public Services Committee on addictions and mental health. City has activated extreme cold measures.</p>	

<p>Clr. K. Teng - Always welcome your input as reports come out. Assisted snow not funded. Support to move forward with a pilot (March 18). Council currently on recess. Shelter operation is within provincial jurisdiction but the City has been advocating for minimum shelter standards.</p> <p>If requested VAD could do accessibility audits of shelters</p>	
<p>4.2 Chair Updates</p> <p>AAC intake meeting tomorrow about the expanded snow program. Unfunded package was not approved. Council directed admin to work with the AAC and Seniors Coordinating Council to discuss possibilities for implementation of a program.</p> <p>Annual report coming up.</p>	
<p>4.3 Community Engagement update</p> <p>311 audit discussed Audit report on ABC's and governance. Recommendations accepted. Will return to council re: subcommittees Enabling Accessibility Fund link shared.</p>	
<p>4.4 Policy Subcommittee Update</p> <p>No December meeting. IDPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zach did an accessibility tour - Tonia and Patricia sat on a panel <p>Tour of Rogers Place November 23, 2023, AAC were invited to join.</p> <p>Need to discuss social media plans and budget implications</p>	
<p>4.5 Administration Update:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vehicle for Hire Newsletter - please review the VFH Newsletter that was attached in the pre meeting email. 2. AAC Member Survey - please review the member feedback survey, Executive and Administration will be looking to incorporate feedback 3. Bus Based Mass Transit Opportunity - opportunity to participate in focus groups on mass bus transit; quick deadline 4. AAC Recruitment - please continue to promote the AAC recruitment opportunity. Less applications received than last year, but still one week to go. 	

5.0 Item Title	TIME / LENGTH
<p>5.1 Edmonton Transit Service Advisory Board Update</p> <p>DATS and ETS buses do not require snow tires due to vehicle size</p>	

<p>and weight. <u>Three new working groups:</u> Ridershop improvement strategies Fare evasion policies Perception of LRT safety ETSAB has 6 positions to fill</p>	
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6.0 Upcoming Items

1. January 15th - Updating Affordable Housing Strategy
2. January 16th - Comingling of DATS/On Demand Report
3. January 30th - EXPO Centre (Capital Project of interest)
4. February 26th - Dogs Off Leash
5. February 26th - Mental Health & Addiction in Edmonton
6. February 27th - Licenses for E-scooters & E-Bikes
7. March 5th - AAC Presents Annual Report and Work Plans
8. March 18th - Safe & Inclusive Public Spaces
9. March 18th - ASsisted Snow Clearing Program Pilot Project - Stakeholder feedback

Next Meetings

Date	Time	Location
February 12, 2024	5-7pm	Heritage Room, City Hall

Adjourned 6:46pm