

October 15, 2012

To: The Chairs of Municipal Accessibility Advisory
Committees in York Region

From: Steve Foglia, Vice Chair,
York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

Re: Minutes of the Networking Breakfast Meeting –
October 3, 2012

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Accessibility Advisory Committee Networking Breakfast Meeting on October 3, 2012. The unanimous consensus was that participants found the meeting to be helpful, inspiring and worth organizing on a regular basis.

The minutes are attached for your consideration.

In terms of next steps, the group proposed that similar meetings be held twice each year, with the location and hosting duties rotating between participants. The Spring 2013 meeting location and date have yet to be set.

The York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee enjoyed the opportunity to host this event and work with you, our AAC counterparts, to make programs and services more accessible to the communities we serve together.

For more information on the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee or this AAC networking meeting, contact AODA@york.ca.

Copy: York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

MINUTES

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NETWORKING BREAKFAST MEETING

Seminar Room
Administrative Centre
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario

Wednesday October 3, 2012

8:30 to 10 a.m.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

MUNICIPALITY	NAME	AAC	STAFF
Aurora	John Lenchak	X	
	Tyler Barker (regrets)	X	
	Chris Catania		X
East Gwillimbury	Diane Blackwell (regrets)	X	
Georgina	Philip Rose-Donahoe		X
King	(AAC recruitment in progress)		
Markham	Bob Hunn	X	
	Warren Rupnarain		X
Newmarket	Diane Bladek-Willett	X	
	Wendi Williams	X	
Richmond Hill	Doug Kube (regrets)	X	
	Pat McMullon	X	
	Marisol Pestana	X	
Vaughan	Bob Santos	X	
Whitchurch-Stouffville	Alan Wolfe	X	
	Bruno Geremia (regrets)	X	
	Colette Brown	X	
York Region	Steve Foglia	X	
	Brian Lynch	X	
	Leslie Bolt	X	
	Linda Jones	X	
	Bob Creighton	X	
	Lisa Alfieri-Sladen		X
	Lois Davies		X
	Anastasia Umanets		X
	Kim Adeney		X
	Morris Faccin, Presenter		X
	Greg Stasyna, Presenter		X

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Steve Foglia, Vice Chair, York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

PRESENTATION

Update on Emergency Management Initiatives and Personal Preparedness

Morris Faccin, Manager, Emergency Management and Greg Stasyna, Program Manager, Training, Exercises and Public Education, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Regional Municipality of York

Details	Action
The presentation outlined initiatives that York Region Emergency Management has implemented in collaboration with people with disabilities and shared information on how people can be better prepared in an emergency such as a flood, power outage or infectious disease outbreak.	Presentation is available upon request. Available resources: • 'Emergency Support Contacts' brochure for people with disabilities/special needs which outlines how to set up a personal emergency support network (York Region). • 'Emergency Preparedness Guide' which includes section for people with disabilities (York Region). • 'Your Emergency Preparedness Guide' (Ontario) • 'Emergency Preparedness Guide for People with Disabilities/Special Needs' (Ontario). For resources or information contact: morris.faccin@york.ca greg.stasyna@york.ca

ROUND TABLE UPDATES (in order of presentation)

Municipality	AAC Update/Highlights	Action
York Region AAC – Bob Creighton	• YRAAC advises both York Regional Police and York Region on accessibility planning and compliance activities. • YRAAC tour and review of YRT/Viva vehicles led to accessibility	

	enhancements. • Current accessibility plan has over 160 accessibility initiatives, with over 700 initiatives implemented since 2003. • Advised on development of 1 km accessible trail in York Regional Forest. • Hosted June 2011 and 2012 National Access Awareness Week events in partnership with the Municipal Staff Reference Group (accessibility professionals from York Region, York Regional Police, local municipalities, hospitals and school boards). The 2011 event included an AAC workshop.	
Vaughan AAC – Bob Santos	• Mostly new members on current AAC. • Planning is underway for 'International Day for Person with Disabilities' event December 3. Opportunity to showcase new city hall and accessibility activities.	AACs will receive invitation to this event.
Markham AAC – Warren Rupnarain	• Established Markham Board of Trade Accessible Business Award. Winner to be announced at Board of Trade Gala Nov 29, with nominee reception Oct 4. • In discussion with local BIA to host accessibility workshops. • Recently endorsed Markham's 2011 Accessibility Guidelines with best practice guidelines to make indoor and outdoor spaces more accessible. • Held first annual Markham Accessibility Fair in June 2012.	AACs will receive invitation to the 2013 Fair.
Aurora AAC – John Lenchak	• Accessibility achievements include audible traffic signals at Town-controlled crossings, retrofit elevator installation at the Aurora Leisure Complex and making the council chambers more accessible. • Suggestion to include local school board and hospital AACs at the next AAC networking meeting.	Invite local school board and hospital AACs to attend next meeting.
Newmarket AAC – Diane Bladec-Willett	• Major achievement was approval of new accessibility standards for Newmarket sidewalks, both new and repaired. • AAC advocated for more accessible parking spaces, longer traffic signal crossing times, policy changes to	Request that all local municipalities recognize the same week as National

	parking enforcement to allow longer grace time in downtown area, application to add accessible doors to town municipal offices entrance and accessible work stations at library facilities. • Hosted very successful National Access Awareness Week festivities. Though the NAAW date is not formally set each year, suggest that local municipalities recognize same week as NAAW to broaden awareness and support. • Council has approved a pilot project to offer 25% discount to people with a disability using town facilities.	Access Awareness Week.
Whitchurch-Stouffville – Alan Wolfe	• AAC involved in many activities including accessibility planning, advising on park master plan, involvement on the downtown working group to make temporary ramps available for storefronts and site plan reviews. • AAC plans to address accessible parking enforcement issues with by-law department. • AAC reviewed and responded to Province about Proposed Standards for Public Spaces. • For future discussion: At a former AAC networking meeting in Whitchurch-Stouffville the group discussed the possibility of negotiating cross-boundary agreements between municipalities to allow people with disabilities to use programs in other jurisdictions without penalty.	Discuss cross-boundary agreement for use of programs at a future meeting.
Georgina AAC – Phil Rose-Donahoe	• AAC working on meeting obligations of Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation including multi-year accessibility planning. • Recent accessibility upgrades to cultural facilities include addition of accessible ramps and doors to the theatre. • Working on making archives more accessible including providing document readers for people with vision disabilities.	

Richmond Hill – Pat McMullon	• Initiated AAC Outreach Committee to be more proactive and involved in the community, including plans to work with the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce. • In process of designing AAC brochure. • AAC focus on invisible as well as visible disabilities. The Town has made it easier for people with a mental illness disability to access Town services by providing one-stop, easy program access and a quiet room if needed.	Request for other AAC's to send any examples.

MEETING SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

- There was group consensus that the networking meeting was helpful, with the recommendation to organize them on a regular basis. Twice each year, in the Fall and Spring, was suggested.
- The meeting location/host should rotate between participating AACs.
- Local school boards and hospitals will be invited to participate in the next meeting.
- Meeting invitations and minutes will be communicated formally, through whomever is responsible for placing items on an AAC agenda. In the case of most municipalities, this is the Clerk's Office. Hospitals and school board AACs may have a different process.
- The location/host of the Spring meeting was not decided pending discussion by representatives with their AACs about the meeting outcomes. Interested AACs are to contact Steve Foglia, YRAAC Vice-Chair.

NEXT MEETING

To be determined.

ADJOURNMENT