

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jun08_2021

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE****Annual Report to Priorities Committee****Report Purpose**

In compliance with Bylaw 46-2015, this report summarizes annual activities and accomplishments of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

Goal 6 - Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

Report

The purpose of the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) is to provide advice and considerations to Council on improving accessibility for all people in Strathcona County. AAC's workplan is aligned with Strathcona County Council's Strategic Plan, Strathcona County's Social Framework as well as the County's key strategies and policies. AAC members share perspectives based on their own or family's lived experience living and working in Strathcona County as well as relevant professional expertise.

The following are mandate items and activities were undertaken by AAC in 2020:

1. Solicit public feedback from individuals with disabilities and recommend how accessibility issues may be addressed in various County initiatives
 - a. SCOOP survey for individuals with disabilities in households including individuals with disabilities to understand experiences (e.g., barriers) and priorities for increased accessibility
2. Engage or liaise with relevant stakeholders to access the most current and pertinent information to facilitate discussions and recommendations
 - a. Engagement with Voices of Albertans with Disabilities to inform County leadership
 - b. Engagement of housing developer to better understand accessibility considerations
3. Monitor federal and provincial government directives and regulations and provide insights on potential implications for Strathcona County residents
 - a. Review of the *Government of Canada Accessible Canada Act* and other provincial directions
 - b. Engage Tony Flores, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Alberta
 - c. Review *Why an Accessibility Alberta Act?* by the Alberta Accessibility Legislation Advisory Group
4. Provide advice and recommendations to Council on how to help educate the business community on actions that promote greater accessibility
 - a. Engagement of Sherwood Park & District Chamber of Commerce leadership to discuss engagement of members on accessibility considerations

In addition, AAC participated in the following additional conversations:

- Diversity and Inclusion – 2019 Diversity and Inclusion Policy implementation update
- Strathcona County Museum & Archives – engagement of Chair and Vice-Chair on design accessibility considerations

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2021 AAC mandate items to be addressed include:

1. Provide input into the Diversity and Inclusion Policy implementation to ensure an accessibility lens is consistently applied
2. Invite community organizations and/or groups with perspectives on accessibility challenges in Strathcona County to discuss and identify opportunities for increased accessibility
3. Provide advice and considerations on how to help educate the business community on actions that promote greater accessibility
4. Participate in engagements related to the concept and design of a potential Fieldhouse to ensure consideration of an accessibility lens
5. Provide advice to Council on community safety and wellbeing impacts and special considerations for residents with accessibility challenges
6. Provide advice to Council on pandemic impacts and potential solutions as they relate to residents with accessibility challenges

In 2020, AAC consisted of seven voting members and two Council members as non-voting members:

| Public Voting Members | Non-voting members |
|------------------------------|--|
| Rashelle Babij | Councillor Katie Berghofer |
| Floyd House | Councillor Linton Delainey (alternate) |
| Brenda Frederick | |
| Andre Duteau | |
| Susan Mynzak | |
| John Vrolijk (Chair) | |
| Kim McDonald (Vice-chair) | |

Enclosure

- 1 2020 Accessibility Advisory Committee Annual Report to Priorities
Committee Presentation