

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jul12_2022

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Annual Report

Report Purpose

In compliance with Bylaw 28-2021, this report summarizes annual activities and accomplishments of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

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.

Council and Committee History

AAC's 2021 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.

AAC 2021 Prioritized Strathcona County 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 2021 AAC

The following are the mandate items and activities undertaken by AAC in 2021:

1. Provide input into the Diversity and Inclusion Policy implementation to ensure an accessibility lens is consistently applied
 - a. Provided input on the internal Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and received an update on the work
2. Invite community organizations and/or groups with perspectives on accessibility challenges in Strathcona County to discuss and identify opportunities for increased accessibility
 - a. Engaged Robin Hood Association on accessibility challenges in service delivery and COVID-19 impacts
 - b. Engaged Heartland Housing Foundation on challenges in affordable accessible housing and COVID-19 impacts
3. Provide advice and considerations on how to help educate the business community on actions that promote greater accessibility
 - a. Continued liaising with Sherwood Park & District Chamber of Commerce; mandate item tabled until 2022 given financial pandemic impacts
4. Participate in engagements related to the concept and design of a potential Fieldhouse to ensure consideration of an accessibility lens
 - a. AAC representatives participated in multi-stakeholder engagement
 - b. AAC reviewed the summary What We Heard Report
5. Provide advice to Council on community safety and well-being impacts and special considerations for residents with accessibility challenges
 - a. Engaged twice with Family and Community Services staff on accessibility and project design

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- b. Engaged with Seniors Supports and Services project on accessibility implications and community safety and well-being of seniors
- 6. Provide advice to Council on pandemic impacts and potential solutions as they relate to residents with accessibility challenges
 - a. In engagements with community organizations, AAC also explored COVID-19 impacts of isolation, mental health and financial pressures

AAC participated in the following additional engagements:

- Strathcona County Elections Returns Officer: accessibility in the 2021 municipal election
- Accessibility considerations for the Strathcona County Integrated Transportation Plan

The 2021 AAC consisted of seven public voting members and two Councillors who are non-voting members:

Public Voting Members	Non-voting members
Jon Vrolijk (Chair)	Councillor Katie Berghofer
Kim McDonald (Vice Chair)	Councillor Linton Delainey (alternate)
Brenda Frederick	Councillor Lorne Harvey (alternate)*
Sarah Valois	
Leah Lyseng	
Carley Dobko	
Bonnie Maguffee	

*Councillor Harvey replaced Councillor Delainey in Fall 2021

2021 AAC mandate items continue through the fourth quarter of 2022.

Council and Committee History

December 8, 2020	Council approved third reading of Bylaw 61-2020 to extend the repeal date of the Accessibility Advisory Committee and approves updated mandate letters for 2021/2022.
February 26, 2019	Council approved mandate letters for the Accessibility, Seniors and Youth Advisory Committee.
September 25, 2018	Council approved third reading of Bylaw 20-2018 establishing the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Enclosure

1 Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Annual Report Presentation