

## **Priorities Committee Meeting\_Nov26\_2024**

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### **STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**

#### **ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

##### **2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee annual report**

###### **Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with an update on the progress made by the Accessibility Advisory Committee toward achieving its mandate items in 2024.

###### **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 members during the report period include the following public voting members and two Councillors who are non-voting members. Public members were appointed for a two year term from January 2024 to December 2025.

Public members are Bonnie Maguffee (Chair), Matthew Schneider (Vice Chair), Kristine Lyka, Mary Ann Komant, Asyah Saif and Sandy Boehnke.

Non-voting councillor representation members are Councillor Katie Berghofer and Councillor Lorne Harvey.

The following are the 2024-2025 mandate items and the activities that have occurred from February to November 2024.

1. Provide input into the Diversity and Inclusive Policy and Inclusive Hiring Policy to ensure an accessibility lens is consistently applied.
  - Engaged and updated on recent activities underway within the Inclusive Hiring Policy and Diversity and Inclusion Policy.
2. Invite community organizations and/or groups with perspectives on accessibility challenges in Strathcona County to discuss and identify opportunities for increased accessibility.
  - Engaged with three Strathcona County initiatives and provided an accessibility perspective: Older Adults Strategy, Community Connect Redesign and Housing Affordability Strategy.
  - Engaged with four community organizations and individuals to enhance understanding of accessibility perspectives. Hosted two presentations from Strathcona County Library presentations, another on Body Diversity in Accessibility and another from Austim Edmonton.
3. Provide advice to Council on how to work in partnership with the business community on actions that promote greater accessibility.
  - An engagement is scheduled for 2025 with Economic Development and Tourism (EDT).
  - The committee has captured ideas from 2024 engagements that will be discussed with EDT.
4. Provide input on relevant activities related to the Community Safety and Well-being Strategy development and implementation.

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- Committee members heard an update on the CSWB action reports and provided input on highlighting accessibility success stories in the community.
  - RCMP provided an engagement on accessibility services and supports.
5. Provide input on the concept, design and renovation of County facilities, as requested.
- The committee was asked to provide feedback on a Garden Plot proposal from Planning and Development Services.
  - The committee was invited to attend The Pointe open house and had a follow up engagement with department leads.
  - The committee was asked for feedback on the Accessibility Parking Spaces Project from Transportation Engineering and Operations.
  - The committee was engaged on the Open Space Master Plan and was invited to Open Space Master Plan engagements.
6. Provide input into the development of the Accessibility Framework and implementation plan.
- The committee was engaged on an update of the Accessibility Framework and its next steps.

### **Council and Committee History**

- January 30, 2024      THAT the 2024-2025 Accessibility Advisory Committee and Seniors Advisory Committee mandate letters, as set out in enclosure 1 of January 30, 2024 Governance Advisory Committee report, be approved.
- September 25, 2018      Council approved third reading of Bylaw 30-2018 establishing the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

### **Enclosure**

- 1                      2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee annual report presentation