



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2021 Annual Report and 2022 Work plan

RECOMMENDATION

That the April 13, 2022, Office of the City Clerk report OCC00973, be received for information.

Report Purpose

Information only.

REPORT

The Accessibility Advisory Committee seeks to understand the unique accessibility needs of the Edmonton community and how these needs relate to City Council's strategic and policy direction. The Accessibility Advisory Committee undertakes a significant role in helping City Council address the manner in which its strategies and policies impact people with disabilities and provides advice on best practices for engaging Edmontonians with disabilities.

2021 Highlights and Key Accomplishments

- Developed and shared an accessibility presentation with City Hall Schools
- Development of a contact list of local non-profits and other stakeholders that serve the disability community and sent a letter to increase awareness of The Accessibility Advisory Committee towards the strategy of building further community connections
- Created an action calendar for National AccessAbility Awareness Week
- The members of The Accessibility Advisory Committee developed and delivered a presentation to electoral candidates during the City of Edmonton municipal election
- Development of social media strategy with External Communications Vendor to better connect with community
- Refined The Accessibility Advisory Committee's mission, vision and value statements
- Development of a yearly thematic social media calendar to engage on current accessible issues through Twitter and Facebook
- Updated the Checklist for Accessibility and Universal Design so it is aligned with the latest version of the City's Access Design Guide
- Consulted with/advised eScooter companies (Lime and Bird) about the accessibility concerns eScooters present on Edmonton streets and sidewalks

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- Created a disability language statement for The Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Created a Group Expectations document to accompany the new Advisory Committee Code of Conduct
- Met with the City Clerk's Office and had learning sessions about speaking to Council
- Continued advocacy around increasing accessible housing in Edmonton, with particular focus on the need for housing that is both accessible and affordable. Leger Consulting was engaged in a research report on 'Accessible Housing Research Study for People with Disabilities' designed to identify gaps between supply and demand in accessible housing. Research was completed in August 2021. Advocacy work continues on this issue.
- Continued advocacy around accessible taxis working with the Vehicle for Hire department. Pivotal Research Inc was engaged to do a needs assessment study to improve the accessibility of vehicles for hire in Edmonton. Research was completed in late October with a presentation from the consultants complete with recommendations. Advocacy work continues on this issue
- Continued involvement with Policy C602 'The Accessibility for People with Disabilities Policy', implementation across departments
- Created Accessible Event Guidelines for City of Edmonton staff to use both internally and with external partners
- Advised on changes to the Snow and Ice Control Policy - advocating for more efficient and effective removal of snow from city streets and sidewalks as well as implementation of support for those residents who are unable to remove snow themselves

ATTACHMENTS

1. Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Annual Report
2. Accessibility Advisory Committee 2022 Work Plan
3. Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Expenses