

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2013

Item 7, Report No. 9, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 19, 2013.

7 CITY OF VAUGHAN ACCESSIBILITY PLAN (UPDATED 2012)

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Community Services, the Technical Advisory Committee and members of the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee, dated February 26, 2013:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, the Technical Advisory Committee and members of the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend:

- 1) That the City of Vaughan Accessibility Plan (Updated 2012) be received for information.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Objective 4.1.10

- 4.1.10 Develop accessible service standards as part of the compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act, 2005.

Economic Impact

Costs associated with the continuous improvements outlined in the Accessibility Plan (Updated 2012) will be included in the various departmental operating and capital budget submissions. Any additional and future requirements will be included in the budget process for the corresponding year.

Communications Plan

The Accessibility Plan (Updated 2012) will be posted on the City's website and will also be available in alternate formats upon request.

Purpose

This report is submitted for information purposes. The City of Vaughan Accessibility Plan (Updated 2012) will be posted on the City's website, as mandated by the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).

Background - Analysis and Options

Accessibility Plans are a requirement under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA). The City's accessibility planning process has been set out in the Vaughan Vision 2020. Accessibility is one of Vaughan's strategic initiatives, which means it has a high priority in all planning. The City has developed accessibility plans since 2003.

The purpose of the ODA is to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the province. It also requires all Ontario municipalities to prepare annual accessibility plans in consultation with people with disabilities and to make these plans available to the public.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2013

Item 7, CW Report No. 9 – Page 2

The ODA also requires that the City of Vaughan establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee to advise on the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of the City of Vaughan's Accessibility Plan. Council appointed the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) in the fall of 2002.

The purpose of the AODA is to develop, implement and enforce standards for accessibility related to goods, services, facilities, employment, accommodation and buildings. Its goal is to make Ontario accessible by 2025.

The mandatory standards under the AODA are:

- Customer Service Standard (passed as law - Regulation – 429/07)
- Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) #191/11, consisting of:
 - General Standards
 - Information and Communications Standards
 - Employment Standards
 - Transportation Standards
 - Design of Public Spaces (Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment)

Also, as stated in the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) – 4.1 – the City shall “establish, implement, maintain and document a multi-year accessibility plan, which outlines the organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet its requirements under this Regulation”

The attached Accessibility Plan was prepared using information submitted by City of Vaughan departments through the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC is a staff working group comprised of departmental representatives and Vaughan Public Libraries. Information and statistics have also been gathered from the Region of York, Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee members, and from organizations who serve people with disabilities (e.g. the Canadian Hearing Society). This multi-year plan will be reviewed and updated at least once every five years, as mandated by the IASR.

The City of Vaughan Accessibility Plan (Updated 2012) highlights the following:

- corporate achievements in the area of accessibility;
- strategies, phased in over the next few years, which City of Vaughan departments will undertake to ensure that inclusion for all residents and staff can be realized;
- an implementation plan for the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR).

Corporate Achievements highlighted in the City of Vaughan Accessibility Plan (Updated 2012) include:

- Two new neighbourhood parks, Pheasant Hollow Park and West Wind Park– implementation of innovative, high quality neighbourhood parks that provide significant opportunities for inclusiveness through numerous accessible park amenities. These include numerous seating opportunities at all sites, games tables with only 3 fixed seats, accessible swings, depressed concrete curbs and playground ramps and/or transfer stations.(Parks Development);
- Installation of way finding signage at Maple Nature Reserve and Elder's Mills completed. Pursuing likely grant funding to complete signage on the Bartley Smith Greenway Trail system. (Parks Development);
- The incorporation of improved accessibility standards into new streetscape plans and secondary plan areas. Streetscape master plans need to be designed in a manner which is accessible and safe and conform to the Accessibility Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA).

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2013

Item 7, CW Report No. 9 – Page 3

The Concord West Streetscape Plan (in progress) and the Centre Street Plan (in progress) both include Unilock CNIB-approved tactile grooved concrete pavers at intersection ramps along Regional Road 7, matching the proposed VivaNext standard. Sidewalks in both streetscape plans are minimum 2.0m wide. (Policy Planning);

- The inclusion of accessibility standards as part of the judging criteria for the Urban Design Awards. Accessibility is being included in the judging criteria for the 2012 Urban Design Awards as follows: "Accessibility: The degree of integration for barrier-free accessibility which demonstrates a regard for the AODA. (Policy Planning);
- In partnership with the Region, emergency preparedness for people with disabilities and special needs information has been incorporated into the new Region wide-emergency preparedness guide book. Over 3180 were distributed to date this year. (Fire & Rescue);
- New website and Twitter account - @PrepEVaughanto enhance access to information. (Fire & Rescue);
- Accessible PDF files for both internet and intranet. (Information & Technology Management);
- Purchased and ordered an electronic height adjustable work station for City staff member improving mobility and flexibility; Capital budget request to purchase additional height adjustable work stations submitted for 2013. (Access Vaughan);
- Addressed physical barriers by partnering with Shoppers Home Health Care and supplied all the community centres with wheelchairs. (Recreation & Culture);
- Addressed *information and communication* barriers through the development of new supplementary Special Needs Program brochures (bi-annual) that feature programming, inclusion support, special events and resources for persons with disabilities. (Recreation & Culture);
- Addressed hearing barriers by providing assistive listening devices and sign language services upon request for the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee/Council meetings, in office meetings and public events, and in the Council Chambers and Committee Room. (City Clerk's Office);
- Taxi cab drivers' training includes sensitivity and AODA training. (City Clerk's Office);
- The City's Transportation Master Plan (TMP) contains new principle to provide accessible transportation for everyone; approved October 2011. (Development/Transportation Engineering);
- The City is incorporating more sidewalks in new development to improve accessibility, connectivity and support transit use. (Development / Transportation Engineering);
- Repairing/replacing sidewalks- 5,263 linear meters of sidewalk replaced and 5,338 joint deflections were cut. (Public Works);
- Continuing to provide a residential driveway windrow clearing program. (Public Works);
- Drafted and implemented over 60 accommodation plans for City employees. (Human Resources);
- Provided several training sessions on the City's Respectful Workplace Policy and Procedures. (Human Resources);
- Completed renovation of two small, original washrooms into one large handicap accessible washroom with parent and child needs for the Woodbridge Library. (Vaughan Public Libraries);

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2013

Item 7, CW Report No. 9 – Page 4

- Completed purchase, implementation and training of staff for assistive technologies, including adaptive hardware and software such as text enlarging workstations, voice activated information retrieval, synthetic speech access, and telecommunication devices for persons with visual, hearing and/or learning impairments. (Vaughan Public Libraries).

The 2012 Accessibility Plan reflects the ongoing commitment to make the City inclusive and accessible. In 2013, departments will continue to plan and implement accessibility initiatives in order to remove barriers to programs, services and facilities throughout the City and meet the accessibility requirements of the IASR at the same time.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, this report will provide:

- **STRATEGIC GOAL:**
Service Excellence – Providing service excellence to citizens
- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**
Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources will be included in the various departmental operating and capital budgets as required.

Regional Implications

There are no Regional implications.

Conclusion

The City of Vaughan is committed to the implementation of initiatives that continue to make us an inclusive and accessible municipality where people of all abilities have the chance to fully achieve their potential. The City will continue its efforts to identify and remove barriers and lay the foundation for a barrier-free, inclusive community. The Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee has been very supportive and is very appreciative of the work accomplished to date by the City on accessibility planning.

Attachments

1. City of Vaughan Accessibility Plan (Updated 2012)

Report Prepared By

Rose Tucci, Administrative Coordinator, ITM Department, ext. 8780

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)