



**Town of Aurora
Accessibility Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Councillor Wendy Gaertner (Chair)
Lois Davies
Alison Hughes* (Vice Chair)
Jo-anne Spitzer
Marilyn Williams

Members Absent: John Lenchak
Elaine Martini

Other Attendees: Gregory Peri, Accessibility Advisor
Matthew Volpintesta, Manager of Parks and Fleet
(departed at 8:09 p.m.)
Ishita Soneji, Deputy Town Clerk
Julia Shipcott, Council/Committee Coordinator

*Attended electronically

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the

Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Jo-anne Spitzer

Seconded by Marilyn Williams

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

Carried

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50*.

5. Receipt of the Minutes

5.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2025

Moved by Lois Davies

Seconded by Alison Hughes

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting minutes of February 12, 2025, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

None.

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Memorandum from Manager, Parks and Fleet; Re: 2025 Park Project Updates

Staff provided an overview of the memorandum regarding 2025 capital Parks Projects and the redesign of Fleury Park. Based on public feedback gathered at the February 7, 2025 Public Information Centre, staff shared plans to move the playground and splashpad adjacent to Aurora

Community Centre parking area, and installing rubberized, barrier-free surfacing.

Committee provided the following feedback and suggestions:

- that accessible features be built into all future playground templates, perhaps through a change in policy, with the AAC providing specific feedback on particular features; and
- that future parking areas adjacent to accessible parks provide additional parking for caregivers; and
- that double-wide metal slides replace plastic slides, for those requiring cochlear implants and/or assisted play, and platform wheelchair swings be considered; and
- to select appropriate ground cover for inclusive play, ensuring routes to accessible features are fully accessible; and
- consider provision of a water-safe wheelchair for use at the splashpad, with nearby storage provided at the Aurora Community Centre.

The Committee and staff further discussed the above suggestions. It was noted that the Committee's feedback would be incorporated into a future report to Council.

Moved by Alison Hughes

Seconded by Marilyn Williams

1. That the memorandum regarding 2025 Park Project Updates be received; and
2. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee comments regarding General 2025 Park Project Updates be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

7.2 Round Table Discussion; Re: Town of Aurora Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2022 to 2026

([Link to Multi-Year Accessibility Plan](#))

Staff provided an update on the following:

- AccessNow assessment of facilities and trails is complete, with playground assessments ongoing and regularly updated as retrofitting occurs. Staff shared AccessNow's assessments of Fleury Park surface hazards, terrain descriptions, features and pathways, and confirmed assessments are shared with other departments for consideration. Staff reported collaborating with Aurora Chamber of Commerce to encourage use of AccessNow with their members and invited Committee members to attend future mapping events.

Committee members expressed concern regarding lack of accessibility of Fleury Park Trail when approaching from York Region District School Board bridge, and staff provided a response.

- Features of three Snoezelen Maxi Carts used to manage over-stimulation, and their use at recreation complexes, indoor town events and summer camp.

Committee members inquired as to the cart's availability to the public during non-events, and staff provided a response.

- Next steps following the March 26, 2025 Town-Wide Parking Survey open house and encouraged feedback from committee members.
- Upcoming plans to create a video featuring the importance of accessible features and playgrounds and will use clips from future events.

Moved by Lois Davies

Seconded by Alison Hughes

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee comments regarding the Town of Aurora Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2022 to 2026 be received and referred to staff for consideration and action as appropriate.

Carried

8. Informational Items

None.

9. New Business

None.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Jo-anne Spitzer

Seconded by Alison Hughes

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Carried