



Region of Queens Municipality Accessibility Advisory Committee

Monday, February 23rd, 2026

6:00PM

Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Roberta Roy, Chair
Charlene Park, Vice Chair
Elise Johnston, Public Member
Sally Tanner, Public Member
Natalie Covell, Public Member
Councillor Vicki Amirault
Joel Zwicker, Public Member
Angela Green, Municipal Clerk
Kate Wong, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Holly McConnell, Staff Liaison

1.0 Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at **6:09 p.m.**

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Moved by Elise Johnston, seconded by Charlene Park:

THAT the agenda for the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting for February 23, 2026 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED, unanimously.

3.0 Adoption of February 2nd 2026 Minutes

Moved by Councillor Vicki Amirault, seconded by Sally Tanner:

THAT the minutes of the February 2nd, 2026 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED, unanimously.

4.0 Rescinding Resignation

Chair Roberta Roy formally rescinded her resignation from the Committee.

It was confirmed that no formal motion had been made at the previous meeting accepting the resignation. As such, no motion was required to rescind.

5.0 New Member Introduction

Joel Zwicker introduced himself to the Committee and shared his lived experience perspective as a parent of a child on the autism spectrum.

Joel spoke about the importance of recognizing that solutions designed for one disability may not be appropriate for another group. He emphasized the need for flexibility, lived-experience consultation, and thoughtful implementation when considering accessibility improvements.

Members welcomed Joel and acknowledged the value of lived-experience input in Committee discussions.

6.0 Accessibility Plan (A11y Plan)

The Committee reviewed the Accessibility (A11y) Plan and began structured discussion of its categories and implementation considerations.

Built Environment

The Committee agreed that major municipal capital projects should be referred to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for review at the planning stage to ensure accessibility is considered beyond minimum building code standards.

Members emphasized applying an accessibility lens early in project development.

Education

While acknowledging that school curriculum falls outside municipal authority, the Committee discussed identifying outreach and awareness initiatives within municipal scope. Members agreed to develop a prioritized action plan for potential awareness campaigns and present it to Council for direction before proceeding.

Employment

The Committee discussed the goal of becoming a disability-confident employer by promoting job opportunities in accessible formats, establishing baseline data on employees with disabilities, and setting measurable long-term representation goals. The importance of accountability and tracking progress was noted.

Information and Communications

Members agreed to continue ensuring accessible, screen-readable document production across departments. The Committee also discussed exploring available provincial resources before allocating municipal funding for further accessibility improvements and assessing potential budget implications.

Goods and Services

The Committee discussed improving communication of existing accessibility supports, ensuring public service counters meet accessibility standards, and exploring options to reduce or waive fees for support persons. Members also considered investigating grant opportunities and the possibility of Council advocacy to encourage venues to reduce financial barriers for support persons.

Transportation & Municipal Facilities

The Committee reviewed accessibility considerations across municipal properties and outdoor spaces and acknowledged the broad scope of required improvements. Members emphasized the need to prioritize upgrades and align future improvements with new provincial Accessible Standards, particularly for beaches and parks.

7.0 Prioritization and Strategic Direction

The Committee discussed prioritization given budget constraints.

Members agreed that:

- High-use, year-round resident facilities should be prioritized
- Phased, incremental improvements are practical
- Low-cost improvements should be identified
- Engagement and education must accompany physical improvements

Elise reflected positively on accessibility progress since her tenure as Accessibility Coordinator but noted that community engagement efforts have declined and should be renewed.

Members emphasized that without community awareness and attitudinal change, accessibility initiatives may not achieve intended inclusion outcomes.

8.0 Community Awareness and Engagement

The Committee discussed potential outreach initiatives, including:

- Development of an awareness and education campaign
- Engagement through QCCR (local radio)
- Use of social media platforms
- Featuring lived-experience voices
- Increasing visibility of Committee work

It was acknowledged that all public communications must follow established municipal communications processes and require Council approval.

9.0 Council Engagement Strategy

The Committee discussed the importance of ensuring Council fully understands accessibility obligations and Committee priorities.

It was suggested that the Accessibility Advisory Committee could:

- Present to Council in workshop format
- Provide a structured overview of accessibility priorities
- Seek Council direction prior to broader public engagement

Members agreed that all recommendations ultimately require Council approval.

10.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held:

Monday, March 16 at 6:00 p.m.

11.0 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.