



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number:	CORP2023-003
Meeting Date:	March 7, 2023
Title:	Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee Annual Update and 2023 Work Plan
Description:	Annual Activities Report and Work Plan
Author and Title:	Christine Briggs; Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Accessibility Partner; staff liaison to the Accessibility Advisory Committee

Recommendation(s):

That Report **CORP2023-003, Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee Annual Update and 2023 Work Plan**, be received;

That the work plan for the Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved; and

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

As per the appointments on February 21, 2023, the Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee (KLAAC) has a membership of nine (9) individuals. More than 50% of the members are people with disabilities aligning with the legislative requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).

The KLAAC vision statement is "Opening Doors to Accessibility by promoting a barrier free City of Kawartha Lakes." The goal of this dedicated group of individuals, is to continue to identify and eliminate barriers. The committee assists the municipality in it's desire to be one of the most accessible, inclusive communities in Ontario, by reviewing City projects and initiatives, and by generating public awareness about the importance of making our community more accessible.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference state that the committee is to prepare an annual written report to Council by the end of Q1 each calendar year. The report is prepared to outline the Committee's achievements from the previous year, in line with their approved work plan, and to present to Council their current year work plan. This report is to include details on the promotion of public education programs; the review of other government reports, programs and legislation for any impacts on the City or its' programs; and provide future City policy direction, all with the view of advancing the City's adopted strategic priorities and the proposed budget.

In accordance with the revised Terms of Reference, this report is provided to inform Council of the 2022 Committee activities and the proposed work plan for 2023.

Rationale:

The Kawartha Lakes Advisory Committee formed two (2) working groups in 2022, where three (3) or more of the members of the KLAAC would gather to develop recommendations and complete work in the areas of:

1. **Public Spaces** (City facilities and other public areas such as transit, transportation routes, parks, etc.). This group actively provides comment to the City's Planning Division on Site Plans. The focus of this group in 2022 was the development of the pre-consultation resource for developers.
2. **Public Awareness.** This group generates ways in which to share information and to raise public awareness about the importance of making our community more accessible. Coordinating the presentation of the Accessibility Awareness Recognition Awards (at a Council Meeting) is one annual event organized by this

group that raises much awareness. The Accessibility Awareness Recognition Awards presentations resumed virtually in June 2022 where Council, in partnership with the KLAAC, recognized eight (8) deserving recipients

The working groups meet as needed (generally once per month) in the generation of this annual work plan and to fulfill the contents of the plan. Each Working Group provided a report back to the entire Committee during a scheduled public meeting on their initiatives, accomplishments, and formulated recommendations. As a whole, the Committee would vote on whether the recommendation should be delivered through a report to Council, or to Staff for their review and consideration.

Offering our citizens', the benefit of improved public areas continued to be of great importance, especially as we emerged from pandemic restrictions. Improvements in 2022 included:

- Completion of work in the downtown streetscapes of Lindsay and Fenelon Falls;
- Continued work on the redevelopment of the Bobcaygeon Beach Park;
- The Bobcaygeon Library relocation and renovation;
- Upgrades suggested for the Manvers Community Centre including accessible washrooms and elevator.

Priorities for 2023 include:

- Accepting applications, reviewing candidates, and making recommendations to Council regarding suggested recipients of the 2023 Accessibility Awards;
- Generating a new Accessibility Master Plan and presenting it to Council before the end of Q4, 2023 (current Master Plan expires in 2023);
- Completing the Provincial Compliance Report in association with the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation no later than December 31st, 2023;
- Public Outreach- creating greater awareness through several avenues such as participation in local events, and through the creation of information brochures;
- Continue to provide comments to City Planning on Site Plans and finalize the pre-consultation resource for development;
- Explore opportunities to educate and encourage investment in accessible residential growth/ community models;
- Continue to support Age-Friendly initiatives;
- Continue to review and provide comment to Council, City Staff and stakeholders on projects, plans, and policy as reviewed and renewed.

Other Alternatives Considered:

This report is presented annually as a requirement of the Terms of Reference of the Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee of Council.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

The Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee 2022 Activities Report, and Proposed 2023 Work Plan supports the priority “An Exceptional Quality of Life.” By enhancing accessibility for our residents, we are building a community where all people are given equal opportunity to live, visit, raise a family, work and retire. By identifying, removing, and preventing barriers, individuals of all abilities can participate to their full potential in everything that this community has to offer.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

The 2023 Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee Budget has been set at \$8,000.

Consultations:

Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee

Attachments:

Appendix A – Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee 2023 Work Plan



KLAAC 2023 Work
Plan.docx

Department Head email: sbeukeboom@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Sara Beukeboom