



Council Report

Report Number: CORP2024-004
Meeting Date: March 5, 2024
Title: **Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee Annual Update and 2024 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 **CORP2024-004, Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee Annual Update and 2024 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:

The Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee is entering the second year of its two-year term. According to the appointments made on February 21, 2023, the Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee (KLAAC) comprises nine (9) members, with over 50% representing individuals with disabilities, in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).

The vision of KLAAC is to foster a barrier-free City of Kawartha Lakes under the slogan "Opening Doors to Accessibility." The committee's primary objective is to identify and remove obstacles, aiding the municipality's aspiration to become one of Ontario's most accessible and inclusive communities. This is achieved through the review of City projects and initiatives and by raising public awareness about the significance of enhancing community accessibility.

As outlined in the Accessibility Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference, the Committee is required to present an annual written report to Council by the end of the first quarter each year. This report summarizes the Committee's accomplishments from the previous year, aligning with their approved work plan, and outlines the objectives for 2024. It encompasses the promotion of public education programs, scrutiny of government reports and legislation for potential impacts on the City, and provision of future policy recommendations to advance the City's strategic priorities and proposed budget.

This report aims to update Council on the 2023 Committee activities and present the proposed work plan for 2024.

Rationale:

The Kawartha Lakes Advisory Committee is comprised of two (2) subgroups where three (3) or more of the members of the KLAAC 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 comments to the City's Planning Division on Site Plans. The focus of this group in 2023 was the redevelopment of their pre-consultation resource. The resource was previously developed to outline broad considerations for accessible development. It is being reworked to align with the standards set forth in the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation.
2. **Public Awareness**. This subgroup devises initiatives and resources to enhance public awareness around improving accessibility in our community. One notable

annual initiative is the coordination of the Accessibility Awareness Recognition Awards presentation. In 2023, Accessibility Awareness Recognition Awards resumed in person, where Council, in partnership with the KLAAC, recognized ten (10) deserving recipients. The Public Awareness group also led an education campaign regarding invisible disabilities. In conjunction with the City, the group released a video breaking down stigma associated with hidden disabilities and imploring community members “not to judge a book by its cover” and, to remember that “just because someone doesn’t look like they have a disability, doesn’t mean that there isn’t one there”.

The committee subgroups meet as needed (generally once per quarter), outside regular Committee meetings, to fulfill the plan's contents. Each subgroup provides a report back to the entire Committee during scheduled public meetings on their initiatives, accomplishments, and formulated recommendations. As a whole, the Committee votes on whether recommendations should be delivered through a report to Council or to Staff for their review and consideration.

Priorities for 2024 include:

- Accepting applications, reviewing candidates, and making recommendations to Council regarding suggested recipients of the 2024 Accessibility Awards;
- Generating a new Accessibility Master Plan and presenting it to Council before the end of Q2, 2024;
- Generating awareness through several public outreach avenues such as participation in local events, and through the generation of a new education campaign based on ageism in accessibility;
- Continue to provide comments to City Planning on Site Plans;
- Provide feedback to funding recipients who are undertaking community accessibility initiatives;
- Amend the pre-consultation resource to align with the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) and use it to engage local BIAs and Chambers to consider accessibility upgrades (in conjunction with the Million Dollar Makeover Program);
- Continue to review and provide comments to Council, City Staff, and community partners on projects, plans, and policy as reviewed and renewed.

Other Alternatives Considered:

This report is presented annually as set forth by the Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee’s Terms of Reference.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

The Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee 2023 Activities Report, and Proposed 2024 Work Plan supports the priority "An Exceptional Quality of Life." By enhancing accessibility for residents, the City is ensuring that a range of programs, services, and supports are available to our residents. 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 2024 Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Budget has been set at \$8,000.

Consultations:

Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee

Attachments:

Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee 2024 Work Plan



Appendix A - Annual
KLAAC Activity Report

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Department Head: Sara Beukeboom