

Accessibility Working Group

Meeting Notes

October 23, 2024

In attendance:

Deb Day
Jennifer Anderson
Cory Parrott
Marc Chapin
Robert Stewart
Muhammad Siddiqui
Matt Stie
Shelby Cook
Merrilea Metcalf

Regrets:

Emmanuel Owusu Ansah
Peter Roberts
Pam Richardson
Lola Oyeladun
Katey Rogowsky
Tiffany Stokes
Colin Craig
Jojo Fermin

1. Objectives – no updates today, will provide next week (October 30). Please utilize the documents available on the Teams channel.

2. 2025-2026 accessibility plan is available in the Teams channel under Files. Everyone should go through the document and provide edits/suggestions, as well as input their objective-specific information. Once objectives are complete and reviewed by the group they will be marked as ‘complete’

3. Action items from the last meeting:

- Azeem was going to speak with Troy about having Jojo (our new grant writer) be part of the team, or contribute as necessary – complete – Jojo is now part of the AWG
- Cory was going to review previous documentation to see if there is anything about developing the sub-committee – complete – not much information available

4. Accessibility sub-committee:

- Will be referred to as the Advisory Committee, will include organizations and people (CNIB is on board already)
- Brian and Sandra created the original list – not sure if they put out a call for members. The 2016 list included a list of names, nothing has been done since then
- Some of the individuals have reached out to the City previously through social media – we have very engaged members within the community
- Theresa (Gibbons?) came to one previous meeting to provide a presentation on emergency kits for people with accessibility in mind

- Could reach out to organizations, provide a time commitment and ask for recommendations on individuals they may be connected with. Five – seven people would be ideal. Start with the existing list and ask people and organizations if they are interested
- Need a clear idea of what the ask is (and is not); can solicit feedback, which could feed into grant proposals/funding initiatives in the future
- Can we promote on social media? Yes!
- Can ask people to apply, make sure we get a rounded group of individuals
- Finish this plan first then put the call out to move forward in the beginning of 2025
- Will make contact with the existing members/organizations from the 2023-2024 contact list – action by Cory and Shelby
- Meet with existing advisory group beginning – mid December

5. Round table:

- Marc – if we are writing the plan at a high level with the appendices providing further detail, are they to be included as part of the December 31 submission? These will take longer. Group agreed that these areas will need consultation and will be included in phase 2
- Matt – will work with Jojo. Question to Matt about having a specific GL code for specific AWG items that aren't already incorporated into projects – action by Matt to inquire
- Azeem – the transportation requirements will come into effect January 1, 2027. We should have this in place before then, would be an ideal opportunity to request funding and grants. The group asked if we should include it in the 2025/2026 plan? Maybe as Transportation is working through the new standard we include it at a high-level as a long-term objective. Another objective to look at is the outdoor spaces objective. The group thought it might be better to set this one aside for the time being due to the fact that there is no current standard in place (still under development)
- Shelby – is the new transportation standard in the Teams channel? Action to Jennifer to check and upload if not

6. Meeting adjourned

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, October 30 at 2:00 p.m. in the T.E. Snure Room (A.R. McDiarmid)