



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

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Councillor Wendy Gaertner, Chair (arrived 7:10 p.m.)
Lois Davies
Alison Hughes, Chair*
John Lenchak* (arrived 7:02 p.m.)
Elaine Martini
Jo-anne Spitzer
Marilyn Williams

Other Attendees: Gregory Peri, Accessibility Advisor
Anne Kantharajah, 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 Marilyn Williams
Seconded by Jo-anne Spitzer

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 11, 2026

Moved by Elaine Martini
Seconded by John Lenchak

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting minutes of February 11, 2026, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

6.1 Amandipp Singh, Founder and CEO, Enabled Talent; Re: Accessibility Initiatives

Amandipp Singh, CEO, Enabled Talent, presented a plan to promote coordinated initiatives between the Town of Aurora and local employers, educators, non-profit agencies, and accessibility advisory committees to identify primary challenges and further accessibility initiatives.

Moved by John Lenchak
Seconded by Marilyn Williams

That the comments of the delegation be received for information.

Carried

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Memorandum from Town Clerk; Re: Draft 2026 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan

Staff provided an extensive overview of the Draft 2026 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan, outlining accessibility features for both internet and ballot voting methods that will be provided at voting locations for candidates, electoral staff and voters, as well as accessibility training planned for election officials and accessible elections communications. Additionally, staff extended an invitation to the Committee for members to take part in voting location inspections; staff to provide upcoming events details. Staff further underscored the level of accessibility to be provided at advance polling stations.

The Committee spoke to security concerns around internet voting, and provided the following suggestions when considering voting locations:

- providing an alternative to school gyms with high ceilings, for those with hearing disabilities or neurodivergent individuals
- propping heavy entrance doors open, or ensuring automatic door openers are working
- use of plain language, ideally at a grade six to eight level, when providing instructions
- providing service animal rest stations
- providing respite seating, including non-rolling chairs with arms

Moved by Marilyn Williams

Seconded by Elaine Martini

1. That the memorandum regarding Draft 2026 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan be received; and
2. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee comments regarding the Draft 2026 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan 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

Staff provided an update of the 2022-2026 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, specifically:

- As Atkinson and Optimist Parks come due for replacement, feedback on inclusive features and accessible play elements may be provided via EngageAurora.ca/Playgrounds until Friday, April 10, 2026.
- Town Hall parking lot refurbishment is on schedule, and the Aurora Seniors Association has been informed of the ensuing work, with a completion deadline for September, ahead of Municipal Elections.
- May 24 - 30, 2026 will see multiple events celebrating National Accessibility Week happening throughout Aurora featuring speakers, drop-in events, and adaptability try-out activities.

Moved by Councillor Gaertner

Seconded by John Lenchak

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

The Committee inquired on the status of acquiring additional evacuation chairs for use at the Town Square, and staff responded that due to state-of-the-art fire suppression features included in the new building, the consensus is that additional evacuation chairs are not required. However, fire safety plans for older buildings owned by the Town will be reviewed regarding the potential need for evacuation chairs in those locations.

Staff noted a conversation with the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility where it was discussed that the use of evacuation chairs is not required by Provincial legislation, affecting their utilization by many municipalities.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Lois Davies

Seconded by Elaine Martini

That the meeting be adjourned at 8 p.m.

Carried