

Meeting Minutes

CDIS Priority 4: Remove accessibility barriers to services, information and spaces

Monday, January 25th

6:30pm – 8:30pm

Zoom Meeting

Present: Tobias Lowe, Ashfaq Husain, Susan Oster, Penny Moore, Laura Clarke, Melanie Stone, Valerian Marochko, Malvin Wright, Dr. Erika Katzman, Jesse Rompht, Luana Bezerra Struyven, Hope McLay, Michelle Dellamora, Kinga Koltun

1. Call to Order

1.1 Traditional Land Acknowledgement

2. Standing Items

2.1 Welcome from Chair & Leadership Table Update

- Priority six is being added to the CDIS and will focus on anti-Black racism and ways for addressing it within the community. The open call for the Steering Committee closed on January 11.
- The community co-chair changed for 2021, Ashfaq is the outgoing co-chair and Shobhita Sharma is the incoming for the 2021 term.
- Discussed ways in which working group members are engaged during meetings and getting clear deadlines and timelines for the work.

2.2 Roundtable Check-ins (5 mins / person)

2.3 Melanie Stone (Accessibility Specialist), Re: November Meeting

Follow-up

- 20212 – 2025 Multi Year Accessibility Plan – kick off event to be sent out to groups and agencies to get involved.
- Communications to be launched in March.
- Focus on things that can be changed and built within the City.
- Identifying what can be done and can't.
- Data collection to be launched in late March, and Londoners will have multiple ways to submit their feedback.
- Vital to building accessible services for Londoners.
- Working with a class to plan engagement for the plan.
- Will come back during the March meeting to talk about the getinvolved page and engagement opportunities.
- Wanting to get as many voices as possible to be at the table and have a plan that is doable and meaningful.
- The previous plan included the City website, FADS review, making sure parks are accessible, broad education, snow removal, etc.
- Police, libraries, museums, and transit would be out of scope for the plan.
- Every year the City must provide an accessible update to the Province.

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- FADS will be brought to Council next month and then will be made available to the public.
- Welcome Kiosks were not accessible and were scrapped.
- If the group wants to see something happening, then they can provide input during the consultation process.
- Has any thought been given to moving the Kiosks to a digital platform?
 - The immigration portal has been updated and includes the information that was available through the Kiosks.
 - Looking at working with the library to provide information.

ACTION: Melanie to send Kinga the previous plan to share with the group.

3. Break (7:30pm)

4. Items for Discussion

4.1 CityStudio Project Presentation

- Disabilities Studies class @ King's University College
- Looking at how environments can change and adapt to include persons with disabilities.
- Emancipatory research methods
 - Physical and attitudinal changes
 - Voices and experiences of those being affected
- Course of 27 students, split into four groups:
 - Literature review
 - Ethics application
 - Funding application
 - Research on funding sources, funding for research and implementing recommendations
- General theme: disability and other identities may make challenges worse for the given group or individual.
- Thinking about getting a wide range of perspectives and experience within the community:
 - Could be accomplished through partnerships with community groups and/or organizations.
- Some funding opportunities are only available to particular groups. Need to take into consideration who are applicable to this project.
- Starting research that is coming from the community.
- Is this something the group would want to pursue with the help of the class?
- How intersectionality impacts someone's experience?
- Looking at a source of funding that is related directly to disability?
- Looking at the disability point of view as it relates to someone's identity:
 - Starting with disability and then looking at the other identities.

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- Research must be done in tandem with all the different experience and perspectives.
- Taking into account the perceptions that exist within society.
- Pursuing a research study – to gather information on local experience and raise awareness.
- Breaking down existing structures and making them more equitable.
- It takes a lot to build trust and it's hard to stick to budget cycles because of that.
- Projects existing outside of current structures and cycles.

ACTION: Reach out to the Accessibility Advisory Committee to let them know about the study and to share information with them.

4.2 Work Plan Progress & 2021 Plans

- Come back for one hour meeting to review the work plan and decide on tasks for moving forward.
 - Monday, February 8th, 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- Are the students on the right track, should they continue on the same path or adjust?
- Research on awards to also include awards being given out/ hosted by municipalities.
- Looking at international awards for some best practices, e.g. objectives and structure.
- Looking at Sustainable Development Goals.
- Services that may be available for London but not have a physical location in the City. Looking at the southwestern Ontario region.
- Thames Valley Children's Services – what are they promoting?
- If you have an organization in mind input what you know and then have the students look for further information.
- Can start with the need the organization serves and then work from there.
- Students can join the meeting, group can than them.
- End goal of the Google doc – broadcasting it, and making it a living document.
- Thinking about how people can engage with information that is different from existing structures.

ACTION: Kinga, Michelle and Ashfaq to input what is available through the City of London.

ACTION: Share the Google doc with the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

5. Additional Business

- The Accessibility Advisory Committee is meeting this Thursday.
- January 27th is Holocaust Recognition Day.

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- 6. Next Meeting – March**
- 7. Adjournment**
 - Adjourned at 8:42pm