



REPORT FOR ACTION

Remote participation in Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings

Date: November 6, 2020

To: Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: City Clerk

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the remote electronic participation amendments to the Simplified Procedures for Advisory Bodies which govern the meetings of Council Advisory Bodies, including the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee, as requested by the Committee.

At present, the amended Simplified Procedures permit any member of an Advisory Body to participate in meetings by electronic means, and be counted for quorum.

As it stands, these amendments will remain in place for a period of one year following the termination of the municipal emergency related to COVID-19.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. The Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on April 30, 2020, City Council amended the Simplified Procedures for Advisory Bodies to permit remote electronic participation by members in Council Advisory Bodies:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.CC20.1>

At its meeting of July 28 and 29, 2020, City Council extended the remote electronic meeting rules for a period of one year following the later of the termination of the Provincial emergency and the termination of the municipal emergency related to the issue of COVID-19.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EX15.21>

At its meeting on July 3, 2020, the Executive Committee requested the City Manager, in consultation with the City Clerk to review options for allowing remote participation by Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee members when an accommodation is required, and to provide an update to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee at its November 16, 2020 meeting:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EX15.15>

COMMENTS

Since July 2020, the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee has held 3 meetings remotely, with members participating by video or audio connection. During these meetings, Communication Access Realtime Translation service is provided for all participants connecting to the video conference platform, and the proceedings are streamed live on Youtube with auto-generated closed captions.

Remote participation in meetings is currently authorized by amendments made by City Council to the meeting procedures governing meetings of Council Advisory Bodies which permit members of the Advisory Body to participate in meetings by electronic means, and be counted for quorum. City Council has directed that these amendments remain in place for a period of one year following the termination of the municipal emergency related to COVID-19.

Should the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee wish to see the remote participation amendments to the Simplified Procedures remain in place permanently, the following recommendation could be made to City Council through the Executive Committee:

- That City Council amend the Simplified Procedures for Advisory Bodies to permit remote electronic participation in perpetuity.

CONTACT

Kelly McCarthy, Deputy City Clerk, Secretariat, kelly.mccarthy@toronto.ca, 416-392-8676.

SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
Interim City Clerk