

Social Sustainability Pillar Committee

Minutes

Thursday, November 03, 2022

Electronic Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Councillor Bill Phillips, Chair
Councillor Greg Miller
Jeanette Pillitteri, Director of Corporate Support Services
Phil Cristi, Director of Community, Recreation and Cultural Services
Gail Riihimaki, Chair, Older Adults Advisory Committee
Jim Richardson, Chair, Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee
Michelle Sanders, Co-Chair Accessibility Advisory Committee
Saleh Waziruddin, Chair, Anti-Racism Advisory Committee

Absent:

Councillor Sal Sorrento
Rick Kennedy, Chair, LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee
Trecia McLennon, Chair Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee
Karen Doyle, Town and Gown (staff liaison)

Guests:

Andrea Connelly-Miele, Community and Events Coordinator ~ left at 4:45 p.m.

Staff Liaison:

Anika Forde, Manager of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Megan Detlor, Accessibility (staff liaison)
Eric Lamothe, Recreation Master Plan
Koby Vanyo, Older Adults Advisory
Leanne Kurek, Social Pillar

1. **Call meeting to order (Chair, Bill Phillips)**
4:31 p.m.

2. **Recognition of Traditional Territories**
Chair Phillips acknowledged that the land on which the Social Sustainability Committee meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and

Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

3. Amendments to the Agenda

None

4. Motion to approve the agenda

That the Social Sustainability Committee adopt the agenda as presented.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Carried

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting

Motion to adopt the Social Sustainability Committee minutes August 4, 2022.

Moved by: S. Waziruddin

Carried

6. Declarations of Interest

7. Presentations (invited guests)

None

8. Business arising from the minutes

None

9. Business

a. 9.1 Review waiving of fees applications

- i. Andrea Connelly-Miele presented the applicants

Motion to approve the request for waiving of fees

Moved by: J. Richardson

That the Social Sustainability Committee approve the waiving of the following fees:

\$196.22 for Distress Centre Niagara's Suicide Awareness Walk.

\$548.76 for Community Care St. Catharines-Thorold Great Holiday Food Drive.

\$175.20 for the Education Foundation Spooky Pooches Parade.

\$175.20 for the Niagara African Caribbean Culture Festival.

\$149.64 for Gillian's Place Pancake Breakfast.

\$241.68 for Start Me Up Niagara's Coldest Night of the Year.

Carried

b. 9.2 Accessibility Plan 2021-2025

i. Accessibility Plan (Appendix 1)

Moved by: M. Sanders

That the Social Sustainability Committee receives the Accessibility Plan 2021-2025 and presentation from the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Carried

c. 9.3 Recommendations on Improving Diversity of Applicants and Appointees for Agencies, Boards, and Committees (ABC's)

i. Recommendations from Anti-Racism Advisory Committee, October 18, 2022 (Appendix 2)

Moved by: S. Waziruddin

That the Social Sustainability Committee refers the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee's recommendations for improving the diversity of applicants and appointees to City agencies, boards, and (advisory) committees (ABC's) to city staff as background information for staff to consider when developing the City's community outreach and awareness for new agencies, boards, and (advisory) committees (ABC's) to improve the diversity of applicants and appointees

Carried

d. 9.4 Resolution against (re)-installing a nativity scene at City Hall

- i. Resolution from Anti-Racism Advisory Committee, October 18, 2022 (Appendix 3)

Moved by: S. Waziruddin

That the Social Sustainability Committee endorses the Resolution against (re-)installing a nativity scene and religious displays at City Hall as presented and refer to council through sugar sync.

Carried

e. 9.5 Resolution on Indigenous and Black/POC Membership on Advisory Committees, Boards, and Commissions

- i. Resolution from the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee, September 20, 2022 (Appendix 4)

Moved by: S. Waziruddin

That the resolution from the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee regarding updating the Terms of Reference on City committees, boards, and task forces to improve representation of Indigenous and Black/ People of Colour be referred to staff as background information in the development of Terms of Reference for committees, boards and task forces for the 2022 to 2026 term of Council.

Carried

f. 9.6 Verbal update from the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee for information only on decolonization project at the St. Catharines Library

Moved by: S. Waziruddin

That the Social Sustainability Committee receives the verbal update from the Chair of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee regarding decolonization project at the St. Catharines Library.

Carried

g. 9.7 Future Meeting Schedule

Moved by: J. Richardson

That this will be the last scheduled meeting of the Social Sustainability Committee until the new committee structure is approved by Mayor, council and recruitment is complete unless a meeting is requested by a member.

Carried

10. Date of next meeting
TBD

11. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: G. Riihimäki

That the Social Sustainability Committee be adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Carried

2021 Year-End Status Report

Accessibility Plan 2021-2025

This document is available in alternate formats upon request. Please visit: [The City of St. Catharines website](#) or call 1-905-866-5600 to speak with a representative from Citizen's First

Compliance

As required under the *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation* (IASR) of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA), the City of St. Catharines prepares annual status reports on the progress of the organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility. The City's 2021-2025 Accessibility Plan outlines the City's current strategy.

This annual report provides a status update on the corporation's progress achieved in 2021 towards that strategy. This includes a detailed account of the improvements to City services, programs, information, communications, goods and facilities through the completion of accessibility-related initiatives. In addition to meeting statutory requirements, this report demonstrates the City's commitment to the inclusion of persons with disabilities, be they residents, employees or visitors in all the City has to offer.

The City is currently compliant with provisions under the standards of Customer Service, Information and Communication, the Design of Public Spaces, Transportation, Employment and General Standards.

Statement of Organizational Commitment

The Corporation of the City of St. Catharines is committed to developing, implementing, maintaining, and enhancing accessibility as set out under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA) and its Standards for people with a disability, in a manner that:

- Reflects the principles of dignity and independence;
- Seeks to provide integrated services; and
- Provides opportunity equitable to others to obtain, use and benefit from its goods or services.

Achievements and Activities in 2021

Physical Environment:

Bill Burgoyne Arena - Bowl Isolation & Accessibility Upgrades



Bowl isolation and Lift

Completed project in 2021 to seal openings to help with ice making and energy efficiency. Added a series of doors along openings. Also, added a lift as pictured to improve accessibility for visitors to the arena.

Port Dalhousie Piers Concrete Benches



At the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting on September 29, 2021, the AAC, in principle, supported the bench design for the piers. The AAC also asked staff to review and consider the items below regarding the bench design for the piers:

For bench installation, include concealed rods to eliminate external “L brackets”. Also requested was the inclusion of an arm rest or grab bar to select benches to help individuals sit or stand. Other requests were to ensure the space between the benches allows access for a power wheelchair. For individuals with visual impairments, contrasting colours between the bench and the piers surface including indicators on the surface of the pier and to provide priority seating signage for accessibility

Port Dalhousie Library Ramp

Ramp update at Port Dalhousie Library completed in 2021



Pelham Road



High visibility bicycle lanes, tactile plates at sidewalk ramps, dropped sidewalks at driveways to minimize crossfall.

Linear Infrastructure

Accessibility On street parking – Reverse Angle Parking
St. Paul Street at Silver Spire Church



New Sidewalks

Constructed:

Abbot Street (north side, Oakdale Avenue to 40m easterly)
Export Drive (west side, Dieppe Road to Welland Avenue)
Gibson Place (north side from Niagara Street to 70m westerly)
Rykert Street (south side, Louth Street to approx. 80m west of Westland)

Awarded:

Arthur Street (west side – 3 missing sections, East side near Cindy Drive
Niagara Street (west side – 2 sections, Mapleview Drive southerly to mid-block walkway

Recreational Trails and Multi-Use Paths

Location	New Trail	Upgrade Existing	Paving Spring 2022	Federal ICIP funded
Fairview Park	✓		✓	✓
Lakeside Park		✓		✓
Pearson Park	✓			✓
Rennie Park		✓	✓	✓
Merritt Trail along Moffatt Street		✓		
Merritt Trail (CNR to Chestnut St. W)		✓	✓	✓
Merritt Trail (Chestnut St. W to Glendale Avenue)	✓		✓	✓
Merritt Mills Multi-use Path (Hartzel Road to Ellis Avenue)	✓		Start spring 2022	

Welland Canal Trail (Parnell to Scott) – by St Lawrence Seaway Corporation		✓	✓	
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2021 Resurfacing

Market Square Parking Lot



Other projects:

Lakeside Park Parking Lot
 Burgoyne Woods Entrance Driveway and Main Loop
 Queen Street (St. Paul to King)
 Lake Street (Linwell to Lakeshore)
 Various Local Streets

Community Recreation and Culture Services

Abilities in Motion (AIM)

A new program introduced where adults (ages 18+) with developmental, physical and cognitive disabilities will be taught skills that train and strengthen the whole body. The instructor-led exercises allow participants the opportunity to maintain mobility, assist in balance and increase coordination

- No swimming skills required
- Support person may participate at no charge



Museum – Sensory Friendly Sunsets

In this after-hours program, lighting and sounds in the Museum will be altered to reduce external stimuli and a several sensory-friendly activities will be made available for families to engage with on your own terms. Activities include the following:

Hands-on-Heritage: children will be encouraged to touch and match objects made of different materials

Play Zone: self-directed play area with a variety of tactile toys and activities to choose from.

Quiet Zone: a place to relax and be calm, with blankets, large stuffed animals, and grounding observation activities.

Financial Management Services

External improvements were made to provide increased accessibility and ease of use to customers and community partners through the following measures:

- updates were made to forms located on the City's website corresponding with the launch of the new website
- 13 of 17 of the forms used for procurement were updated to comply with accessibility requirements leaving only 4 additional forms to be reviewed and updated. The following forms were updated:
 - Purchase Order Master
 - Purchase Requisition
 - RFP – request for proposal, RFT – request for tender & RFQ – request for quotation - templates
 - Addendum template
 - Award Notification Letter template
 - Cancellation Notification template
 - Disqualification Notice template
 - Letter of Intent template
 - Prequalification Notification template
 - Declaration of Accessibility Compliance (will need wording updated to reflect newest AODA info)
 - Landing page for bids & tenders
 - Purchase Authority – Corporation Purchasing Card
 - Purchase Authority – Vouchers or Requisitions
- Staff have increased their requests for the support of the Communications Team to review content and make suggestions based on accessibility requirements
- Improvements were made to the Budget Standing Committee and Council Reports to make them more accessible
- Tax Certificates were made available to purchase online through Tax Certificate Online Tool (TCOL)
- Installation of additional pay and display parking equipment and continued use of Honk Mobile app
- Online payments available for various parking services (parking tickets and reoccurring parking permit payments)

Employment

- Continue to notify the public that accommodations will be provided upon request
- Continue to promote and welcome accommodations throughout recruitment process and employment life cycle
- Rick Hansen audits and certifications for city buildings completed in 2021 with Kiwanis facility achieving Gold Certification
- Partnership with Communications and Clerks & Legal department to offer closed captioning at Council meetings
- Edited accessibility communications guide for staff from the 2016 version to an updated 2021 version
- Expanded LanguageLine services to Fire and Emergency Services
- Created and released to 2021-2025 Multiyear accessibility plan
- IT included update to Licensing that includes voice to text option
- IT has supported staff and committees to make the move to meeting virtually on platforms like zoom and Microsoft Teams

St. Catharines Transit 2021

- One large accessible bus to be received in February
- Twelve standard accessible buses to be received in April/May
- Four paratransit buses ordered in Jan 2021
- New furniture ordered for 33% of the Bus Terminal that is built to CSA National Standard of Canada for Accessible Design.
- Website revisions to meet AODA Accessibility Standards. Launching early 2021
- Installed contrast markings on bus platforms
- New Bus Operator program being updated to include more paratransit training and more mobility training.
- Commence renovations at St. Catharines Bus Terminal to improve accessibility including washroom upgrade and wayfinding.
- Increasing the number of fully accessible doors at the Downtown Bus Terminal

Anti-Racism Advisory Committee Recommendations on Improving Diversity of Applicants and Appointees for Agencies, Boards, and Committees (ABC's)

October 18, 2022

The St. Catharines Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the following for improving the diversity of applicants and appointees to City agencies, boards, and (advisory) committees (ABC's):

- 1) In addition to public information sessions at city properties, staff should do outreach information sessions to BIPOC community organizations, including as part of BIPOC community events and meetings, to educate BIPOC residents on opportunities to serve on ABC's as well as information on the current demographic gaps on specific ABC's.
- 2) The City should produce printed and digital materials for distribution to and by BIPOC community groups on applying for these committees.
- 3) BIPOC interest groups specific to relevant ABC's should also be contacted for arranging outreach sessions.
- 4) Applicants should be provided with a package showing sample anonymized applications from successful applicants including application statements and resumes. Specific illustrative examples should be given of the most appropriate answers to application questions.
- 5) The pillar committees and councillors deciding on appointments should be provided with information on the demographic gaps in committees to take into consideration.

St. Catharines Advisory Committee and Task Force Diversity (per Clerk's Office)
With 2016, 2021 Census Data for City of St. Catharines

2016	84.6		2.7		2.9		1.7		1.4		4.5		1.4	
2021	81		2.5		4.1		2.3		2.5		4.8		1.6	

	Applied	Appointed	Applied	Appointed	Applied	Appointed	Applied	Appointed	Applied	Appointed	Applied	Appointed	Applied	Appointed
Committee	White		Indigenous		Black		Latino		S. Asian		East Asian		Mid. East.	
Accessibility	81	75	0	0	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anti-Racism	33	21	8	7	17	21	0	0	17	21	8	7	17	21
Arts & Culture	67	69	5	0	5	0	3	0	5	0	0	0	5	0
Clean City	65	73	0	0	0	0	8	0	4	0	0	0	4	0
Adjustment	72	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Older Adults	90	78	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	0	0
Downtown Dev/Revitalization	76	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	3	0
Equity & Inclusion	60	44	6	13	11	13	4	6	11	6	2	6	11	6
Green	79	80	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Heritage	81	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heritage Permit	79	88	7	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LGBTQ+	81	71	3	6	5	6	5	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Museum	92	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Art	55	43	0	0	10	14	5	14	5	0	0	0	5	0
Rec Master Plan	85	90	4	10	0	0	4	10	4	0	0	0	4	0
Town & Gown	70	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport	76	88	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Library	71	80	4	0	2	0	2	0	7	10	2	0	7	10
Transit	61	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	11	0
Downtown Parking Study TF	57	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth TF	43	47	0	0	14	7	0	0	5	7	5	7	5	7

Anti-Racism Advisory Committee Resolution Against Nativity Scene at City Hall

October 18, 2022

WHEREAS St. Catharines has residents of various faiths and traditions who should have equal standing in an inclusive community

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Catharines Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends against installing a Nativity Scene or other religious display at City Hall or on City properties

Resolution on Indigenous and Black/POC Membership on Advisory Committees, Boards, and Commissions

St. Catharines Anti-Racism Advisory Committee, September 20, 2022

WHEREAS it is a benefit to have racial and Indigenous status representation on advisory committees, boards, and commissions

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference membership section for all advisory committees, boards, and commissions be updated to include an appointment of person(s) who are Indigenous and also an appointment of person(s) who are Black or POC.