

## Minutes

**Monday, October 31, 2022**

**Electronic Meeting at 10 a.m.**

### **Attendance:**

Michelle Sanders, Diane Foster, Kate Wiley, Matthew Goodman, Gilles Marceau

### **Absent:**

Dan McKnight, David Reed, Bob Asham, Jasmin Olah

### **Guests:**

Eric Lamothe – Manager of Strategic Business Services (CRCS)  
Jocelyn St. Denis – Design and Construction Engineer (EFES)

### **Staff Liaison:**

Megan Detlor – Human Resources Consultant, Accessibility

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#### **1. Call meeting to order (Chair)**

Michelle Sanders, Chair, called the October meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee to order at 10:03 a.m.

#### **2. Recognition of Traditional Territories**

Megan Detlor acknowledged that the land on which the Accessibility Advisory 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**

Moved by: Diane Foster, and seconded by: Matthew Goodman that the October 31, 2022, agenda of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

**Carried**

**5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**

Moved by: Gilles Marceau, and seconded by: Matthew Goodman that the September 28, 2022, Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

**Carried**

**6. Declarations of Interest - none**

**7. Presentations (invited guests)**

*Eric Lamothe – Manager of Strategic Business Services (CRCS) and Jocelyn St.*

*Denis – Design and Construction Engineer (EFES) – Bogart St. Park and Valleyview park (Neighbourhood Parks)*

- Shared design photos
- Previous design included pea gravel, high structures, no at grade features, transfer tables, no accessible swing, etc.
- Tennis courts – cracked, at end of useful life
- Existing site – no hard surface connections
- Proposed plan connects elements together with hard surface connections and move closer to splash pad
- Good visuals to be able to see children play across the site
- Handball, pickleball and tennis with full size basketball court and hockey
- Both parking lots will be resurfaced
- Received 5 submissions for playgrounds, awarded the one that excelled in accessible design
- Committee was pleased with design ideas

**Rachel Sam – Niagara Region – Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy**

- Shared that a poverty reduction strategy is being planned
- Regional staff have met with different community groups
- Question: What would a Niagara without poverty look like?
  - Michelle – one that is connected/ease of navigating large region. Opportunities for jobs, transportation, is barrier free etc.
  - Gilles – dignity and people to feel secure, need this before able to help others
  - Matthew – would mean that no one would be without a home, would have safe housing
  - Living wage and benefits associated with that
  - Proper access to medical
  - Clean public areas
  - Diane – good supports for Seniors/older adults
  - Financial supports for mobility equipment and what is needed to allow people the independence/safety to stay living in their homes
- Question 2: What are the most pressing poverty related issues in Niagara?

- Diane: feeling included and connected to the community – transportation is lacking, and service hours not planned well around holidays and events, access to activities
- Barriers to participation, cost for this can be higher for those with disabilities – Michelle
- Kate – affordable housing, support idea, but also needs to be accessible affordable housing
- Gilles – top pressing issues – healthcare, food security, education, transportation, employment
- Question 3: what is working well in Niagara?
  - Good job making physical spaces for community that are accessible, bus stops etc.

#### **8. Business arising from the minutes**

Recognition program – like idea of nominating businesses and services rather than using a specific checklist for meeting criteria, next step is making statement of values then bringing this to management in CRCS and checking in with Equity and Inclusion committee about their participation. AAC agrees that our committee will take a leadership role with this idea. **Points and wording for values statement to be sent to Kate and will be discussed at next meeting (Action item). Megan to email Anika Forde (Staff Liaison) Equity and Inclusion committee to have a conversation and provide information about the idea/outstanding workplan item.**

**Motion: That the template for the Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes will be revised to identify action items in order to monitor progress. Moved by: Gilles Marceau, Seconded by: Kate Wiley**

**Carried**

#### **9. Business**

- a. 9.1 – Recognition of Traditional Territories statement – Matthew to read going forward, Megan to email wording (Action item)
- b. 9.2 – Carousel update – a report from the consultant is being drafted as of early October, estimated time to receive is 4-6 weeks – Megan to check in with Lori (Action item)
- c. 9.3 – Library robots – Michelle shared information and photo, really like this idea and would like to follow up with communications to see if the library can be recognized for this (Action item)

10. Action items

- a. Discussion about Happy Rolph's accessibility – Eric Lamothe to speak next meeting in November, Megan monitoring response from by-law. (ongoing)
- b. Carousel report – Consultant did site visit and completed a report, Megan to check in with Lori Mambella (ongoing)
- c. Recognition Program – values statement ideas to be sent to Kate Wiley by other AAC members, Megan to email Anika Forde (November meeting update)
- d. Recognition of traditional territories – Megan to email statement to Matthew Goodman before November meeting
- e. Library Robots – Megan to email Communications about recognizing on social media – before November meeting

11. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, November 23, 2022

12. **Motion to Adjourn**

Moved by: Gilles Marceau and Seconded by: Kate Wiley that the October 31, 2022, meeting be adjourned.

**Carried**