

City of St. Catharines

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility (MACOA) MINUTES, Wednesday, April 24, 2013

A meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility was held on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 in Committee Room #1 at City Hall at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Diane Foster, Co-chairperson
Chantal Barrette (until 2:50 p.m.)
Steve Kurtic-Lentinello
Julie Morris
David Reed
Linda Marie O'Hagan
Mary Jane Waszynski (until 2:45 p.m.)

Regrets: Councillor Matthew Harris
Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Bob Asham
Ian Crawford
Tony DiPaola

Staff: Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, CSS
Christine Adams, Manager of Engineering and Construction, TES
Britney Williamson, Planner I, PDS

Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS):

The FADS guideline was approved by the Region of Niagara in September 2005 and adopted by the City of St. Catharines Council on April 24, 2006 for use in municipal facilities.

1. Call to order:

Diane Foster, co-chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

2. Introductions:

Everyone was welcomed and round table introductions were made.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility for March 27, 2013 were approved.

That the minutes of March 27, 2013 be approved.

Motion by: Julie Morris

Seconded by: Linda Marie O'Hagan

CARRIED

4. Presentations/Discussions:

a. Accessibility budget 2013 - Christine Adams, Manager of Engineering and Construction, TES provided an overview of current projects highlighting those with an accessibility component. The annual budget target for accessibility related improvements is approximately \$250,000. The target will be reached in 2013. Items included a number of projects that MACOA has already provided comment on accessible design, such as the West St. Catharines Seniors Centre and the Dunlop Seniors Centre. Access improvements are included in larger scale projects at the Inner Range Light House, Memorial Park and Lancaster Park (Pool Change House). Projects previously funded that have not yet been finalized include washroom facilities at Happy Rolph's and Pearson Park and various elements at Victoria Lawn Cemetery. MACOA supported a renewed design for improved sidewalk curb ramps in 2012 which has been incorporated into this year's sidewalk repair program as well as being implemented into construction projects. As part of the sidewalk repair tender, at least one accessible parking spot will be installed in the downtown area. Some stretches of sidewalk that MACOA had advocated to connect along Vansickle, between Pelham and Club Roma areas will be constructed in 2013. Also the City, with MACOA's support, has continued to support a wider 2.4 m sidewalk along both sides of the new Burgoyne Bridge.

Other projects of general interest which although not explicitly funded with an accessibility component include repairs to the Central Library (Centennial Library) Plaza and West Park (Powerview Road) Parking Lot. The Centennial Library plaza area is slated to be repaired to reduce the current heaved and uneven conditions. A master plan for downtown (core area) street-scaping will be developed in 2013 and repairs carried out on Summer Street (alley off James Street). The concepts identified in the master plan will be used during reconstruction of St. Paul Street adjacent to the Performing Arts Centre.

A plan showing the detailed design for the West St. Catharines Seniors Centre Parking Lot was reviewed. The proposal incorporates many of the same features found at the recently reconstructed Dunlop Seniors Centre parking lot. TES to confirm the sizing / signage of 2 spaces abutting the building. No major concerns were raised.

TES is currently testing a Google map feature to be used on the City's website which would provide information on the active construction projects. The concept was well received by committee members.

Best practices were discussed on meeting the new Integrated Accessibility Standard, Design of Public Spaces, exterior path of travel curb ramps. Although the improved design for sidewalk curb ramps improves the slope there is also requirements for the tactile demarcations. City staff will investigate alternatives in 2013 and will seek the committee's input prior to making a final recommendation. The City of Toronto has a test intersection that has 4 different designs, 1 at each corner. Staff will send a link to MACOA to review and provide further input. Toronto has also offered to share its findings once available.

Mary Jane Waszynski asked if the 2008 facility access audit could be revisited in order to confirm or re-establish priorities. MACOA had advocated for the more actively used facilities such as the seniors centres, community centres and recreation arenas, rinks to be of high importance for City access improvements as part of the established audit priorities.

b. Draft Site Plan Manual - Britney Williamson, Planner I provided a review and status update on this document. It has been made in an accessible format and will be available on line, on disk, or in hard copy with other formats available upon request. It is currently undergoing a look, style and readability review that approaches the document layout sequentially through the actual site plan process. Further to the update provided at the last meeting, the site plan manual offers a number of specifics, including more emphasis on accessibility throughout the document, including adopting common accessible standards like curb cuts, ramps and accessible parking as City standards. Standard drawings for curb cuts and ramps as prepared by TES are included in the manual as City standards.

Thank you to Ian Crawford and David Reed for their content review and input on the draft site plan manual. Diane Foster thanked Britney Williamson.

Moved by: David Reed
Seconded by: Steve K-Lentinello

That MACOA supports a Site Plan Manual that helps clearly set out accessibility requirements and objectives for designers going through the site plan process that prevents barriers; and

That MACOA supports Planning & Development Services making this document in an accessible format along with providing alternative formats upon request.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising from Minutes:

a) Accessibility Plan / AODA:

Diana Lecinski noted that planning is underway for future website compliance of WCAG 2.0 AA by 2021. Meetings have taken place with Information Systems staff and Communications staff who are both working with the City's e-provider to move to this goal as soon as possible. Staff are also required to make accessible documents and PDF's since their training in 2011 and 2012 on creating accessible information and communications. The Tourism website is also being assessed for compliance.

Diana Lecinski held an orientation for approximately 20 key staff on the latest AODA Standard for the Design of Public Spaces.

b) New Hospital Access Tour

MACOA's March 27th minutes, approved at this meeting will go forward to Council on May 13th. These minutes provided the basis and discussion regarding the accessible feedback from the NHS new hospital tour. Councillor Harris noted he will flag this for Council and follow up directly with NHS is being planned.

c) Spectator Facility update

MACOA reps met on April 17th with staff reps and the consultant for the spectator facility regarding follow up on access designs. Rick Lane, Director of RCS noted that 50% drawings would be coming forward shortly and several accessibility suggestions will be followed up on.

6. Updates:

a. Site Plan Review:

Performing Arts Centre (PAC), previous concern has been addressed with circulation of clear PDO locations on design plans. Theatre doors will always have an attendant as doors are not free to open/close by any patron, therefore do not have a PDO. This is in keeping with standard theatre management and protocol.

Ian Crawford noted a concern regarding the site plan of the new A&W on Glendale beside the Pen Centre. It was thought that plans indicated the 2 sidewalks only had slopes however the built product has one side with several stairs. The site plan will be checked.

b. DDRC: No report

c. Other:

- March of Dimes Breaking the Barrier Awards is May 29th information has been distributed
- Concern continues to be flagged regarding the need for separate pedestrian paths into parks and facilities instead of a shared vehicle route. Concerns; Burgoyne Woods Park, Malcolmson Eco Park, Seymour Hannah Sports and Entertainment Centre (which was later confirmed to have a sidewalk into the facility from the roadway).

- Concern was raised about accessibility and way-finding from the bus stop at the NHS new hospital to the entrance.
- Staff reminded MACOA of the Accessibility Forum in Burlington on May 9th being hosted by the Accessibility Directorate's Office. Several members have registered. Transportation can be arranged.

7. Next Meeting:

Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in Committee Room #1.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility adjourned.

Quorum had been lost at 2:45 p.m. therefore the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. by Diane Foster, MACOA co-chairperson