

City of St. Catharines

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility (MACOA) MINUTES, Wednesday, October 23, 2013

A meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility was held on
Wednesday, October 23, 2013 in Committee Room #1
at City Hall at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Matthew Harris
Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Diane Foster, Co-chairperson
Bob Asham
Chantal Barrette
Ian Crawford
Steve Kurtic-Lentinello
David Reed
Linda Marie O'Hagan
Mary Jane Waszynski

Regrets: Steve Byers
Julie Morris

Staff: Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, CSS

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:

Shelley Stewart, co-chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:35 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 September 25, 2013 were approved.

That the minutes of September 25, 2013 be approved.

Motion by: Diane Foster

Seconded by: Bob Asham

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from Minutes:

a. Meridian Centre;

General discussion noted good support of accessibility at this facility. Several specific comments were outlined in September 25 Minutes and forwarded to the design team for response.

MACOA asked about the status of an independent access audit of the design's compliance with FADS. Staff noted that a preliminary audit had been made by Bob Topping of DesignABLE Environments, however a final audit is not yet completed as the 90% plans did not include all detailed dimensions needed for a more complete analysis. The design team will continue to provide further details as they become confirmed.

b. Accessibility Plan / AODA;

Accessibility staff reported that corporate-wide Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation (IASR) accessibility training was launched on October 7th. Options to complete the comprehensive training include E-module, large-print booklets or group sessions. All options contain the same content to ensure consistent training for employees and volunteers. Staff will provide the E-module training to MACOA at their next meeting.

Diana Lecinski thanked Chantal Barrette for participating in several group training sessions and providing a positive and introductory framework of disability and associated objectives such as accessible information, communication and employment. Thank you to Chantal. Diane Foster and Shelley Stewart noted their participation in the 2009 Accessible Customer Service training and confirmed that MACOA rep participation and support in group training sessions helps to promote a greater understanding.

Staff also noted that the City will submit their accessibility compliance report to the Province shortly, which is due to the Province by December 31st.

All staff reps will be invited to MACOA's January 22, 2014 meeting to provide an annual review and update on their department's objectives under the 2013-2015 Accessibility Plan. This will also be an opportunity to make additions / amendments to the existing Plan as part of the Province's required annual reporting on the long-term access plan status.

The City undertook an accessibility audit of approximately 50 of its facilities, using FADS as the benchmark in 2008. Staff noted that annual plans and successes are noted under each year's accessibility plan. Consolidating this information for new MACOA members would be helpful.

c. 2014 MACOA meeting schedule:

MACOA will continue to meet on the 4th Wednesday monthly at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall throughout 2014, except for December. Summer months remain tentatively booked and members should remain available unless otherwise determined at a prior meeting.

Moved by: Diane Foster
Seconded by: Linda Marie O'Hagan

That MACOA approve its 2014 meeting schedule.

CARRIED

5. Updates:

a. Site Plan;

Several questions and comments arose regarding site plans;

- does MACOA receive all site plans
- some site plans don't always reflect MACOA's comments (staff reminded the committee that FADS is not enforceable, but is recommended as a best practice)
- some sites raised concerns; curb ramp access and locations, grades at accessible parking, missing parking signage and markings, etc.
- Civic Square suggestions regarding way-finding
- CIP and accessibility status

Accessibility staff suggested that staff from Planning & Development Services (PDS) be invited to February's meeting to provide input and discuss specific areas of concern.

- b. DDRC; Bob Asham reported that James Street would soon be reinstated after being repurposed as a Civic Square over the summer. MACOA offered several suggestions for next year. It was suggested that details could be shared in February with PDS staff.

- c. Niagara AAC; Linda Marie O'Hagan. NRAAC will be meeting shortly and an update will be provided at the next meeting.
- d. Other;
 - NRPS Community Officer, sidewalk pedestrian safety:
MACOA requested an opportunity to discuss pedestrian safety relating to cyclists using the sidewalk. NRPS declined the invitation however provided several points in response to MACOA's concern.
 - Lead officer will send blitz reminders to patrols to remain vigilant of cyclist on sidewalks throughout the City, both immediately and will renew this reminder and focus again in the Spring
 - Lead officer provided stats on tickets issued to aggressive cyclists using the sidewalk instead of the roadway. In 2011 = 60 charges were laid, in 2012 = 76 charges were laid.
 - They also noted that the Downtown Association supports NRPS continued patrol of pedestrian sidewalk safety.
 - Diane Foster noted completing her 50 km bicycle ride with proceeds going to NICL. Not all pledges have been collected therefore unable to provide information on the revenue raised. A newspaper article is included with the agenda package. MACOA members congratulated Diane Foster on her achievement, particularly considering her progress back into cycling after several years of using a wheelchair.

6. Next Meeting:

Wednesday, November 27, 2013 at **12 noon** in Committee Room #1.

NOTE early start time for MACOA's annual holiday luncheon, followed by the regular agenda.

7. Adjournment:

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

Moved by: Chantal Barrette
Seconded by: Steve Kurtic-Lentinello

That this meeting do now adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

CARRIED