

City of St. Catharines

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility (MACOA) MINUTES, Wednesday, February 26, 2014

A meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility was held on
Wednesday, February 26, 2014 in Committee Room #1
at City Hall at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Diane Foster, Co-chairperson
Bob Asham
Ian Crawford
Julie Morris
Mary Jane Waszynski

Regrets: Chantal Barrette
Steve Byers
Steve Kurtic-Lentinello
Linda Marie O'Hagan
David Reed

Staff: Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, CSS
Rick Lane, Director of RCS
Anthony Martuccio, Construction Engineer, TES

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 1:40 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 January 22, 2014 were approved.

That the minutes of January 22, 2014 be approved.

Motion by: Julie Morris
Seconded by: Diane Foster

CARRIED

4. Presentations/Discussions

a. Meridian Centre, update and accessibility audit;

Shelley Stewart welcome Rick Lane and Anthony Martuccio. Rick Lane led a detailed update and discussion on the current status of the Meridian Centre construction. He noted that, further to an independent accessibility audit, MACOA has been engaged since January 2013 to provide input on accessibility of this facility. MACOA met with the entire design and construction teams last January and again in April to provide input on the design. The site plan review and 90% design drawings were each circulated to MACOA in the Fall of 2013 and MACOA again provided access input and best practice suggestions. Rick Lane noted that a formal access audit process was undertaken by Bob Topping of Designable Environments who, along with the City London, created FADS. Multiple copies of the 40 page audit were provided around the table as a large colour document that outlined the extensive nature of the design review. Since the initial audit, the architects and design team worked to address the audit to meet the FADS requirements. The design team worked with Bob Topping to clarify and improve access concerns. Rick Lane noted that by January the list had been pared down to a few pages that generally flagged details that were not yet confirmed relating to finishing details. Several items remain that are currently recognized but not finalized.

Anthony Martuccio noted that all public areas such as changerooms,

washrooms, entrances, doors and hallways are FADS compliant. PDO's are installed on all public routes and washrooms. He flagged several issues to demonstrate the scope of the audit and solutions relating to grades, turning radiuses, counter heights, benches and hooks, suite setup, signage, way-finding, etc. Although not yet required under the AODA's Design of Public Spaces, cast iron truncated domes will be installed on curb ramps and along the accessible parking areas, as well as the drop-off zone. Safety bollards will also be installed. He also noted that Anthony Boland of CBRE has kept the accessibility audit at the forefront during the design and construction process.

MACOA asked various questions and made several comments throughout the discussion. Julie Morris noted appreciation for the installation of listening assistive devices and suggested that further audio coverage is very helpful for people with a vision disability. It was flagged that several areas were not designed to FADS such as a back security office and the Ice Dogs private spaces per agreement. The Green Room will act as the main accessible room for any person with a disability, accessible seating details and ratios are currently being finalized, and the office area is generally FADS accessible and can be rearranged to accommodate employees with a disability. David Reed asked that, in his absence, a concern be flagged for the west end of the concourse level where the majority of accessible seating is located, that designers should be cognizant that guards and railing heights not impede sight-line viewing for people who use mobility devices. Shelley Stewart summed up the discussion by noting that the accessible and inclusive design of the Meridian Centre is another great step by the City of St. Catharines for community participation. She extended MACOA's appreciation for the dedication of the entire design team to the accessibility of the Meridian Centre noting that even the 2 skywalk bridges achieved highly accessible slopes. It was requested that a tour be arranged for MACOA members when the facility is completed.

Moved by: Bob Asham
Seconded by: Diane Foster

That MACOA accept the accessibility audit of the Meridian Centre recognizing that several outstanding items are forthcoming or still to be addressed.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising from Minutes:

a. Accessibility Plan – 2013 year-end report;

Diana Lecinski consolidated all updates as discussed at MACOA's January 22nd meeting into a report that was circulated to MACOA prior to this meeting. MACOA members reviewed and endorsed the report.

Moved by: Diane Foster

Seconded by: Ian Crawford

That the 2013 year-end report on the 2013-2015 Accessibility Plan be endorsed and forwarded to Council.

CARRIED

Diana Lecinski asked that MACOA present this report to Council. March 31st or April 14th are open dates and MACOA asked that staff confirm with the City Clerk. Diane Foster and Bob Asham offered to make MACOA's presentation. Staff will canvas members not in attendance for any further interest to present.

6. New Business:

a. MACOA's annual election;

Shelley Stewart asked for a motion to pass the chair to staff in order to hold MACOA's annual election for co-chairpersons.

Moved by: Diane Foster

Seconded by: Mary Jane Waszynski

That the Chair be temporarily passed to Diana Lecinski for the purpose of holding elections for co-chairperson for MACOA.

CARRIED

Diana Lecinski extended the City's sincere thanks and appreciation to Shelley Stewart and Diane Foster for yet another year of MACOA leadership.

Diana Lecinski called for nominations. Julie Morris nominated Shelley Stewart. Shelley Stewart accepted the nomination.

Moved by: Julie Morris

Seconded by: Mary Jane Waszynski

That Shelley Stewart be nominated for co-chairperson of MACOA for 2014.
CARRIED

Diana Lecinski called for further nominations. Shelley Stewart nominated Diane Foster. Diane Foster accepted the nomination.

Moved by: Shelley Stewart
Seconded by: Mary Jane Waszynski

That Diane Foster be nominated for co-chairperson of MACOA for 2014.
CARRIED

Diana Lecinski called for further nominations. No further nominations were made or sought.

Diana Lecinski declared that Shelley Stewart and Diane Foster will remain as MACOA's co-chairpersons for 2014. The chair was returned to Shelley Stewart.

7. Updates:

- a. Site plan review;
As requested by MACOA a discussion with Planning & Development Services staff has been rescheduled to June 25th.
- b. DDRC, Bob Asham
The last meeting in November discussed the Civic Square for 2014 and Bob Asham noted that more specific and accessible pedestrian paths will be delineated based on MACOA's suggestions from last year.
- c. Niagara ACC, Linda Marie O'Hagan
None
- d. Other;
Diana Lecinski passed along a message from Paul Pattison, who is an active walker and advocate for pedestrian accessibility. He noted a concern for snow blocking public access to postal boxes. Staff noted that roadways are cleared by the City, sidewalks by the adjacent property owner and Canada Post should be contacted directly to flag barriers to their

services. It was noted that Canada Post actively corrected a recent access issue in Merritton at a mail box that was blocking a convenience store sidewalk after a phone call to notify of the situation.

8. Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at **1:30pm** in Committee Room #1.

9. Adjournment:

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

Moved by: Julie Morris
Seconded by: Diane Foster

That this meeting do now adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

CARRIED