



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Minutes

Meeting: Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility
Location: Committee Room #1
Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2014
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Attendees:

Invited	Name
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Present	Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
	Diane Foster, Co-chairperson
	Bob Asham
	Steve Byers
	Chantal Barrette
	Steve Kurtic-Lentinello
	Julie Morris
	Linda Marie O'Hagan
	David Reed
	Mary Jane Waszynski

Regrets	Councillor Harris
	Ian Crawford

Staff	Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, CSS
	Tracey Miller, Billing Manager, FMS
	Amy Tomaino, Manager of Administration, PRC

Agenda Items and Deliverables

1. Welcome from the Chair: **Diane Foster at 1:30 p.m.**

2. Roundtable introductions were made.

3. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Wednesday, September 24, 2014

Moved by: Julie Morris

Seconded by: Linda Marie O'Hagan

That the Minutes of the September 24, 2014 be approved.

CARRIED

NOTE: MACOA's October meeting was cancelled due to an advanced election poll held on that date.

4. **Discussion:**

a. **Accessible Parking**

Diane Foster welcomed Tracey Miller to lead a discussion on alternative uses for the accessible parking at the Meridian Centre. The following was discussed.

- Limited number of available parking spaces during daytime and/or facility rentals or meetings as the majority of site parking is designated as accessible or for the Ice Dogs
- Accessible parking is empty during these times and meeting attendees or rink rental users park elsewhere (parking garages) and tote meeting materials, hockey gear, etc.
- Kingston and other cities have found that interchangeable use and signage to address patron use has been proactive for all patrons
- Convertible signs would be locked and only changeable by facility staff
- Pavement access markings would be blacked out to avoid confusion of alternative use, however the sign remains the enforceable piece for either
- Suggest that 20 of the 28 spaces become interchangeable and 8 accessible parking spaces along the building be maintained as only accessible parking

Agenda Items and Deliverables

Moved by: Bob Asham
Seconded by: Shelley Stewart

That MACOA supports the interchangeable use of 20 of the 28 accessible parking spaces in the front lot at the Meridian Centre; and

That 8 accessible parking spaces along the building remain constantly posted as fulltime accessible parking space; and

That alternative use will be limited to private rentals/meetings as scheduled by the facility management; and

That the alternative use of the accessible parking spaces will never conflict with any public event at the Meridian Centre; and

That public events held at the Meridian Centre will have all 28 front lot accessible parking spaces available for valid Accessible Parking Permit holders.

CARRIED

ALSO discussed as follow up to staff's October email/phone canvassing of MACOA members was a reconfirmation of MACOA's previous position (MACOA Feb. 27, 2013) on the 3 hour maximum time limit for all vehicles at the downtown lots and on-street parking which includes Accessible Parking Permits use as well. MACOA continues to support the equality of this position.

Moved by: Linda Marie O'Hagan
Seconded by: Steve Byers

That MACOA continues to support the equality of the 3 hour maximum parking limit at downtown lots and on-street for all vehicles; and

That the 3 maximum time allotment apply to all vehicles, including those displaying a valid Accessible Parking Permit; and

That this approach is equitable relating to time limitations, while continuing to offer up to the 3 hour maximum at no charge in recognition that many meters or pay-and-display terminals are not all fully accessible to-date.

CARRIED

Agenda Items and Deliverables

Tracey Miller also noted that visitors to the MTO building at 301 St. Paul Street, which houses several social services such as the ODSP office, have voiced concerns that the 2 accessible on-street spaces in front of the building may not be enough, but are being informed that the Carlisle parking garage across the street offers another 26 accessible parking spaces as well as providing a covered bridge directly into the MTO building.

Diane Foster thanked Tracey Miller for providing detail information and responses to MACOA.

b. Recreation Master Plan

Diane Foster welcomed Amy Tomaino to provide a backgrounder on the Recreation Master Plan. The following was discussed;

- Presentation on the framework and input to-date
- Elements that go into creating a comprehensive and functional Plan
- Input is being received from staff, stakeholders, community groups, committees, etc.
- MACOA has previously been included on survey and other input opportunities
- Diane Foster has represented MACOA at public consultations
- MACOA supported comprehensive accessibility within the Recreation Master Plan for services, programs, facilities, parks, trails, etc. and noted that accessibility is more than wheelchairs and ramps and that all disabilities should be considered as the Plan takes shape
- PRC staff noted that next steps include a draft Plan for further review and that MACOA will be canvassed again for a response as a key stakeholder
- Diane Foster thanked Amy Tomaino for the detailed information on the Recreation Master Plan

c. Meridian Centre

- Rick Lane hosted MACOA's accessibility tour of the Meridian Centre on October 15th
- MACOA was pleased with the implementation of FADS for accessibility in all elements of the facility; doorways, changerooms, washrooms, service counters, elevators, seating, companion seating and suites.

Agenda Items and Deliverables

- Outcomes ~ MACOA requested feedback on the status of;
 - listening assistive devices providing hockey game play-by-play between the facility announcements or a provision for pocket radios with ear buds if adequate reception inside the facility, and
 - other members suggested cell phone aps to tune into radio broadcasts, or podcasts, or bring a pocket radio
 - others noted concern for expense of cell aps or personal devices that are not readily available
 - a need for cup-holders in the area designated for wheelchairs, or possibly adding a second cup holder to companion chairs

Moved by: Julie Morris
Seconded by: Shelley Stewart

That MACOA continues to advocate for a provision of play-by-play broadcast signals to be available via a personal device (listening assistive device or pocket radio) for people with disabilities to enhance their participation and enjoyment during games at the Meridian Centre.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising from Minutes:

a. Accessibility Plan

MACOA's 2015 meeting schedule was endorsed by the membership.

Moved by: Linda Marie O'Hagan
Seconded by: Chantal Barrett

That MACOA's 2015 meeting schedule be approved.

CARRIED

Agenda Items and Deliverables

b. 2014 Municipal Elections; Accessibility

Staff noted that the accessible voting tabulator (AVT) was available on each advanced poll date as well as at City Hall on Election day. Staff felt that the AVT was under-utilized due to several issues; lack of promotion with stakeholder groups, and lack of clarity of the AVT being an audio option best suited for people with visual, dexterity, and paraplegia disabilities. The AVT provides headsets to audio vote using either a hand-held, sip/puff or foot paddle devices, depending on the disability.

Solutions included using the disability audio icon, not the international symbol of accessibility (wheelchair symbol). Several voters who had mobility disabilities thought they would need to use the AVT when the usual ballot voting procedure remained the most accessible for them. MACOA will also more actively promote the AVT with their connections (e.g. CNIB, Ontario Para and CP associations)

Some voters with vision disabilities still preferred to vote using assistance of others, instead of using the AVT. However the AVT remains an important option for independence and privacy to voters with a disability. The AVT does take longer to advance through all the audio voting contests for their particular Ward, however it does produce a replica ballot with hand-marked type selections.

MACOA noted the City's keen dedication to provide an accessible election experience to voters. Further to providing the AVT, all voting locations were selected based on facility accessibility as a priority. Also of significance was the location of the facility being on a transit route as well as having ample parking with easy exit/entrance. The election worker training included an accessibility component and MACOA reps assisted with the training. MACOA sends its kudos to the City Clerk, the Election Coordinator and all staff who participated in providing an inclusive election experience to all voters in St. Catharines.

Thank you again to several MACOA members who volunteered to assist with the accessible election worker training piece over 14 various dates and times arranged by the City Clerk.

6. Updates:

- a. **Site Plan** – No report
- b. **DDRC** – No report

Agenda Items and Deliverables

c. **Niagara AAC** – Linda Marie O'Hagan informed MACOA that the Regional term of appointment was extended into the beginning of 2015.

d. **Other**

As follow up to their facility tour, MACOA suggested that they would like to nominate the Meridian Centre project for next spring's Breaking the Barriers Awards hosted by the March of Dimes.

Moved by: Shelley Stewart

Seconded by: Chantal Barrett

That MACOA nominate the key project leaders of the new Meridian Centre once the March of Dimes seeks nominations in the Spring of 2015.

CARRIED

MACOA also endorsed the use of their unexpended budget to go towards the purchase of another Ubi Duo to have on-hand for off-site City events such as Public Meetings, Pumpkinville, recreation facility guest services, etc.

Moved by: Linda Marie O'Hagan

Seconded by: Steve Kurtic-Lentinello

That MACOA endorse the purchase of an Ubi-Duo.

CARRIED

7. Information Items

a. **MACOA term of appointment**

MACOA members were reminded that their term of appointment is until January 2015 and the City Clerk will be advertising for new and reapplication to all Associations, Boards and Committees (ABC).

Diana Lecinski thanked all the members for their expertise, dedication and guidance on numerous City accessibility initiatives over their past 4 year term. Members were encouraged to reapply on-line through the City's ABC webpage. Further to staff testing, Shelley Stewart tested the on-line application form and confirmed it was easily accessible.

Agenda Items and Deliverables

8. Next Meeting

Tentative based on Council's committee appointment process and timing.

Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in Committee Room #1 which has been renamed the Burgoyne Woods Room.

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Moved by: Bob Asham

Seconded by: Julie Morris

That this meeting do now adjourn.

CARRIED