



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Minutes

Meeting: Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)
Location: Burgoyne Woods Room (formerly Committee Room #1)
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2015
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Attendees:

Invited	Name
Present	Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson Diane Foster, Co-chairperson Bob Asham Steve Byers Julie Morris Linda Marie O'Hagan David Reed Mary Jane Waszynski
Regrets	Ian Crawford Chantal Barrette Steve Kurtic-Lentinello
Staff	Diana Lecinski, CSS, Accessibility

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1. Welcome from the Chair: **Diane Foster at 1:40 p.m.**

2. Roundtable introductions were made.

Diane Foster congratulated Mary Jane Waszynski on her recent Volunteer Award from the City for her many community undertakings and achievements. Congratulations were offered by all.

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

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Edited to place Linda Marie O'Hagan as present, not regrets.

Moved by: Linda Marie O'Hagan

Seconded by: Shelley Stewart

That the Minutes of March 25, 2015 be approved.

CARRIED

4. **Business Arising from Minutes:**

a. Accessibility Plan;

Accessibility staff reminded the Committee that the presentation of the annual report on the Plan is scheduled for Council's May 11th meeting.

The presentation content by AAC members was discussed. Steve Byers reviewed some valuable points on the population of people with a disability. Mary Jane Waszynski offered accessible employment and facility access highlights and Diane Foster will provide closing remarks. Thank you to these presenters.

b. Sustainability Pillars of Council;

Staff reviewed the new pillars Council and how advisory committees will report under this structure. The chairperson of each committee will attend the meeting that their committee comes under. Members felt that this would be an effective way to communicate directly with Councillors. The Accessibility Advisory Committee reports under the Social Sustainability Committee.

Cultural Sustainability Committee; Councillors Garcia, Kushner, Williamson
Environmental Sustainability Committee; Councillors Britton, Elliott, Siscoe
Economic Sustainability Committee; Councillors Harris, Haywood, Stevens
Social Sustainability Committee; Councillors Bellows, Phillips, Sorrento

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5. New Business;

a. TO2015 PanAm / Parapan Games

There will be torch relays as part of both opening ceremonies. Parapan information and applications were circulated prior the meeting for anyone interested. It was suggested that Bob Asham be the ParaPan Games torch bearer. This event will take place on August 3rd. He agreed and had submitted his application. This information will be forwarded to Jennifer Douglas, the City's PanAm liaison staff. Diane Foster offered to be available as backup.

Information excerpt from the TO2015 Parapan Am Games:

The TORONTO 2015 Parapan Am Games Torch Relay will be a five-day inspirational journey along the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail. Two separate Parapan Am flames will be lit — one in Ottawa, Ontario, and one in Niagara Falls, Ontario — in special ceremonies on August 3, 2015. This unique start of two separate flames will be a first-ever in torch relay history.

The torch relay will begin on August 3, 2015, and make its final stop on August 7, 2015, at the Opening Ceremony of the TORONTO 2015 Parapan Am Games.

This torch relay will be the largest ever held for a Parapan Am Games.

b. AAC to host CDAC event, October 8, 2015

Staff noted an opportunity to invite representatives from the Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) to provide awareness training relating to communication disabilities. Committee members were interested in acting as hosts of this event. Staff has booked a morning session at Central Library's Mills Room and an afternoon session at Kiwanis Locke Rooms. Although the focus is for City customer service and Citizens First staff, this may be an opportunity to invite representatives of community partners as well.

Members cited a number of organizations whose access reps would also benefit and share internally. This will be discussed in greater detail at a future meeting.

6. Updates:

a. **Site Plan** – reviews are on-going

b. **DDRC** – Reports under the Economic Sustainability pillar. As with all committees, their terms of reference were revised and approved by Council.

c. **Niagara AAC** – Last meeting did not meet quorum. The Commissioner of Planning was invited. NRAAC appointed until June 30.

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7. Information Items

- a. Video highlighting access at City several facilities;
Revisit this opportunity after Council appoints renewed committees.
- b. JAAC invite;
Members of the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (Lincoln, West Lincoln, Grimsby, Pelham, NOTL, Thorold aka JAAC) sent an invitation to each of Niagara's AAC to attend one of their upcoming meetings. The AAC thanks JAAC for this invitation and will respond after Council appoints renewed committee membership.
- c. PAC tour;
PAC is now formally known as the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. Members asked to have a tour by staff when its ready, similar to the personalized tour focusing on accessibility highlights provided by Rick Lane of the Meridian Centre.
- d. TTY training;
Staff have arranged for the Canadian Hearing Society (CHS) to provide TTY training to Citizens First staff to ensure that all staff in this section are capable and comfortable in responding to TTY calls.

8. Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Burgoyne Woods Room

Chair: Shelley Stewart

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Moved by: Julie Morris

Seconded by: Steve Byers

That this meeting is adjourned.

CARRIED