



CITY OF  
ST. CATHARINES

## Minutes

**Meeting:** Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

**Location:** Burgoyne Woods Room

**Date:** Wednesday, July 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  
Ian Crawford  
Stacey Headey-Komenda  
Tracey Hrick  
Linda Marie O'Hagan  
David Reed

Regrets Steve Byers  
Julie Morris  
Mary Jane Waszynski

Council; Social Councillor Bellows  
Sustainability Pillar Councillor Phillips

Staff Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, CAO  
Frank Donati, Chief Fire Prevention Officer, FEMS  
Nicole Crawford, Community Relations Coord., PRC

## Minutes

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

1. Roundtable introductions were made.

### 2. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Moved by: Bob Asham

Seconded by: Shelley Stewart

That the Minutes of June 24, 2015 be approved.

CARRIED

### 3. **Presentations / Discussions:**

a) Fire Prevention/Emergency Management;

Frank Donati was introduced and welcomed as the City's new Chief Fire Prevention Officer. He noted a comprehensive background in his field that related to accessibility, including his participation in national fire code reviews and ISO Standards regarding emergency and signage that directly supports safety for people with a disability. Fire safety plans will continue to be monitored and updated to recognize the AODA's emergency requirement for public information upon request.

Shelley Stewart noted evacuation chairs, such as at city facilities, should be a part of other public multi-story building safety management (e.g. hotels, offices, apartments buildings).

David Reed has inquired about hotel evacuation procedures during his travels, for people with mobility disabilities, only to be informed they call 911, but have no specific plans in place.

Frank Donati noted these are areas that emergency planning and fire prevention promote as best practices and some elements are specific requirements under the Fire Code.

Diane Foster thanked Frank Donati for attending.

## Minutes

### b) Parapan Am Games, Torch Relay;

Diane Foster welcomed Nicole Crawford who is a lead rep from the City for Parapan and Pan Am events. Nicole Crawford reviewed the overall setup plans and the program format that was developed with TO2015 representatives for Monday, August 3 at Lakeside Park. Extra accessible parking and portables will be added. There will be 20 community torch-bearers who were selected by TO2015 and Bob Asham will be the City's final torch-bearer to light the flame. TO2015 will provide an accessible stage. Dignitaries will be present and torch-bearers will each make a circuit along the sidewalks around the Lakeside Park picnic pavilion with a relay of torches. The AAC noted that public transit will not be running by the time this event ends so it may diminish attendance by people who depend on public transit.

All AAC members are encouraged to attend and share this event date with their friends, family and colleagues. The accessibility coordinator will email the detailed Parapan Am event poster to the AAC for sharing. Diane Foster thanked Nicole Crawford for this update.

## 4. Business Arising from Minutes:

### a. **Accessibility Plan;**

The next long-term Accessibility Plan will be discussed in more detail at future meetings, although 2016-2020 remains an ideal timeframe that fits with province's goal of an accessible Ontario by 2025.

It was suggested that the Sustainability Pillars and senior management be resourced for input on municipal objectives for the next 5 year span. The City's CAO, Dan Carnegie has been invited to September's meeting to provide the AAC with information relating to longer-term strategies.

Further input included:

- Accessibility training has been supportive, and needs to be ongoing
- AODA training for Council is overdue
- Seek update on accessible parks and trails audits and action
- Advocate for budget awareness relating to park and trail renovations

## Minutes

- Improve and standardize park and trail signage
- Advocate for annual training of construction contractors relating to service disruption and sidewalk or road closures
- Update the zoning by-law for accessible parking size and ratio to new AODA requirements
- AAC supports the ongoing review of facility builds and reno designs for accessibility
- Continue development of a maintenance program for accessibility elements on a scheduled basis (adopted in the Plan's 2014 update)
- Highlight the importance of accessible elements required through site plan
- Continue to promote the AAC's 2010 sidewalk action statement
- Continue to promote the AAC's informed and positive interaction with staff and Council

b. Review of AAC past and future projects:

- Videos to highlight City facility accessibility;  
The access video of Council Chambers is underway and Diane Foster offered to demonstrate the height adjustable podium.
- Hosting CDAC, October 2015;  
AAC named many community service providers and stakeholders that should be extended an invitation for 1 or 2 reps to attend. AAC members will also host this workshop for staff training.
- Corporate Accessibility training;  
The AAC remained supportive of assisting with any AODA staff training which has been very helpful previously.
- FADS status;  
City staff have met with Regional staff regarding adoption of an updated FADS and hope to have a new version soon.
- Community trail access;  
Councillor Phillips noted that the Walker's Creek trail would make an excellent barrier-free example with some smaller access renovations.

## Minutes

### 5. AAC Updates:

a. **Site Plan –**

Ian Crawford was pleased to note that a suggestion to increase accessible parking spaces at a Fourth Avenue development were implemented.

The AAC inquired about the status of beach access mats at Lakeside Park as was discussed at its meeting of February 25, 2015. Staff noted that submissions took longer than expected. The AAC wanted to highlight the importance of using only quality products that have proven satisfactory for beach access. Many power wheelchairs are heavy and can sink in mats of lesser resilience.

Moved by: Shelley Stewart

Seconded by: Linda Marie O'Hagan

That when purchasing beach access mats accessibility should be the primary factor in selecting the product and manufacturer, not necessarily using the cheapest, but that having the quality for functional accessibility.

CARRIED

The AAC also inquired about drop-off areas previously discussed for the PAC. Staff will ask for an update.

- b. **Niagara AAC** – Linda Marie O'Hagan reported that much to her disappointment she was not reappointed the Region's AAC.

### 6. Information Items

- a. March of Dimes, province-wide nominations due July 31, also emailed to the AAC July 8.
- b. AODA 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Champions Award nominations extended to August 28, also discussed at AAC meeting of May 27, and emailed to the AAC at that time.

## Minutes

- c. Parapan Am tickets were brought to the AAC meeting for any takers, otherwise they will be offered to community stakeholders.

### 7. Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Burgoyne Woods Room

Chair: Shelley Stewart

No AAC meeting in August.

### 8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Moved by: Bob Asham

Seconded by: Stacey Headey-Komenda

That this meeting is adjourned.

CARRIED