



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Minutes

Meeting: Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

Location: Burgoyne Woods Room (formerly Committee Room #1)

Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2015

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Attendees:

Invited Name

Present Diane Foster, Co-chairperson
Steve Byers
Ian Crawford
Steve Kurtic-Lentinello
Julie Morris
David Reed
Mary Jane Waszynski

Regrets Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Bob Asham
Chantal Barrette
Linda Marie O'Hagan

Staff Diana Lecinski, CSS, Accessibility
Christine Adams, TES
Donna Gill, FEMS

Guests Robin Johnstone, NRPS
Ashley McLaren, CHS

Minutes

1. Welcome from the Chair: **Diane Foster at 1:35 p.m.**

2. Roundtable introductions were made.

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Moved by: Julie Morris

Seconded by: Steve Byers

That the Minutes of April 22, 2015 be approved.

CARRIED

4. Presentation / Discussion:

a. Access updates to the 911 system; Donna Gill and Robin Johnstone

Donna Gill reviewed the text with 9-1-1 (T9-1-1) system that is available in some parts of Ontario and will be available in St. Catharines and throughout Niagara sometime in the near future. Robin Johnstone provided an overview of how NRPS receives / distributes emergency calls and how this new text with 911 system will streamline the process for people with a hearing or speech disability.

The “go-to” information source is <http://textwith911.ca/> that provides an informative video, 911 texting location availability, and how to register for this important emergency preparedness method. Abbreviated details from this website are below and the committee is encouraged to review the comprehensive website information and share with their community who would benefit from this form of 9-1-1 emergency preparedness.

What is Text with 9-1-1 (T9-1-1)?

T9-1-1 is a service available to you if you are part of the deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or speech impaired (DHHSI) community in Canada. During an emergency, T9-1-1 provides 9-1-1 call centres with the ability to converse with you using text messaging.

Minutes

Before utilizing this service you:

Must register for T9-1-1 with your [wireless service provider](#); AND
Must have a compatible cell phone. Information on cell phones that meet T9-1-1 requirements are available on your [wireless service provider's](#) Web site.

How It Works

T9-1-1 provides 9-1-1 call centres with the ability to converse with a deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or speech impaired (DHHSI) person during an emergency, using text messaging.

When a DHHSI person requires 9-1-1 services, they dial 9-1-1 on their cell phone. There is no need for them to speak, as the 9-1-1 call taker will receive an indicator that tells them to communicate with the caller via text messaging. The 9-1-1 call taker then initiates text messaging with the caller to address the emergency. A DHHSI person must register for T9-1-1 with their wireless service provider and must have an eligible cell phone before being able to utilize this service. This includes the ability to send and receive text messages.

Providing location information and the nature of the emergency in the first message is imperative. The 9-1-1 call taker may receive an approximate location of your cell phone with your 9-1-1 call, however it is important for the caller to confirm the exact location of the emergency.

T9-1-1 should only be used for emergency situations that require a response from police, fire or emergency medical services. Do not call 9-1-1 to test the T9-1-1 service. Your wireless service provider can confirm your T9-1-1 registration.

- b. TO2015 PanAm and ParaPanAm games update; deferred to July's meeting

Refer to April 22, 2015 minutes for previous updates.

Minutes

5. Business Arising from Minutes:

- a. Accessibility Plan;
2014 year-end report on the 2013-2015 Accessibility Plan was presented to Council on May 11, 2015. Thank you to Steve Byers, Mary Jane Waszynski and Diane Foster.

Further to next year's report for 2015, being the final year of the current Plan, there will be another long-term plan to prepare. This will be reviewed at an upcoming meeting to establish a framework with the newly appointed membership and the departmental staff liaisons. Previously a 2015-2020 span was suggested to align with the AODA mandate of an accessible Ontario by 2025.

6. AAC 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. This Committee can review minutes and provide input via the Social Sustainability Pillar of Council.
- c. **Niagara AAC** – no report

7. Information Items

- a. AODA 10th Anniversary Burlington, Julie Morris

Julie Morris and Diana Lecinski attended this event. It was an excellent opportunity to hear about accessibility successes throughout the province, to meet other AAC members and receive presentations from several incredible key-note speakers, along with first-hand updates from the Accessibility Directorate's Office (ADO).

Update: AODA 10th Anniversary of June 3rd held in Whitby highlighted accessibility at the City of St. Catharines; City Hall with the Province's 2009 video as well as before/after photos and the Infinity Playground at Pearson Park.

Minutes

Julie Morris noted Mark Wafer, owner of 6 Toronto Tim Horton's and his business case and positive experiences of employing people with a disability. Daniel Kish who is blind and uses echo location to navigate, who also shared his world travel experiences and examples of how he way-finds. Diane Dupuy who created the Famous People Players Theatre was an opportunity to hear her personal story that evolved into a highly rated Toronto dinner theatre. Several YouTube videos were shown to demonstrate the incredible and positive impact these individuals have made in supporting more inclusive communities. Of particular note was Rick Mercer's, This Hour has 22 Minutes episode that went behind the scenes with the Famous People Players Theatre.

The AODA 10th Anniversary event also announced the "AODA Champion Awards". Information and nomination material was shared in the agenda package as well as via email. Julie Morris encouraged AAC members to share and/or nominate accessibility leaders.

- b. Infinity Playground at Lester B. Pearson Park; a highly accessible City playground is currently undergoing surface renovations and improved connectivity within this site. Kudos to PRC for a park that provides an accessible and connective parking lot, new accessible outdoor washrooms, a covered picnic pavilion with accessible picnic tables, an accessible playground and splash pad that is located right beside the highly accessible Kiwanis Aquatics Centre which provides accessible changerooms and ramps into both the warming pool and the competitive pool.
- c. Citizen appointments to Committee by Council; Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) were informed of the citizen appointments made by Council on May 25th. AAC members who reapplied were reappointed and 2 new members, Tracey Hrick and Stacey Headey-Komenda will be advised and welcomed at the next meeting.

Minutes

d. TTY training;

Ashley McLaren from the Canadian Hearing Society (CHS) was at City Hall 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. She also attended the AAC meeting to view the T9-1-1 presentation. Diane Foster welcomed Ashley and thanked her and the CHS for providing this training to staff.

8. Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Burgoyne Woods Room

Chair: Shelley Stewart

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Moved by: Ian Crawford

Seconded by: Steve Byers

That this meeting is adjourned.

CARRIED