

City of St. Catharines

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility (MACOA)

- MINUTES -

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

A meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility was held on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at St. Catharines City Hall in Committee Room #1 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor McMullan
Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Sheryl Stewart, Co-chairperson
Diane Foster
Julie Morris
Frances Tanner
Mary Jane Waszynski

Regrets: Ian Crawford
Mary McKay
David Reed
Andy Waldron

Staff/Guests: Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, CAO's Office

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| <p>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.</p> |
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1) Call to order:

Shelley Stewart, co-chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

2) Introductions:

Members were welcomed and round table introductions were made. Shelley Stewart welcomed new member Julie Morris. She also noted that Fred Stevens recently resigned from MACOA and that his many contributions will be greatly missed.

Given the lack of quorum, Shelley Stewart tabled a motion to adjust quorum for this meeting.

Moved by: Shelley Stewart
Seconded by: Frances Tanner

That MACOA's meeting of March 24, 2010 adjust quorum as necessary.

CARRIED unanimously

(Note: true quorum was met during the majority of the meeting)

3) Approval of Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility for January 27 and the non-quorum meeting of February 24, 2010 were approved.

Moved by: Diane Foster
Seconded by: Frances Tanner

That the minutes of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility for January 27 and the non-quorum meeting of February 24, 2010 be approved.

CARRIED

4) Business Arising from Minutes:

a) Accessibility Plan:

Shelley Stewart thanked Frances Tanner, Diane Foster and Sheryl Stewart for their presentation of the Accessibility Plan to Council on March 1st. Diana Lecinski noted that the approved Plan has been posted on the City's website. As well, the City Clerk has forwarded the 2010 Accessibility Plan and a covering letter to the Ministry of Community and Social Services noting Council's resolution of support.

b) Sidewalk Action Statement:

Further to previous meeting discussions relating to City sidewalks, MACOA further discussed and reviewed a draft Sidewalk Action Statement. It was noted during discussions that the draft statement was comprehensive and clear in its support for adequate and connected pedestrian linkages.

Moved by: Diane Foster

Seconded by: Frances Tanner

**That the Sidewalk Action Statement be approved as amended and;
That the Sidewalk Action Statement be forwarded to Council.**

CARRIED

c) Facility audit priorities:

MACOA members were asked to provide input on priorities relating to the facility accessibility audit. The facility audit list was distributed as further reference for members and a checklist was used to quantify over 50 City facilities. MACOA's input will then be forwarded to TES facility staff to review priorities and develop budgets. The input provided will help TES establish a long-term priority list to be more systematically addressed. MACOA will provide periodical reviews in the future as well.

d) Pedestrian Routes:

MACOA would like to thank Council for its request that staff include MACOA's input on pedestrian accessibility as part of staff's advice on improving pedestrian connectivity within the Fairview Mall site.

Members discussed their site visits and experiences and provided several suggestions that will be integrated onto an aerial plan and forwarded to TES traffic staff to be included in their submission to the Mall's property management. At least one safe, direct and connected pedestrian route from Geneva Street to the easterly entrance(s) of Fairview Mall needs to be installed as a priority, with additional pedestrian routes being suggested as well. The active vehicular traffic within this existing site and lack of interior pedestrian routes is a safety concern for all pedestrians, and particularly for people who use mobility devices and who experience additional barriers with curbs that are not ramped. Of particular concern is the active vehicular traffic travelling on the interior circular route between the main mall and its outer buildings. MACOA noted that a short length of existing interior sidewalk extending into the Mall site from the traffic lights at Geneva along the Harvey's Restaurant area is narrow, uneven, lacks a safe curb ramp at the termination (being at the Mall's interior circular traffic route) and needs to be improved through this process as well. The interior pedestrian routes outlined on the map should include accessible curb ramps as required to prevent barriers and ensure connectivity. MACOA has supplied designs for accessible curb ramps (attached with aerial plan submitted to TES).

MACOA also noted that the municipal sidewalk on Geneva at the traffic light / pedestrian crossing into Fairview Mall also has narrow, uneven sidewalks and curb ramps that doesn't provide ideal accessibility and should be upgraded as a priority by TES.

e) Updates:

i. Site Plan Review:

The site plans continued to be forwarded to MACOA reps to review and provide comment.

ii. DDRC:

Frances Tanner continues to attend DDRC meetings. The last meeting was cancelled as quorum was not achieved.

5) Information Items:

- a) March of Dimes Breaking the Barriers Awards will be held on Wednesday, June 2nd at Market Square. MACOA will host an information table at this event. It will be an opportunity to promote the accessibility improvements at City Hall.

6) Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 28, 2010 in Committee Room #1 at 1:30 p.m.

7) Adjournment:

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

Moved by: Sheryl Stewart

Seconded by: Julie Morris

That this meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

CARRIED