

City of St. Catharines

**Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility
(MACOA)
- MINUTES -
Wednesday, April 28, 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: Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Ian Crawford
Diane Foster
Julie Morris
David Reed
Frances Tanner
Andy Waldron
Mary Jane Waszynski

Regrets: Sheryl Stewart, Co-chairperson
Mary McKay

Staff/Guests: Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator
Steve Bittner, Transportation & Environmental Services

<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.

3) Approval of Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility for March 24, 2010 were approved.

Moved by: Diane Foster

Seconded by: Frances Tanner

That the minutes of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility for March 24, 2010 be approved.

CARRIED

4) Business Arising from Minutes:

a) Accessibility Plan:

Several updates were included under the Accessibility Plan;

- Update of the draft Official Plan
 - Diana Lecinski met with Planning Services staff to provide input that would more clearly outline an inclusive approach under several sections
 - Staff noted that the detailed criteria would be more appropriately located within the pending Urban Development and Design Guidelines (UDDG)
 - An Open House to review the final draft is scheduled for May 25 and MACOA has been sent an email of this public meeting notice
 - The final draft is scheduled for presentation to Council on June 7th
- A new City website will be launched in early June and will include accessibility features such as Browse-Aloud and have higher compliance from W3C, e.g. WCAG 2.0
- The washroom replacement at Montebello Park is nearing completion. MACOA previously provided comments on design and materials.
- Feedback has been provided on readability, colours and contrast to RCS staff regarding the Leisure Guide.

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- The concrete sidewalks and entrance areas to City Hall from Church Street and from James Street will be completely redone during the summer 2010. Several design comments were provided to TES staff and the designer to improve the accessible function of these spaces. Service disruption would be an issue while the James Street side is undergoing construction, and it has been determined that the alternative entrance during this service disruption will be on the west side of the building. This doorway will be replaced with a wider, FADS compliant auto-door prior to the work being done at the Church and James Street entrances. MACOA was supportive of this alternative during the service disruption to the accessible James Street entrance.

b) Sidewalk Action Statement:

The Sidewalk Action Statement was submitted to Council on April 12th. Council further noted within their motion to receive the information (read to MACOA) that it should be included in any further staff reports of a relevant nature. Staff noted that this does not imply that the contents of the statement alter any current requirements, however it will provide a strong foundation for future determinations. Diana Lecinski forwarded the Sidewalk Action Statement along with Council's full motion to senior management in order that they can ensure all staff are aware that the statement has future reference in all sidewalk reports.

Given an opportunity to connect sidewalks along Martindale, MACOA supports a copy of the statement being sent to the Region of Niagara c/o John Rizzo. Several members of MACOA attended a public meeting on May 4th hosted by the Region at City Hall, to voice concerns that sidewalks must be included along Martindale Road. It was noted that walking groups and individuals who attended the public meeting share this common opinion as well. It was also noted that missing links are dangerous barriers to people with a disability, particularly people with vision or mobility disabilities.

Moved by: Andy Waldron
Seconded by: Julie Morris

That MACOA's Sidewalk Action Statement be forwarded to Region of Niagara staff that are involved with the roadway reconstruction along Martindale in the area north of the QEW and;

That MACOA fully supports connected sidewalk access along Martindale Road to ensure that all pedestrians have a path of travel that is both safe and accessible.

CARRIED

c) Facility Accessibility Audit Input:

At MACOA's March meeting members were asked to provide input on priorities relating to the facility accessibility audit. MACOA's input was then forwarded to TES facility staff to integrate MACOA's suggested priorities in future facility renovations. The input provided will help TES establish a long-term priority list that is more systematically addressed and compatible with other facility improvement plans.

d) Pedestrian Routes:

Based on discussion and comments from the March meeting, Diana Lecinski submitted a memo on behalf of MACOA with respect to suggestion for safe pedestrian linkages from Geneva Street into the Fairview Mall. This memo was sent to TES staff, Kris Jacobson and Steve Bittner to be included in their response to Fairview Mall management as suggested by Council at a previous meeting.

It was also noted that a bus stop within the Fairview Mall on Geneva located behind the Swiss Chalet has no curb cuts and that this issue should be forwarded to the St. Catharines Transit Commission.

e) Updates:

i. Site Plan Review:

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

ii. DDRC:

Frances Tanner continues to attend DDRC meetings to provide an accessibility perspective.

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. As the next MACOA meeting and this event are only one week apart it was determined that MACOA's May meeting be cancelled in lieu of members attending this event.

Moved by: Ian Crawford
Seconded by: Andy Waldron

That MACOA's May 26 meeting be cancelled and in lieu members are encouraged to attend the March of Dimes Breaking the Barriers Awards at Market Square on June 2nd.

CARRIED

6) Next Meeting:

Wednesday, May 26, 2010 meeting cancelled in lieu of members attending the Breaking the Barriers Awards at Market Square on June 2nd.

Next MACOA meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 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: Diane Foster
Seconded by: Mary Jane Waszynski

That this meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

CARRIED