

City of St. Catharines

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility (MACOA) MINUTES, Wednesday, February 22, 2012

A meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility was held on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at St. Catharines City Hall in Committee Room #1 at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Diane Foster, Co-chairperson
Bob Asham
Chantal Barrette
Ian Crawford
Linda Marie O'Hagan
David Reed

Regrets: Councillor Matthew Harris
Tony DiPaola
Julie Morris
Kevin Vallier
Andy Waldron
Mary Jane Waszynski

Staff: Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, CAO's Office
Steve Bittner, Transportation & Environmental Services
Christine Adams, Transportation & Environmental Services
Samantha Downing, Transportation & Environmental Services
Mike Wilson, Transportation & Environmental Services

Guests: Mieke Crawford, Muscular Dystrophy representative
Sara Crawford, Muscular Dystrophy representative

1. Call to order:

Diane Foster, co-chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Introductions:

Everyone was welcomed and round table introductions were made.

Diane Foster introduced new members Linda Marie O'Hagan and Chantal Barrette. Staff noted that Council appointed 2 new members, including an alternate. The alternate will attend meetings and become a voting member if a regular member is unable to attend. Introductions included a brief backgrounder by each member.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility for January 25, 2012 were approved.

Moved by: Ian Crawford
Seconded by: Bob Asham

That the minutes of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility for January 25, 2012 be approved.

CARRIED

4. Presentations:

a. Muscular Dystrophy Walk;

Mieke and Sara Crawford provided MACOA with a static display, information, and a presentation regarding Muscular Dystrophy (MD) highlighting an upcoming fundraising walk. Information packages were distributed to all in attendance with information links to be sent electronically to all MACOA members. It was noted that more than 50,000 Canadians are affected by neuromuscular disorders and there are more than 160 types of neuromuscular disorders under the umbrella of muscular dystrophy. It is a progressive condition that has no cure.

The Walk for Muscular Dystrophy will be held on Saturday, May 12 at Lakeside Park in Port Dalhousie (Registration - 10 am, Walk - 11 am). It is an excellent opportunity for family and friends to promote awareness of muscular dystrophy. Additionally, there is a BBQ hosted by M&M Meat Shops on April 21. Refer to the [Muscular Dystrophy website link](#) for further information.

b. Curb Ramp Design – discussion;

Christine Adams of TES construction and design provided MACOA with a presentation outlining design concepts for improved curb ramp access, based on MACOA's draft design. Job site photos highlighted various scenarios and applications to improve access. Other TES staff, Samantha Downing and Mike Wilson, noted job sites that are pending along with some that demonstrate designs based on this curb ramp design. Specifically, Fourth Avenue at the Swiss Chalet/Wal-Mart entrance was constructed with a steeper cross-slope than safe. This area has been reconstructed and is now an excellent example of dropping the sidewalk grade prior to the curb ramp so that the curb ramp itself does not have to absorb the entire grade difference between the sidewalk and roadway. MACOA continues to support this design and encourages TES to adopt this into the design and construction criteria for contract construction and in-house work.

Further, Christine Adams noted that arrangements are being made to partner with the Region of Niagara in accessible training for construction contractors in Niagara, prior to the construction season. Accessibility staff from both the City and the Region will focus on AODA mandates along with practicalities of job site construction and pedestrian disruptions to people with various disabilities. Diana Lecinski suggested that it would be optimal to have several MACOA members participate by providing their experiences and advice. Diane Foster and Shelley Stewart noted interest and experience and suggested that Julie Morris be asked as well, given her expertise and advocacy for safe pedestrian routes. Staff will advise these MACOA reps as plans move forward.

5. Business Arising from Minutes:

Accessibility Plan / AODA

a. 2012 Accessibility Plan;

The 2012 Accessibility Plan was based on discussions and the input received at the November 2011 and January 2012 meetings. The 2012 Plan was sent to all department heads and MACOA reps and to MACOA members well in advance of this meeting. There were no further comments received from staff. MACOA reviewed the Plan, endorsed it and requested that staff forward it to Council.

Moved by: Linda Marie O'Hagan

Seconded by: Bob Asham

That the 2012 Accessibility Plan be endorsed by MACOA;

And that it be forwarded to Council.

CARRIED

b. Presentation to Council;

Shelley Stewart asked staff to make arrangements with the City Clerk in order that MACOA can present the 2012 Accessibility Plan to Council. Staff confirmed that the date for Council would be March 19. Diane Foster and Bob Asham volunteered to make the presentation. Given the number of regrets at this meeting, staff was asked to email all members to seek any further interest in participating in the presentation to Council.

6. Updates:

a. Site Plan Review:

Steve Bittner informed the members that the City is in the process of reconsidering zoning standards to reduce general parking requirements at large sites. This would impact the ratio of accessible parking spaces. Planning and Development Services is considering increasing sites with more than 500 parking spaces to increase from 2% to approximately 2.6% of total parking as accessible parking spaces, to alleviate any potential loss of accessible parking spaces.

7. Information Items:

a. Rick Hansen Foundation, Global Accessibility Map;

Bob Asham reviewed the Rick Hansen Foundation's newly launched Global Accessibility Map noting that people with disabilities can refer to the information posted on this site to assess accessibility. People with a disability can input access information for various businesses, restaurants, etc. Bob Asham noted that he placed St. Catharines' City Hall on the "map". The Rick Hansen Global Accessibility Map is a unique online ratings tool designed to raise awareness of the importance of improved physical access to buildings and public spaces in communities around the world. It was suggested that this be previewed on the Smart Board at an upcoming meeting. All agreed.

8. Next Meeting:

- a. Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. in Committee Room #1

9. Adjournment:

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

Moved by: Ian Crawford
Seconded by: Chantal Barrette

That this meeting do now adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

CARRIED

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.