

City of St. Catharines

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility (MACOA) MINUTES, Wednesday, April 25, 2012

A meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility was held on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at St. Catharines City Hall in Committee Room #1 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Matthew Harris
Diane Foster, Co-chairperson
Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Bob Asham
Ian Crawford
Linda Marie O'Hagan
Julie Morris
Kevin Vallier
Mary Jane Waszynski

Regrets: Chantal Barrette
Tony DiPaola
David Reed

Staff: Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, CAO's Office
Steve Bittner, Transportation & Environmental Services

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.

1. Call to order:

Shelley Stewart, co-chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

2. Introductions:

Everyone was welcomed and round table introductions were made.

Shelley Stewart introduced her new guide dog Reese. She reviewed the helpful tips that she provided in a letter to members and staff prior to the meeting regarding do's and don'ts to help Reese focus on her job.

Shelley Stewart noted that Amanda Knutson has returned from maternity leave will attend upcoming meetings on behalf of Planning. She also thanked Britney Williamson for her year-long support of access and was glad to hear that she has transferred to another Planning position. Congratulations to both.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility for March 28, 2012 were approved.

Moved by: Linda Marie O'Hagan
Seconded by: Diane Foster

That the minutes of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility for March 28, 2012 be approved.

CARRIED

4. New Business:

MACOA meeting opportunity with Province, June 27th.

Diana Lecinski was contacted by the Accessibility Directorate's Office (ADO) early in 2012 to plan a meeting opportunity with MACOA members. The ADO is interested in discussion opportunities with Accessibility Advisory Committees (AAC's) throughout Ontario to receive input on Provincial access. Staff suggested that thoughts should be discussed at the May meeting in order that members are prepared to provide candid and helpful input. The lack of access in the built environment of the downtown was suggested as an issue common to all municipalities that may fall through the cracks of the AODA standards. Staff have also arranged for this meeting to take place at the usual meeting date/time, however the location has been changed to the new aquatics centre. This is fitting as there was Provincial funding for this new

facility and it would give an opportunity for everyone to tour the pool and library areas. Diana Lecinski will arrange for tours by facility staff.

5. Business Arising from Minutes:

a. Accessibility Plan / AODA

Procurement Policy - Staff noted the long-pending Procurement Policy will be going forward to Council shortly. The clauses relating to access are intended to meet the requirements under Part I, Section 5 of the AODA's Integrated Standard (O. Reg. 191/11). This has been an on-going informal requirement for many years, however now it will be an official part of the Procurement Policy.

Construction contractor training - Numerous pedestrian complaints were received during the 2011 construction season due to various barriers created during the construction. In order to educate construction contractors before the 2012 season, and to lessen the disruption to pedestrians with disabilities, the City partnered with the Region of Niagara to offer comprehensive ½ day training to contractors who work throughout Niagara. This training was offered for 3 sessions and included Accessible Customer Service training that was compliant with O. Reg. 429/07 requirements, presentations were made by Diane Foster and Julie Morris about the realities of navigating these areas by people with vision or mobility disabilities. Diana Lecinski provided a photo presentation of the barriers and solutions to design, implementation, job site and service disruptions. Diane Foster and Julie Morris both spoke about their presentations and felt that the contractors learned a lot about maintaining or providing alternatives during construction and about providing an accessible design legacy into the future.

The City team also plans to provide their portion of the session to TES and RCS managers and foremen on May 2 at the Lake Street Service Centre to ensure that the City continues its best practices for in-house projects. City staff have already received accessible customer service training in 2009.

JAAC Workshop – the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC) consists of 6 of Niagara's smaller municipalities (Welland, NOTL, Pelham, Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln). JAAC will host a day-long workshop at the new Grimsby Town Hall for AAC's to meet their Niagara counterparts and discuss what's going on in their communities. The invitation for April

26th was extended to 1 staff and 2 reps for each AAC. MACOA co-chairpersons, Shelley Stewart and Diane Foster will attend along with Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator. A review of this event will be provided at MACOA's next meeting.

b. Parks and Trails – Access Audit

A group training audit has been rescheduled for May 3 when all interested MACOA reps can practice park auditing as one large team with staff. An audit will be done of Catherine Street Park and St. Patrick's Park as practice. Afterwards 2 "teams" should be established based on a rep for different disabilities; ideally mobility, vision and another rep to be the recorder. The audit checklists will be compiled by staff, reviewed by MACOA at a later date and submitted to RCS with several outcomes in mind; first that deficiencies be integrated into park improvements (March 28 minutes; smaller parks = small budgets and larger parks = larger budgets) and secondly that accessible amenity information be added to the website for each park. Also suggested was investigation into park budgets with accessibility as a new budget line item being allocated specifically for accessibility, similar to TES for facility accessibility improvements.

Councillor Harris reported that he attended Malcolmson Eco Park's (MEP) Earth Day event. This was the kick-off for volunteers to start construction of an accessible pathway. Plans were passed around the table, further to being reviewed and endorsed at MACOA previous meeting. MEP reps will contact staff upon completion. This could be another park to include on the park/trail audit list.

c. Status Updates;

Accessible on-street parking – Steve Bittner provided an update on the sites selected (MACOA minutes of January 2012). As the design of these sites has become more complex so has the budget. Therefore 2-3 spaces will be added in 2012 and 2-3 the following year. As requested by MACOA, a test site will be done across the street from City Hall on Church Street. Councillor Harris asked that the accessible spaces at the city parking lot (corner of West Chester and St. Paul) be renovated to include multiple accessible parking spaces in 2012. This will address accessible on-street parking alternatives on St. Paul close to Westchester. Also discussed were provisions for more accessible parking around the Garden City Arena. MACOA suggested that specific motions be made related to the above discussions.

Moved by: Councillor Harris
Seconded by: Ian Crawford

That 1 accessible on-street parking space be constructed as a test site to confirm the final design for all future spaces; and

That MACOA reps meet with staff to endorse a final design; and

That the test site be located on Church Street across from City Hall in front of Knox Church; and

That this be built as soon as possible during the summer 2012 construction season ; and further

That once designs are endorsed that 2-3 spaces be constructed in 2012 with similar objectives for 2013.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor Harris
Seconded by: Kevin Vallier

That the City parking lot located at the corner of St. Paul and Westchester have 4 or more accessible parking spaces integrated into the existing spaces closest to St. Paul Street in 2012.

CARRIED

Moved by: Bob Asham
Seconded by: Linda Marie O'Hagan

That additional designated accessible parking be made at Garden City Arena along Gale Crescent in lieu of the regular parking available at this existing paved parking area; and

That further investigation of accessible parking spaces be made along the south wall of the parking lot located across the street from Garden City Arena.

CARRIED

Curb ramp access – Further to MACOA's February meeting when TES engineering presented draft concepts of improved curb ramp designs for access, discussion was revisited on implementation of the design within the City's contract criteria. This relates directly to the earlier discussion on construction contractor training (Item 5a).

Moved by: Ian Crawford
Seconded by: Diane Foster

That the curb ramp designs proposed by TES engineering are endorsed by the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility in order to support the designs becoming a requirement for in-house or contracted sidewalk construction.

CARRIED

- d. Rick Hansen Foundation, Global Accessibility Map – Bob Asham demonstrated the website and posting process on the Smart Board for the access mapping to MACOA members. As requested by Councillor Elliott, City owned facilities have been posted and graded by MACOA.

6. Updates:

- a. Site Plan Review;
 - Deferred.
- b. DDRC;
 - April 11th Planning Charrette update deferred.

7. Information Items:

- a. REMINDER that nominations for Breaking the Barriers Awards close on April 27th. MACOA members are asked to share and promote this event with their colleagues.

- b. Bob Asham noted access issues at a recent Niagara Ice Dogs game. Staff noted that there was another complaint received from a visiting fan. Both were referred to Niagara Ice Dogs management, who then took measures to address the barriers and service issues. This discussion was raised earlier in the meeting and led to the motion under Item 5c.

8. Next Meeting:

- a. Wednesday, May 23, 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: Diane Foster

Seconded by: Kevin Vallier

That this meeting do now adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

CARRIED