

City of St. Catharines

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

A meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility was held on Wednesday, July 25, 2012 at the Locke Meeting Room, Kiwanis Aquatics/Library Centre at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Diane Foster, Co-chairperson
Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Bob Asham
Chantal Barrette
Ian Crawford
Julie Morris
David Reed
Mary Jane Waszynski

Regrets: Councillor Matthew Harris
Tony DiPaola
Linda Marie O'Hagan
Kevin Vallier

Staff: Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, CAO's Office
Kristen Sullivan, Recreation & Community 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 1:35 p.m.

2. Introductions:

Everyone was welcomed and round table introductions were made. Shelley Stewart reminded the members that a short meeting will address the agenda items. This will be followed by a tour of the Library by Anna Chiota and then the aquatics facility by Koby Vanyo.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility for June 27, 2012 were approved.

Moved by: Julie Morris
Seconded by: Diane Foster

That the minutes of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility for June 27, 2012 be approved.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from Minutes:

a. Accessibility Plan / AODA

Staff reminded the members that in September the major undertaking for the end of 2012 and beginning of 2013 will be to develop objectives for long-term accessibility planning. Staff is suggesting a 3-year term Accessibility Plan and departmental staff will be engaged to support and implement the Plan's objectives. Additionally, policy development will be undertaken in compliance with the Integrated Accessibility Regulation in conjunction with the Plan.

Staff also reviewed several items of importance:

- Municipal World magazine, July 2012 featured an article titled "Helping Everyone Access Ontario" by Ellen Waxman. This expanded on an interview that Shelley Stewart gave to staff from the Accessibility Directorate's Office last summer when they did a video feature on St. Catharines' accessible City Hall. Thank you and congratulations to Shelley Stewart for her continued outreach and advocacy regarding accessibility. The magazine is available for members to borrow and share.

- Copies of a recent report to Council on July 23 were circulated to MACOA regarding “Cycling Initiatives: safe practices, public education and legislative responsibilities” which examines the issues that MACOA members flagged to Constable Lindsay, NRPS at this time last year.

- Staff noted that MACOA’s co-chairpersons signed a letter of EAF support for the ACCPC, for Augmented and Accessible Communication funding. This group provided key information and supportive materials that were used in training City staff relating to communication and non-verbal communication awareness.

- The Lock 3 Museum recently received its EAF funding for multiple and various accessibility improvements that include; Stryker emergency evacuation chairs, widening of several doorways and installing power door operators, creating improved contrast on the stairway to the viewing deck, functional and hardware improvements in the washrooms and an audio tour guide system for the Museum exhibits.

b. Parks and Trails – Access Audit update

Diane Foster and Julie Morris provided a status update on parks/trails audited. Several consistent issues are coming to light; signage is lacking, benches and picnic tables are seldom connective with pedestrian paths and edging between sidewalks and grass area generally dips off and is a tripping/falling hazard. At the last meeting members asked if Kristen Sullivan could attend this meeting to help create a more strategic approach to auditing and speak to what will be done with the audit findings. Kristen Sullivan provided a 7 year plan for park/trail capital budget projects. It was reinforced that this could change depending on budget allocations through Council's budget process. The main concern is that access audits should be read in conjunction with any upcoming work to ensure that access continues to be improved.

Julie Morris asked that Diana Lecinski continue to notify RCS staff of any safety related concerns and continue to record audit findings onto reports to be shared with RCS.

Kristen Sullivan noted that audit could be done in conjunction with the 7-year plan. There is also a sign budget and the members agreed that much basic information is lacking for park users. General access information should be made available to the public, including via the website. This could be similar to the facility attributes list that was established for e-play as supportive facility information.

Staff will send out a link for the Niagara Navigator site. This Regional website link offers aerial views and can be printed and marked to delineate specific park audit information.

Shelley Stewart thanked Kristen Sullivan for her advice relating to the access audit.

5. Updates:

a. Site Plan Review;

A letter of response was reviewed and signed by MACOA's co-chairperson to Brock University's Accessibility Advisory Committee (BUAAC) regarding their concern about transit service to the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts (MIWSFPA). Staff read the letter to MACOA. Shelley Stewart who is also a member BUAAC will send the response via email.

Ian Crawford and David Reed noted that developers seem quite focused on vehicles and not pedestrians in site plan designs.

Members also asked about the status of the pedestrian link at Fairview Mall from Geneva Street into the Mall. An update will be requested from Site Plan staff for the next meeting.

b. DDRC;

Julie Morris, MACOA's DDRC rep reported that the DDRC continues to meet. There was no opportunity to bring forward MACOA's action statement regarding sidewalks at their last meeting however Julie Morris asked that this be placed on the agenda and copies be distributed at their next meeting.

Staff also noted a recent report to Council regarding pop-up cafes. MACOA is concerned that sidewalk patios significantly narrow sidewalk passage. Staff will ask for the criteria and framework for a future meeting.

6. Kiwanis Facility Tour (following adjournment):

a. Library tour

b. Pool and facility tour

MACOA members were very impressed with the overall accessibility of the facility. Any minor points regarding access were shared with staff to address.

7. Next Meeting:

Wednesday, September 26, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. in Committee Room #1.

REMINDER – no meeting on August 22, 2012.

8. Adjournment:

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

Moved by: Diane Foster

Seconded by: Bob Asham

That this meeting do now adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

CARRIED