



CITY OF  
ST. CATHARINES

## Minutes

**Meeting:** **Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)**

**Location:** Burgoyne Woods Room

**Date:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015

**Time:** 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### Meeting Attendees:

**Invited Name**

Present Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson  
Diane Foster, Co-chairperson  
Bob Asham  
Steve Byers  
Stacey Headey-Komenda  
Tracey Hrick  
David Reed  
Mary Jane Waszynski

Regrets Ian Crawford  
Linda Marie O'Hagan  
Julie Morris

Council; Social Councillor Phillips  
Sustainability Pillar

Staff Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, CAO Office  
Christine Adams, TES  
Vince Covatta, TES  
Stuart Green, PRC

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Welcome from the Chair: **Diane Foster at 1:30 p.m.**

**1. Roundtable introductions were made.**

Councillor Phillips took a moment to announce that Shelley Stewart and Bob Asham were both awarded the AODA's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Champion Award. Congratulations. Their awards will be presented by the Mayor at the November 30<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Diane Foster and Councillor Phillips provided a review of the Social Sustainability Pillar of Council meeting of September 29, 2015.

**2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Moved by: Shelley Stewart

Seconded by: Bob Asham

That the Minutes of September 23, 2015 be approved.

CARRIED

**3. Presentations / Discussions:**

a) Montebello Park, rose garden; Stuart Green and Vince Covatta; Detailed plans of an extended pedestrian pathway at the rose garden were reviewed. A new pathway will "T" across the end of the existing rose garden pathway near the building that houses the washrooms and maintenance garage. The path will extend north towards Midland Ave., down the natural park slope at less than a 5% grade. Another path, providing both a ramp and stairway, is located on the opposite side of the washroom building however the slope is generally too narrow and too steep for mobility devices to navigate. This lack of access was partially resolved in 2012 with the addition of an alternate pathway nearer to the band-shell on the Ontario Street side. The new pathway will be a more direct and accessible route through the park and connect with the washrooms, rose garden and the planned on-street accessible parking on Queen at Lake Street.

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Members of the AAC supported the design and noted the partnership between TES and PRC as supportive to overall accessibility. Diane Foster thanked Vince Covatta and Stuart Green for their presentation.

Further discussion involved the rental and barrier-free use of Montebello Park and other City sites and facilities, and how accessibility is ensured. The Accessibility Coordinator has discussed accessibility being specified in rental agreements. PRC staff were still drafting an updated rental agreement and access staff will follow up.

Moved by: Mary Jane Waszynski  
Seconded by: Shelley Stewart

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee states that rental agreements for third parties include and comply with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) and meet the City's own Facility Accessibility Design Standard (FADS) as they relate to the purpose of the rental as stated in an updated rental agreement.

### CARRIED

- b. Lakeside Park, washroom building renovation;  
Plans pending. Deferred.
- c. Sandwich board ads on sidewalks; Julie Morris (letter)  
Julie Morris was regrets for this meeting, however she sent a message that asked her AAC colleagues to consider solutions to the increasing use of "sandwich board ads" being placed out on sidewalks in the downtown area. The message noted the downtown streetscape plan supported a clear and direct path of travel for pedestrians. This is particularly important to people who have a vision disability. Julie Morris suggested the AAC could circulate a "friendly reminder" message to area businesses to be mindful of their ad placement and monitoring, as barriers result more from poor placement of the sandwich board. Members of the AAC supported this and asked staff to draft. This friend reminder could be sent to downtown stakeholders and Economic Development staff could help in getting the message heard by businesses.

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### 4. Business Arising from Minutes:

#### a. **Accessibility Plan;**

- AODA accessibility training for Council was presented to Council at its meeting on November 2 by Shelley Stewart and Diana Lecinski
- Staff reps will be invited for January's meeting to update on their area's past successes and future 5 year plans relating to the Plan
- Transit's bus stop accessibility audit has been reviewed by City staff and next steps include a strategic framework that will be presented to the AAC for input and feedback
- 2016-2020 Accessibility Plan will be developed through future meetings. The City's strategic plan will be discussed at the next meeting to create common approaches. The Recreation Master Plan is also a key document to include in this process. The AAC has previously reviewed this Plan and all members are asked to refresh on it.

#### b. Review of AAC past and future projects:

- Videos to highlight City facility accessibility;  
The AAC reviewed a video of City Hall's accessibility. It has supporting audio and closed captioning. There was a suggestion to add descriptive video.
- FADS; an updated version has not yet been adopted at the Regional level. Members of the AAC are keen to have this in place for City facility builds and renovations.

### 5. AAC Updates:

#### a. **Site Plan –**

Site plans continue to be reviewed as provided.

#### b. **City Projects –**

Christine Adams provided an update;

- 6-10 Lowel Rd., sidewalk reconstruction width will meet the AODA Design of Public Spaces Std of 1.5m, but not the 1.8m as ideal in FADS and City design standards, due to the small lots and short house set-back. The AAC agreed that this is a retrofit and wider may not be conducive to traffic roadway widths and overall neighbourhood safety.

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- c. ADOA volunteer sign-off sheet reminder
  - Not all AAC members have completed the volunteer AODA training modules that were provided via email. Several AAC members requested hardcopy format that will be provided.
  - Public concern for a narrow temporary sidewalk on the Burgoyne bridge renovation will be responded by the Region of Niagara
- d. Other;
  - Walker's Creek; Councillor Phillips noted the opportunity to keep improving this trail's accessibility.
  - Staff provided a photo of a new accessible parking space not located in St. Catharines to get the AAC's feedback on placing the ramp into the aisle area instead of the sidewalk surface. The AAC found this less than ideal. Christine Adams was asked to take comments back to TES. The City's current method of installing curb ramps within the sidewalk is preferred by the AAC.
  - An accessibility focused tour of the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre (PAC) is scheduled for November 11 at 2 pm. All AAC members, friends and family are welcome to attend. The tour will be provided by Steve Solski, Executive Director of PAC, Janie Grand, Administrative Asst. of PAC, and Dan Dillon, Director of TES.

## 6. Information Items

- a. Hosting the Communication Disability Access Canada (CDAC) workshop, October 8, 2015;  
AAC members hosted this workshop for staff and community stakeholder training. This workshop informed and educated attendees on how to communicate with people who have a speech or language (communication) disability, not due to hearing loss. This may include people with cerebral palsy or people with aphasia due to stroke. Approximately 100 attended and the positive feedback was tremendous. Staff noted an opportunity to support a nomination of CDAC for the Province's David C. Onley Award for accessibility. Members of the AAC requested that staff draft a letter of support on behalf of the AAC.
- b. JAAC invite to AAC chair/rep for an upcoming meeting, TBA spring 2016.

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### 7. Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 25, 2015 at 12:00 noon in the Burgoyne Woods Room. The meeting will call to order at 1:30 p.m.

Chair: Shelley Stewart

### 8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Moved by: Stacey Headey-Komenda

Seconded by: Tracey Hrick

That this meeting is adjourned.

CARRIED