

# Accessibility Advisory Committee

## Minutes

**Wednesday, April 27, 2016**

**Burgoyne Woods Room at 1:30 p.m.**

### **Attendance:**

Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson  
Diane Foster, Co-chairperson  
Ian Crawford  
David Reed  
Stacey Headey-Komenda  
Tracey Hrick  
Julie Morris  
Mary Jane Waszynski

### **Absent:**

Bob Asham  
Steve Byers  
Linda Marie O'Hagan

### **Staff Representatives:**

Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator  
Christine Adams, Manager of Eng./Const., TES  
Frank Donati, Chief Fire Prevention Officer, FEMS

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#### **1. Call meeting to order**

Shelley Stewart called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.  
Round-table introductions were made.

## **2. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Moved by: Diane Foster

Seconded by: Julie Morris

That the Minutes of March 23, 2016 be approved.

**CARRIED**

## **3. Business arising from the minutes**

### **3.1 Accessibility Plan;**

Shelley Stewart thanked Diane Foster and Julie Morris for their presentation to Council on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Both presenters touched on key areas such as the importance of connective pedestrian pathways and advocated for budgets to better support limited paratransit services on Sunday. The report included the 2016-2020 Accessibility Plan, the final 2015 report on the 2013-2015 Accessibility Plan and the AAC's renewed Sidewalk Action Statement.

Recently a number of staff training initiatives have taken place. Julie Morris and Diana Lecinski responded to a request from box office staff at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre on creating better customer service and best practices to patrons with disabilities. Thank you to David Reed and Ian Crawford for their advice that was included as part of the training.

Under the Design of Public Spaces Standard (DOPSS) there is a requirement for the maintenance of accessible elements. The latest Accessibility Plan also included a best practice document that was used as the basis for specific staff training. More than 50 staff have attended and are integrating accessible element checks with various current maintenance practices (e.g. courtesy wheelchair check, trail washout maintenance, flush curb ramps, etc.).

Human Resources is undertaking its annual and comprehensive orientation program for students and casual employees. The Accessibility Coordinator continues to participate to provide the AODA training.

### **3.2 Other:**

#### **Social Sustainability Pillar;**

Diane Foster attended the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to present the AAC's Accessibility Plans and information as noted above. The SSP endorsed and forwarded it to Council for Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **FADS status;**

As requested by the AAC at their previous meeting, staff followed up with Niagara Region on the status of an updated version of FADS. Brock University did grant permission to use their updated version of FADS in 2015 and the Region is currently conducting a review of that FADS for consistency from a municipal perspective and noted the interest of their AAC to participate in the process. In the meantime, City staff continue to provide an index of changes with the 2007 FADS for contractors doing City builds or renovations, as well as when promoting it with developers or the public.

#### **Seniors Day;**

The AAC will host a display table at this event on Monday, May 30, 10-2, to promote its initiatives, its terms of reference including older adults, Accessibility Plans and look for community feedback from older adults relating to accessibility within City facilities, programs and services.

## **4. New Business**

### **4.1 Fort Erie's Accessibility is for Everyone**

This will be held on Thursday, June 2, 10-3 at the Fort Erie Leisureplex. AAC members are all welcome to attend, but staff need to RSVP shortly as space is limited. Interested members should inform staff by April 29<sup>th</sup> and advise of any dietary or transportation needs. The poster and details were circulated to the AAC.

## **5. AAC Updates:**

### **5.1 Site Plan;**

Ian Crawford and David Reed provided a brief update noting that slopes can create safety issues and barriers on parking lots, particularly at accessible parking making getting in/out of a car and transferring to a mobility device exceptionally awkward. Site plan staff should consider this and ensure grading plans are included with the site plans provided

### **5.2 Community access and media;**

No report

### **5.3 City Projects, Christine Adams, TES;**

Various upcoming projects were noted and include;

- Annual sidewalk construction and repair contract will include 2 on-street accessible parking spaces at Montebello Park and block by block sidewalk repairs will include any bus stops within that span,
- The tender for Montebello Park Rose Garden has been awarded and includes a new accessible pathway between the Rose Garden and washroom building. It will be an alternative route to the steep path on the west side of the washroom building,
- planning being undertaken for a new administration building at Victoria Lawn Cemetery and the AAC will be resourced for design comments,
- the next phase of Lakeshore Road reconstruction (Regional contract) will begin this summer from Lake to Geneva,
- Several items are still being resourced for the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre; adult change-tables, universal washroom layout (noting FADS are minimums and the AAC should be resourced on ideal dimensions), on-line accessible seat bookings, front row seating for people with vision disabilities is ideal use of alternative accessible seating
- AAC suggested;
  - described audio similar to Stratford and Shaw theatres should be available for patrons,
  - new pedestrian signals at Lake/Lakeshore are difficult to activate,

#### **5.4 CNIB Night Steps, Julie Morris;**

Julie Morris reminded the AAC that the 2016 CNIB awareness and fundraising 5 km walk will take place on Saturday, May 14 at 5 pm.

A rep from CNIB will attend the next meeting to promote an app called Blindsquare. The AAC asked that key staff be invited to learn more about this app, currently being introduced at many Tim Horton's locations.

#### **6. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at 1:30 p.m., Burgoyne Woods Room, City Hall

#### **7. Motion to Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Moved by: Diane Foster

Seconded by: Stacey Heady-Komenda

That this meeting is adjourned.

CARRIED