

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

Kiwanis Aquatics Centre, Locke meeting rooms at 1:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Diane Foster, Co-chairperson
Ian Crawford
Tracey Hrick
Julie Morris
Linda Marie O'Hagan
David Reed
Mary Jane Waszynski

Absent:

Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Bob Asham
Steve Byers
Stacey Headey-Komenda

Staff Representatives:

CAO's office; Diana Lecinski

1. **Call meeting to order**

Diane Foster called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Round-table introductions were made. Diane Foster announced that Julie Morris has resigned from the AAC, and presented Julie Morris with a thank you card for her dedication and service to the AAC over the past several years.

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

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Moved by: Linda Marie O'Hagan

Seconded by: Julie Morris

That the Minutes of September 28, 2016 be approved.

CARRIED

3. **Presentations/Discussions**

a) Next to Lead project; Jenna Cooper, NCIL

Mary Jane Waszynski, AAC member, introduced her co-worker Jenna Cooper who is organizing the "next to lead project". This community-based research project led by Niagara Centre for Independent Living (NCIL) and the University of Toronto, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation is looking for 30 disabled youth (ages 18-29) in Niagara that have a passion for action!

Through a series of innovative workshops, they'll work with the participants to hone their leadership skills and get connected with like-minded peers and mentors. Later, participants will put their skills to work to tackle a project of their choosing. And at the end, they will show the community achievements in a showcase event! This is not your typical leadership-training program!! Although spaced out and flexible, Next to Lead is nearly a two-year commitment. Jenna Cooper is asking for the AAC membership to share this information with others between 19-29 who may be interested. Hardcopy hand-outs were distributed and the electronic version of these Minutes will have the [Next to Lead](#) link as well. AAC members also suggested the secondary and post secondary schools in Niagara.

4. **Business arising from the minutes**

Accessibility Plan:

- a) Business/Downtown accessibility opportunities – Samir Husika, Economic Development; to advocate for change and voice their concerns.

Economic Development is taking a proactive approach to informing businesses and advocating for a barrier-free business community. Samir Husika is drafting e-newsletters that could include links to AODA information. The Downtown BIA is another opportunity to promote awareness via brief articles regarding accessibility in the City, and it has a significant readership beyond the downtown core. Diana Lecinski is drafting an intro article and looked to the AAC to provide input on future articles. Articles on sandwich board ad placement, AODA awareness, physical barriers and accessible customer service were mentioned.

AAC members noted opportunities when business or building ownership changes. Flagging the CIP and the benefit of its accessibility component is a pivotal piece in meeting 8 of 10 CIP requirements. Samir Husika spoke about the CIP, education and information sharing ideas throughout the St. Catharines business community. Engaging the Chamber of Commerce was also suggested. He noted common elements within the CIP, Strategic Plan and the Compassionate City initiative, and informed the AAC that staff from the Economic Development Dept. all viewed the CBC's documentary, Return on Disability, which makes a powerful business case for employment and engagement of people with a disability.

Diane Foster thanked Samir Husika for his presentation.

- b) Exterior park washroom designs of other municipalities;
Since reviewing the plans for Lakeside Park and the renovations to the washrooms/changerooms building at September's meeting, there has been discussion on the 2 universal washroom having adult change-tables. These could be subject to misuse or vandalism and the membership provided advice on product designs that are more suitable to this application. Accessibility staff discussed models used by the City of Mississauga as an example. Stationary designs that fold away are ideal and the membership determined that a set height is most functional at 20".

c) Rick Hansen Foundation, Access4ALL grant application

Diana Lecinski noted that the Rick Hansen Foundation has announced an Access4ALL grant opportunity. After meeting with staff to determine a project that meets the intent and budget parameters of this grant, staff and the AAC agreed that the proposed “sun shelter” at Lakeside Park would be ideal. The shelter is planned to be located at the corner of the beach sidewalk as it meets the Mobi Mat beach mats. A sheltered viewpoint is helpful for all beach users and in particular people with disabilities who can stop without blocking the sidewalk for other pedestrians. The shelter is expected to cost the full funding amount of \$20,000 and another \$10,000 can be used for the promotion of the new accessibility element. The membership supports their role to promote this, should the grant be successful, and endorsed the engagement of other community stakeholders such as Niagara Centre for Independent Living, Community Living, March of Dimes, etc.

Moved by: Linda Marie O'Hagan

Seconded by: Tracey Hrick

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) supports staff's proposal of submitting a grant application for a sun shelter at Lakeside Park to the Access4ALL funding opportunity with the AAC responsible for organizing the promotion portion of the grant requirement.

CARRIED

d) Federal Accessibility Legislation (Feb. 8/17, Toronto)

Accessibility staff noted that the closest public engagement location will be next February in Toronto. AAC reps can decide if they want to attend this event at a later date. Staff have circulated electronic information and the website and encouraged the members to share provide individual input and with others.

5. AAC Updates:

a) Site Plan;

The site plan for 527 Carlton Street is for Niagara Regional Housing.

Members asked staff to inform the Regional Accessibility Coordinator so that their AAC receives and reviews the interior designs.

b) Community access and media;

Linda Marie O'Hagan provided numerous community and media updates to the members as FYI. Staff will forward links to the AAC following the meeting.

c) **City Projects, Christine Adams, TES;**
Deferred

d) **Updated FADS**

The City has received permission from Brock University to adopt their updated version of FADS. The AAC has advocated since 2014 for the Region to do this, however their process is not completed as yet. The AAC endorsed using Brock's FADS and thanks Brock University for sharing. The membership asked that staff review for any City best practice additions or edits. They noted the importance of providing our contractors with a document that reflects current AODA and OBC requirements as the existing version is outdated.

e) **Pathways to Success, Disability Resource Fair**

This growing annual event is being held Thursday, October 27 from 1-5 pm, at the Holiday Inn, 327 Ontario Street. This is an opportunity to connect with more than 50 community resources and services focusing on people with disabilities. Admission is a food-bank donation. AAC members are encouraged to attend, and keep this event in mind for next year as an additional opportunity to promote the City's Accessibility Plan and get feedback and input from the community.

6. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, November 23, 2016 at 12:00 noon, City Hall, Burgoyne Woods Room.

Reminder that this meeting will start earlier than usual, at 12:00 noon

7. **Motion to Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Moved by: Ian Crawford

Seconded by: Julie Morris

That this meeting is adjourned.

CARRIED