

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, November 23, 2016

City Hall, Burgoyne Woods Room at 1:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Diane Foster, Co-chairperson
Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Bob Asham
Steve Byers
Ian Crawford
Tracey Hrick
Linda Marie O'Hagan
David Reed
Mary Jane Waszynski
1 vacancy

Absent:

Stacey Headey-Komenda

Staff Representatives:

Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, Office of the CAO

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, October 26, 2016

Moved by: Diane Foster

Seconded by: Bob Asham

That the Minutes of October 26, 2016 be approved.

CARRIED

3. **Business arising from the minutes**

Accessibility Plan:

a) Updates;

- The pull-over area in front of the medical centre at the Ontario Street Parking Garage has not had success with its friendly reminder signage that the pull-over area is to be used as a drop-off for people with disabilities. Previously the AAC has suggested that this area be designated for 1 accessible on-street parking and 1 drop-off only. TES Transportation supports this and received an additional request from the medical centre for the same thing. Proper signage and line painting will be done in spring 2017.

- Further to the AAC's on-going concern regarding lack of connective sidewalk on the west side of Ontario Street (QEW to Carlton), a number of public requests have also been received echoing this concern, particularly for people who use a mobility device. TES Transportation staff are aware of these concerns and noted that this is a Regional Road and that necessary easements don't currently exist in order for the City to install sidewalks. Options are actively being considered and a property survey of this stretch has been completed. Accessibility staff has ensured that City staff are aware of the public concern and asked for it to be shared with the Region. Members of the AAC felt strongly that trodden foot paths are not an accessible way to

access businesses or bus stops along west side of Ontario Street, QEW to Carlton, and also requested that this be conveyed to Regional staff as well.

- Limited paratransit service on Sunday's also continues to be a community concern, and accessibility staff noted that Transit is hoping that supportive budgets will be provided soon. Diane Foster noted this in her accessibility presentation to Council last March, clearly highlighting this as a budget-related concern, and asked that an excerpt of her speaking-notes be placed into these Minutes;

As a frequent transit and paratransit user, I know the Transit Commission is fully engaged in improving and maintaining accessibility throughout the system, as their budget allows.

One area where we see a community need for improvement is on the weekend, particularly paratransit service on Sunday from 9 am to 6 pm. I know that anyone who uses, or tries to book paratransit on a Sunday, would agree. Although regular route buses have become more and more accessible, and may be able to better accommodate patrons with disabilities, they are not paratransit, nor offer the level of accessible pick-up and drop-offs that many individuals in this City need. I am asking Council to consider increasing Transit's budget to improve paratransit service for people who rely on it on weekends so that they/we/me can participate in this community too. For example, like me, people with a mobility disability may rely on paratransit to get to church on a Sunday morning. There is only 1 available accessible taxi on Sunday, and we all compete to get that one available taxi through the pre-booking system. Given most church services begin and end about the same time, only a few are able to book paratransit for those times. I'm asking Council to recognize this lack of community infrastructure through additional budget and increase this service by even one more driver or paratransit vehicle.

- Rick Hansen Foundation grants
Staff noted that an Access4ALL grant request will be submitted after AAC reps discuss details to organize an access awareness event as part of the beach sun shelter application. Staff also have been approached by an American not-for-profit group that organizes fund-raising for beach wheelchairs. The members felt this would complement accessibility at Lakeside Park if the opportunity moves forward.

An Accessible Cities Award will be investigated as the City of St. Catharines has actively become a leader and more accessible over the past 10 years. Staff will follow up.

- b) Revised Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation (IASR) Policy:
Staff circulated a draft of the revised IASR policy that incorporated recent changes by the Province to repeal the accessible customer service standard and consolidate it within the IASR noting several additional changes. This revised policy will also be reflected in staff AODA training and this will be included as part of the AAC's next report to Council.

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

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) endorses the revised Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation (IASR) Policy that now includes accessible customer service.

CARRIED

- c) AAC vacancy;
All applications were reviewed and will be put forward to Council's Social Sustainability Pillar for final endorsement to Council. Unfortunately Council's meeting schedules will not formalize an appointment until after the AAC's January meeting.

- d) 2017 AAC meeting schedule;

Moved by: Tracey Hrick
Seconded by: Bob Asham

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee's 2017 meeting schedule be approved.

CARRIED

- e) Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS);
The City and its AAC have been looking forward to Niagara Region adopting an updated FADS document as the currently used 2007 version has become outdated due to new AODA Standards and Ontario Building Code updates. The Region is currently reviewing Brock University's FADS in order to adopt. The AAC endorses Brock University's FADS and the City was given permission by Brock University to adopt their FADS. Staff and the AAC will review for any specifics that should be noted for municipal application, and extends its thanks to Brock University for sharing.

Moved by: Linda Marie O'Hagan
Seconded by: David Reed

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee endorses and thanks Brock University for sharing its Facility Accessibility Design Standard (FADS).

CARRIED

Access4ALL grant application:

Further to supporting a grant application to the Rick Hansen Foundation's Canada150 for a beach sun shelter at Lakeside Park, the opportunity also provides for an access awareness event that the AAC would like to organize and host. Several reps from the AAC will meet next week with staff to plan event details to be included in the grant application.

4. **AAC Updates:**

a) Site Plan;

No update.

b) Community access and media;

Linda Marie O'Hagan provided numerous community and media updates to the members as FYI. The City is hosting an Older Adult Forum on November 30th at Kiwanis Aquatics Centre and AAC reps are encouraged to attend as the mandate of older adults is within their terms of reference. Staff will forward links to the AAC following the meeting.

c) City Projects, Christine Adams, TES;

Deferred

5. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 1:30 p.m., City Hall, Burgoyne Woods Room.

Reminder that the AAC annual chairperson election will be held in January.

6. **Motion to Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Moved by: Bob Asham

Seconded by: Steve Byers

That this meeting is adjourned.

CARRIED