

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

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

Attendance:

Diane Foster, Co-chairperson
Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Melissa Abrams
Bob Asham
Tracey Hrick
Bob Mahony
Linda Marie O'Hagan
Mary Jane Waszynski

Regrets:

Steve Byers
Ian Crawford
David Reed

Staff Representatives:

Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, Office of the CAO
Christine Adams, Transportation & Environmental Services

1. **Call meeting to order**

Diane Foster 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, February 22, 2017

Moved by: Linda Marie O'Hagan

Seconded by: Mary Jane Waszynski

That the Minutes of February 22, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

Diane Foster will attend the April 20, 2017 Social Sustainability Pillar (SSP) meeting. She will submit the 2016 report on the 2016-2020 Accessibility Plan to the SSP and note the AAC's plan to make a presentation at an upcoming Council meeting (May 29, 2017 - TBA).

3. **Business arising:**

a) Accessibility Plan;

Members of the AAC were circulated with the consolidated comments prior to the meeting that were submitted by all Accessibility Plan staff reps. Those highlights were transferred to the 2016 annual report on the 2016-2020 Accessibility Plan and were provided as hardcopy at the meeting. The AAC reviewed both draft versions and the Accessibility Coordinator was asked to circulate the report electronically after the meeting.

Moved by: Linda Marie O'Hagan

Seconded by: Shelley Stewart

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) endorse the 2016 annual report on the 2016-2020 Accessibility Plan; and

That any further or final comments received by March 31 be edited into the report to ensure that members who were unable to attend or members who wanted to review the electronic copy have adequate opportunity to comment.

CARRIED

Several members were interested in presenting the 2016 report to Council. The Council date has not been confirmed, but it will follow Diane Foster's presentation of the report to the Social Sustainability Pillar meeting, and likely be May 29th.

The FADS review and edit is almost complete, and any final suggestions should be made at the April meeting or via email to the Accessibility Coordinator.

b) Rick Hansen Foundation grant;

Further to the previous month's discussion, the Access4ALL grant application was approved for the maximum amount of \$30,000 and an information report will be provided to Council on March 27.

The AAC will host and participate in the organization of the event once an event date has been determined. This will be based on expected construction completion. Niagara Centre for Independent Living (NCIL) confirmed the Next to Lead rep is Abbey Green and she will support the event's community engagement of youth.

c) Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) award:

As requested and endorsed by the AAC a nomination for the City of St. Catharines was submitted to the RHF Accessible Cities Award. Applications close on March 31 and an announcement of awards is expected later in May.

d) Federal accessibility legislation (Feb. 8 public meeting, Toronto)

The Accessibility Coordinator provided an update of the public meeting based on feedback from colleagues. As expected any forthcoming legislation will be focused on industries and sectors under the jurisdiction of the federal government. Additionally, recurring themes from the many speakers about disability was the concern for access to employment and poverty and their connection. A report stemming from the country-wide public sessions is expected this Fall, 2017.

4. New Business;

a) AAC elections.

Diane Foster called for a motion to pass the chair to the Accessibility Coordinator in order to hold the election.

Moved by: Shelley Stewart
Seconded by: Mary Jane Waszynski

That the chair be passed to the Accessibility Coordinator in order to hold the annual election of chairpersons for the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

The Accessibility Coordinator called for nominations:

Moved by: Shelley Stewart
Seconded by: Linda Marie O'Hagan

That Diane Foster be nominated for the role of co-chairperson.
Diane Foster accepted the nomination.

CARRIED

Moved by: Diane Foster
Seconded by: Tracey Hrick

That Shelley Stewart be nominated for the role of co-chairperson.
Shelley Stewart accepted the nomination.

CARRIED

No other nominations were made or requested. Diane Foster and Shelley Stewart were thanked for their previous and continued service as co-chairpersons until January 2018.

A call for a motion to return the chair to Diane Foster was made.

Moved by: Linda Marie O'Hagan
Seconded by: Bob Mahony

That Diane Foster resume the chair.

CARRIED

5. AAC Updates:

a) Site Plan;

Agenda item upon request.

b) Community access and media;

Agenda item upon request. Media items will be circulated electronically. Bob Mahony noted that the Stroke Survivor group had recent access issues at the FirstOntario Performing Arts. Shelley Stewart noted several drop-off options and suggested phoning ahead to inform box office staff. Several members noted excellent accommodations by finding out more and if requested beforehand.

c) City Projects, Christine Adams, TES;

Christine Adams confirmed that budgets have been approved and a number of contracts are being organized. The sidewalk contract includes a piece on the west side of Ontario Street near Scott Street. This will start to address the AAC's ongoing concern (Minutes, Nov. 2016) regarding the lack of sidewalks along the west side of Ontario Street between the QEW and Carlton. The next segment of Ontario Street reconstruction, near Montebello Park, is starting shortly and will take approximately 3 months.

A comprehensive review of bus stop accessibility has been undertaken by the St. Catharines Transit Commission with the Accessibility Coordinator and both met with TES to determine how best to integrate priorities. As previously noted by Transit reps, they have applied for federal funding that should be announced this spring. Christine Adams also noted that areas involved with road or sidewalk reconstruction will also be assessed for bus stop accessibility.

5. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.,
City Hall, Burgoyne Woods Room.

6. Motion to Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Moved by: Bob Asham

Seconded by: Tracey Hrick

That this meeting is adjourned.

CARRIED