

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

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

Attendance:

Diane Foster, Co-chairperson
Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Melissa Abrams
Bob Asham
Ian Crawford
Tracey Hrick
Bob Mahony
David Reed

Regrets:

Steve Byers
Linda Marie O'Hagan
Mary Jane Waszynski

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 1:35 p.m. Round-table introductions were made.

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

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Moved by: Bob Mahony

Seconded by: Melissa Abrams

That the Minutes of April 26, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

The next Social Sustainability Pillar (SSP) meeting will be August 3, 2017.

3. **Business arising:**

a) **Accessibility Plan;**

The 2016 annual report on the 2016-2020 Accessibility Plan will be presented to Council on May 29. Shelley Stewart and Diane Foster will make the presentation.

b) **FADS update;**

TES staff is assisting with edits on the updated version.

c) **Rick Hansen Foundation grant;**

The AAC will host and participate in the organization of the event once an event date has been determined.

A second organizing “team meeting” took place on May 15 and AAC reps, Diane Foster, Tracey Hrick, Linda Marie O’Hagan (regrets) and Abby Green (regrets) shared details on plans for the ceremony and event with all AAC members. A site visit will be arranged for all involved for early June, although this may be postponed as water levels in the lake continue to rise. The Accessibility Coordinator will email the AAC after the meeting of any changes.

4. AAC Updates:

a) Community access and media;

It was noted that Linda Marie O'Hagan will be submitting media information and links to staff for circulation to the AAC. It was suggested that ideally they be sent to staff before the meeting and be circulated with the emailed agenda package.

b) City Projects, Christine Adams, TES;

The AAC's friendly reminder regarding notice of service disruption that was endorsed at the previous meeting has been circulated to all key staff, and construction stakeholders by Christine Adams. There have been concerns that sidewalk closure notices have not been posted or have safety barriers in place on several occasions already this season.

Construction notices have been distributed and promoted on the City's website for Queenston Street road and sewer improvements. Diane Foster noted that Niagara Centre for Independent Living (NCIL) was told they would not have wheelchair access to their front entry for a prolonged period and this is of concern for NCIL and clients. Christine Adams will investigate this closure as the goal was keep businesses open with minimal closure disruption.

TES and Transit continue to prioritize and address bus stop accessibility renovations using the Federal funding it recently received.

Shelley Stewart noted a thank you to Transit who maintain consistent detours around construction for its duration without changes, making it easier for riders, and particularly riders with a vision disability, to confidently take buses and anticipate stops during the construction season.

David Reed and Ian Crawford had several concerns about some downtown restaurants having new washrooms in the basement and asked about promoting access to downtown businesses, particularly the use of temporary ramps (Stop Gap). The Accessibility Coordinator will invite PBS staff to respond about this. Additionally, staff will add downtown awareness opportunities to the next agenda for discussion.

c) **AODA forum, May 3**

8 AAC representatives from St. Catharines attended the AODA accessibility forum on May 3 in Stoney Creek. Shelley Stewart noted the presenters and themes being past, present and future were very impactful, as was the key-note speaker. Ian Crawford felt the venue did not provide the level of accessibility expected for an event hosted by the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario. Feedback forms were submitted.

d) **Evacuation chair video;**

As requested by the membership the video on the Stryker evacuation chair was shown. Members asked about City Hall's updated fire safety plan and evacuation if needed. The Accessibility Coordinator was asked to invite associated staff who could provide details at a future meeting to provide updates and details (e.g. transfers, area of refuge) and emergency assistance documents for employees or regular patrons.

5. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.,
City Hall, Burgoyne Woods Room.

6. **Motion to Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Moved by: Ian Crawford

Seconded by: Tracey Hrick

That this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED