

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, September 27, 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
David Reed

Regrets:

Steve Byers
Ian Crawford
Mary Jane Waszynski

Staff Representatives:

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

1. **Call meeting to order and Plans Review:**

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, June 28, 2017

Moved by: Bob Asham

Seconded by: David Reed

That the Minutes of June 28, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

The next Social Sustainability Pillar (SSP) meeting will be October 19, 2017. Diane Foster noted that the most recent SSP meeting was held on September 21 to review the Strategic Plan, Social Sustainability. The opportunity was also taken to update the SSP members on the recent Lakeside Park community event hosted by the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC).

3. **Business arising:**

a) **Accessibility Plan;**

An updated Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS) is nearing completion. It was determined that with edits being considered to the Brock University version that it would be more appropriate for the City to create their own version. Christine Adams and Diana Lecinski met with Bob Topping of Designable Net, author of the FADS. Based on previous AAC and staff input, a version more specific to the City's use was created. The City's graphic design, designed a new cover for this FADS. The AAC reviewed the cover and suggested several edits. This final version will be submitted to Designable Net for the FADS cover.

Shelley Stewart noted that she and her guide dog Reese, along with the Accessibility Coordinator participated in the comprehensive training with

the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre that focused on all staff (fulltime, part-time, casual) and all volunteers. The accessibility component was included in all 6 sessions held over a 2 week period.

The Accessibility Coordinator noted other upcoming accessibility training at the City will focus on the Employment Standard and the Transportation Standard.

b) AAC inquiry;

As requested, accessibility staff continued to request a status update from Fire & Emergency Management Services (FEMS) on renewed fire safety plans and procedures for City Hall and other city facilities. This will help verify that the City continues to meet, Sec. 13, Emergency procedure, plans or public safety information under the AODA's Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation. These are not yet complete, however a rep from FEMS will be invited to an upcoming meeting to discuss updated plans and procedures once they are approved.

c) Rick Hansen Foundation grant;

The AAC hosted a long-awaited community event for Lakeside Park on August 31st. The historically high water levels in the lake had slowly receded over the summer.

Shelley Stewart started by thanking all the accessibility volunteers and staff who have been planning since the Spring for this event that promotes access and inclusion at Lakeside Park. Diane Foster and Linda Marie O'Hagan who supported throughout, Tracey Hrick who organized youth volunteers and activities, and Abby Green who organized youth support from the Next to Lead program. Numerous staff from various departments, particularly PRCS were pivotal in ensuring all the many details of this event.

The formal ceremony with dignitaries from all levels of government, including an ASL interpreter to communicate the speeches about the many renovations and builds that support an accessible and inclusive community. Momentum choir performed and the crowd in attendance was estimated to be 250-300 people strong, with more visitors out enjoying the park.

Following the ceremony, there were give-away stations throughout

Lakeside Park to draw people to visit the many new amenities; new pavilion, new beach sun shelter with beach access mats, new playground with various accessible elements, new bandshell, renovated concession / washroom / changeroom building that includes 2 universal washrooms. Give-aways included beach totes and beach balls all with the City logo and Lakeside Park 2017 imprinted.

The funding towards the beach sun shelter and the promotional event were from the Rick Hansen Foundation's Access4ALL Barrier Buster program.

d) E-newsletter article opportunity;

As discussed previously, the AAC welcomes opportunities to increase awareness and understanding of accessibility throughout the community. Accessibility staff has discussed opportunities with Economic Development and BIA's. The members were supportive of an opportunity with the Downtown BIA's e-newsletter, and suggested that it commence in January 2018 with the initial article from the Accessibility Coordinator. The framework of positive promotion, education and information sharing were discussed.

4. AAC Updates:

a) Community access and media;

It was requested by the AAC that media updates from Linda Marie O'Hagan be sent to staff prior to meeting dates and circulated with the emailed agenda package.

b) City Projects, Christine Adams, TES;

Several construction projects are now underway. Centennial Park renovations include a railing on the steps from Gale Cres. and pathways are being resurfaced with packed screenings and a sun shelter is also being installed.

Downtown Streetscape work on St. Paul from Carlisle to James is almost finished. Urban Braille is being placed at the remaining 2 corners of St. Paul and Carlisle Sts., 2 curb ramps were installed in the Carlisle

bus-bay, another drop-off point has been renovated for accessibility on the west side of the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre and a pedestrian crossing signal was installed out front, the northerly sidewalk has been significantly widened and the on-street parking removed near Garden Park. The members were asked to visit and review the section of experimental sidewalk in front of Sahla Thai. The intersection and sidewalk was designed and raised to alleviate steps into a business.

Transit received funding for improvements to bus stop accessibility. A bus stop located on St. Paul between Pelham and St. Paul Cres. has a high rate of lowering the bus to accommodate riders and therefore this is considered a possible priority. There is a significant grade difference and the AAC was shown several concept designs for pedestrian access to the bus stop. Christine Adams noted that Regional work in this area has been moved up in anticipation of Go train services to the St. Catharines train station across the street which may include reconstructing area roadways and bus stops. The members suggested that many other stops could be renovated with the budget that this 1 location would take. There was concern that future Regional roadwork may tear up a costly bus stop renovation so members suggested deferring this stop location in lieu of other bus stop renovations.

c) Site Plan update;

As follow up to the June 28 AAC Minutes, staff provided a list of site plan addresses from the last 2 years. The members had concern about any formal inspection reviews for accessible parking.

5. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 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: Bob Mahony

Seconded by: Tracey Hrick

That this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED