

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Burgoyne Woods Room, City Hall at 1:30 pm

Attendance:

Invited	Name	Title
Present	Shelley Stewart	Co-chairperson
Present	Diane Foster	Co-chairperson
Present	Melissa Abrams	Member
Present	Bob Asham	Member
Present	Ian Crawford	Member
Present	Tracey Findlay	Member
Present	Barbara Legg	Member
Present	Bob Mahony	Member
Absent	Linda Marie O'Hagan	Member
Absent	David Reed	Member
Absent	Amy Romeo	Member
Present	Mary Jane Waszynski	Member

Staff Liaison:

Linda Murray, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Support Services

Christine Adams, Manager of Construction/Engineering, Transportation & Environmental Services

1. **Call meeting to order Diane Foster**
1:55
2. **Round Table Introductions**
- 2.1 **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting:**
Date: Oct. 24, 2018

Moved by: Bob Mahony
Seconded by: Bob Asham
Carried
3. **Discussions / Presentations: St. Catharines Transit**
Meet and Greet – New General Manager Graham Morrison
Debbie Grandbois
Tim Luey

SS – I depend on buses, drivers are fantastic, audible buses are fantastic.

The country is having difficulty with emotional support animals. Ferret on bus in Ottawa, parrot on plane. Right now all you need is letter for from Dr. Some emotional support animals can be disruptive to registered service animals. The ask is, since this is starting, train drivers to ask for a service animal card. If they do not provide card / letter they should not be permitted on the bus.

GM – we are aware of this; we appreciate your comments.

BM – what documentation does the service animal need to be a service animal?

SS - they are trained by a certified school and given a card to prove certification. Doctors are writing letters to say average untrained animals can provide emotional support for anxiety. Untrained animals are disrupting service animals.

DF- we are asking that the Transit drivers ask people to provide card / letter.

BA – there is no legislation right now. Get a hold of your local MP to get it put forward.

DF – Transit has done excellent job; maybe some retraining on accessibility for drivers.

GM – we could incorporate some retraining.

DF – some policies are not being enforced; keep aisles clear.

SS – with priority seating and two people with mobility devices I have to tuck my service dog in.

MJW – what can we do to support your budget process for an additional driver for paratransit driver.

GM – lend your voice to the budget it would be great.

BA – what is your background

GM – started in the 80's in finance and worked my way around Transit.

MJW – can we make a motion requesting an additional driver

DF – we have already made that request to council

SS – commend who ever opened up the rules to who can apply for paratransit.

If you had a vision issue you were not able to apply. Now with the changes, I can apply for paratransit. Thank you. That's fantastic.

BM – you can come to us for help at any time as well

GM – thank you

DF – this is the place to go for any advice or help

MJW – how do you apply for accessible transit. Some of our clients might access a few forms to get around the region. Could they complete one form for access for accessible transit? A standardized form would be great.

GM - it is something we are working on region wide.

TL – one of the obstacles is a box to share information. If you apply in St. Catharines, we can't share with Welland. Our goal is to have one application.

SS – with a CNIB card I ride transit free; but have to pay for paratransit.

DF – I know a person who lives at the Loyalist on King St. They can't get to the bus stop without going through mud.

GM – yes that one was on our list, we will look at it.

MJW – met with a client at Bunting Rd. bus stop there were 3 different boxes advertisement and poles around the shelter. It wasn't easy to maneuver around.

GM – one of our projects for next year to get a standard layout of the shelters.

4. **AAC Updates:**

4.1 TES Updates: Christine Adams

Under the sidewalk repair contract, accessibility improvements at Bus Stops still ongoing. (post meeting update, weather permitting the contractor intends to continue with bus stop improvements throughout the winter during the month of January, February and March at no additional cost to the City).

Widened sidewalk on Academy Street next to MTO building for upgraded Inter Regional Transit bus stops is underway

Pickleball court has been completed in East Port Park (Port Weller East)

2018 Construction season is coming to an end.

TES Engineering will have one additional staff member in January.

New Director of Planning and Building starts on Monday Dec. 17, 2018.

BA – there is a construction sign “narrow lanes” blocking the sidewalk Westchester bridge by Meridian Centre. This is an MTO project, CA to advise MTO. (post meeting update, the sign was moved and subsequently removed).

New maintenance standards (formerly called minimum maintenance standards) were passed by the Province.

Action: CA to provide an update on 2019 construction program and potential 2019 construction locations at the next meeting.

Committee requested that the Winter Friendly reminder be recirculated to private (i.e. commercial) properties.

Renovations at Lake St. Service Centre are almost finished.

4.2 Site Plan Updates: David Reed, Ian Crawford
No update

4.3 Hospital AAC Updates: Bob Asham, Shelley Stewart
Mtg Dec 7
Terms of reference updated
They want a Rick Hansen gold rating certification. We hope that it will serve as a check list for the new hospital.
Action: DF- to provide food court Accessible seating manufacturer name from Pen Centre.

4. **New Business:**

MJW – those of us who helped create the Accessibility Coordinator position. We should have some discussion on making sure the position still exists.

DL – I don't know what the plan is for the new position.

MJW – mental health education needs to be addressed along with ramps and buildings

BL – question what do we as members need to do?

Action: LM to send out email when applications are being requested.

SS – I am amazed, I've been on this committee for 19 years, we have come so far, we need notes from Diana Lecinski on what needs to be done; so much was getting done and now is not getting done. ie. Website updates

6. **Date of next meeting:**
Wednesday, January 23, 2019
Burgoyne Woods Room, City Hall

7. **Motion to Adjourn:**
Meeting was adjourned at 3:10
That this meeting be adjourned.
Moved by: Bob Mahony
Second by: Bob Asham