

Minutes

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Burgoyne Woods at 1:30pm

Attendance:

Diane Foster, Bob Mahony, Bob Asham, Barb Legg, Michelle Sanders, David Reed, David Best, Chrissy Sadowski, Kate Wiley, Matthew Goodman

Absent:

Abby Green, Jennifer Taylor

Staff Liaison:

Megan Detlor, Human Resources, Accessibility
Christine Adams – Manager, Engineering and Construction

1. **Call meeting to order (Chair)**
1:31 –Diane Foster
 - a) Roundtable introductions
2. **Recognition of Traditional Territories** - Read by Barb Legg
3. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda**
none
4. **Motion to approve the agenda**
Matthew, Second - Bob A
5. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**
Michelle, Second - Barb L.
6. **Presentations (invited guests)**
Jenny Stevens – MPP – reviewed role and contributions to community. Aims to advocate for affordable housing and accessibility. Would like to connect with committee on ongoing basis to bring our topics to Queens Park. Gave out her contact information.

St. Catharines Transit – (Adam) recent updates. Sept 1st added an additional Paratransit vehicle, 147 more rides in Sept. 2019. With this number expected to grow.

- wrapped up improvements for approx. 80 bus stops, got this feedback in a variety of ways, customer feedback, stops that have the highest ramp deployments.
- definitely room for improvement, appreciate all feedback.
Paratransit customers – King St. bus stop, improved this stop. Working with shelter provider, small number of shelters are inaccessible. Have made some steps here. Have received suggestions for new shelters.

Diane – some shelters need door moved to street side rather than road. Ex. Walmart on Bunting.

Barb – once something like that is pointed out about one shelter, does anyone check out other shelters to verify if the same issues exist elsewhere in the city? Suggestion to have someone/committee members do an accessibility audit of the bus line. Including a participant using a mobility device ride and provide feedback.

David B – accessibility goes beyond physical needs, what is the digital strategy for buses? Beacons at bus stops, transit app, etc. We do live in the digital age, and this is very common so something that should be considered by transit.

Debbie – Paratransit had to move to a first call first serve basis year ago as they were at about 80% capacity with regularly scheduled bookings. They receive 25 -35 applications a month. People have a routine to call in at opening and book quickly. Every year we are proposing and approving new transit/buses. We keep track of stats so that we can report to council

service animals – stance on drivers asking for ID. People are buying fraudulent vests and bringing uncertified. Animals wearing vests. Debbie, has had this issue brought to her by her drivers recently, they would like to implement a process

Kate – have had emotional support animal issues at Niagara College. They are provincially regulated. Are not able to ask for ID on campus. Re: discrimination.

Diane - Has observed dogs vested but not leashed on busses.

Transit left at 2:25pm

7. Business arising from the minutes

Park attachment to be sent to all by Megan via email

8. Business

- a. 7.1 – review of sidewalk action statement – Matthew G. read statement.
- b. Correction by Christine – standard city sidewalk is 1.5 the 1.8 is if it's a curb face sidewalk may want to review this in the statement.

- c. 7.2 – intersection of Scott and Niagara St. – regional rd. not a city rd. the pedestrian island is regional. Niagara St. is regional not Scott. St. Christine to bring to regional staff.

Christine Adams – bus stop improvements - transit has 1195 stops. Within last two years tackled about 150 spots so about 12%. Before starting thought was that 75% was already accessible, $75 + 12 =$ about 87. Engineering and Transit working jointly. For next meeting maybe a before and after project would be good.

Diane – Fairview mall bus lineups need to be addressed. Christine to check with Transportation

Michelle – lakeside park, portable toilet taking up an accessible space.

Bob – acknowledgement of accessibility within services/business – would like to acknowledge business owners and service providers for efforts in providing inclusive and accessible experience. (work plan)

9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

10. Motion to Adjourn

Bob M, second by Bob A.