

Minutes

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Electronic Participation at 1:30pm

Attendance:

Bob Asham, David Best, Diane Foster, Matthew Goodman, Bob Mahony, David Reed, Michelle Sanders, Kate Wiley

Absent:

Jennifer Taylor, Abby Green, Barb Legg

Staff Liaison:

Megan Detlor – Human Resources Consultant, Accessibility

1. Call meeting to order (Chair)

1:40pm – Bob Mahony

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

Megan Detlor acknowledged that the land on which the Accessibility Advisory Committee meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

3. Amendments to the Agenda

Added: discussion about status of work plan items

4. Motion to approve the agenda

Bob Asham, Seconded: Diane Foster

That the October 28, 2020 agenda of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting

Michelle Sanders, Seconded: Matthew Goodman

That the September 30, 2020 Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried

6. Declarations of Interest - none

7. Presentations (invited guests)

Al Burrows – St. Catharines Transit

Lisa – St. Catharines resident

Issues: “MNOP” platforms, no difference in colours, contrast needed. Noisy with buses, tactile strips at each platform. Can these be investigated for changes? Al will bring them up to GM, were already looking at painting a yellow line at edge. Wording at 5 ft. Black and white contrast is good,

Were already planning on painting the strip wider along the whole edge of every platform. Looking at replacing signs, out for quote right now. Will send any samples.

David Reed – when transit commission makes changes like adding paint or signs, do you require accessibility assessment before selecting vendor? Yes, part of procurement process they go through.

8. Business arising from the minutes

Changes to FADS and work plan items

9. Business

a. 9.1 Kate – discuss a status on all other items. Would like on November meeting agenda

b. 9.2 Michelle – update on wayfinding meeting held Oct 27th

- i. What wayfinding means, knowledge of how to get around, assisting in finding your way in the moment of being there and before you get there.
- ii. Looking to create a digital accessible wayfinding resource leveraging existing City resources.
- iii. Must be WGAC 2.0 AA compliant
- iv. Next steps are fact finding and research within the city. What resources are available, what needs to be asked for, regroup with this info next month,

Motion – FADS changes from the September minutes as follows:

Section 4.2.7 Universal Washrooms

- That a lift and lift ceiling track be provided in all universal washrooms, that takes the user from the change table to the toilet within that universal washroom.
- That at least one universal washroom be provided in all public buildings and assembly buildings, in addition to any accessible public use or common use toilets regardless of the number of common or public use washroom facilities containing toilets.

Section 4.5.2 Outdoor Recreational Facilities - Playgrounds

- That a paved pathway (made of hard, smooth materials that do not separate under pressure) connect playgrounds to the main sidewalk and/or parking lot and/or main access area for that play space, thereby creating an accessible route.
- An accessible swing be provided.
- A minimum of three 'at grade' play components be provided, where manageable more is encouraged.
- That partially ramped portions of playground structures be incorporated in the design of the play space to foster and encourage inclusion in play.

Moved by: Michelle Sanders, Seconded: Bob Asham

Carried

Bob not prepared to discuss recognition program today and would like to leave it to next meeting.

David Reed – Update on Glenridge at Westchester

- Niagara Region recently received the permit required from the MTO to complete the works.
- The contractor requested locates and plans to start once the utilities have been confirmed out on-site.
- Illumination, traffic signal works and sidewalk work to be started with work to continue over the winter months until completion.

David Reed – Report on Council decision about Condos in Port Dalhousie:

This development was built with undersized parking spaces in the basement, and one undersized accessible space outside the building, which is not how this was shown on the original set of review drawings. A subsequent “minor variance” was granted by the Committee of Adjustment to leave these spaces as built. A resident brought concerns about the review process to Council, who granted his request to have an external reviewer look at Staff procedures on reviewing documentation from developers when this documentation changes or is revised.

This leads to the following AAC review concerns.

David Reed - Issues with Site Plans:

- Site Plans come to AAC from Planning, and AAC makes comments by email. Can AAC please see the summary comments sent to the developer and any responses and re-submissions up to the point of allowing the development to proceed.
- The issuing of a building permit is usually contingent on the various professionals signing a “Confirmation of Commitment” to carry out inspections during construction and to write a report to the City confirming the work was completed to the terms of the permit. The same procedure does not seem to happen for the work around the building, covered by the Site Plan. Why is it not possible to require a similar commitment from the architect confirming that sidewalks, curb ramps, parking spaces, grades etc. have been constructed per the Site Plan agreement?
- Can AAC please have a .pdf copy of the current St. Catharines “Site Plan Manual”.

Matthew- would like to invite someone from JAAC or Donna to speak to us about their certification program, and reminder to follow up with Al and Lisa

Members expressed concerns about the accessibility aspects of the imminent revamp of the City website. We will invite a communications representative to a future meeting – preferably November – to discuss the website development process.

Get update from CRCS on carousel, have they ever looked at accessibility features. Megan Detlor and Christine Adams (Staff) to discuss.

10. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

11. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Diane, Seconded by Matthew

Carried