

November Minutes

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Online Participation at 1:30pm

Attendance:

Diane Foster, Michelle Sanders, Matthew Goodman, David Reed, David Best, Jennifer Taylor, Barb Legg, Kate Wiley.

Absent:

Bob Asham

Staff Liaison:

Megan Detlor – Human Resources Consultant, Accessibility

1. Call meeting to order (Chair)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm (Diane Foster)

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

Barb Legg 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 with Donna Herrington

Deleted: speak with representative from Communications team

4. Motion to approve the agenda

David Reed, Seconded: Kate Wiley

That the November 25, 2020 agenda of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting

Michelle Sanders, Seconded: Kate Wiley

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

Carried

6. Declarations of Interest - none

7. Presentations (invited guests)

Steve Bittner – briefly discussed the Transportation Master Plan with committee and also idea of representative meeting with us on occasion to keep Transportation Committee informed of AAC developments

8. Business arising from the minutes

David Reed – suggestion around recognition item, will be visiting downtown a lot and viewing businesses, could be in position to recommend.

Rick Hansen Application

General concern that inspectors who do certification only look for physical environment for those with mobility issues and not a fulsome review of accessibility for all (i.e. vision or sensory etc).

Suggestion to include museum in application, Russel Av. Seymour Hannah or an arena. Lake St. Service Centre. Application due end of November. Will follow up with committee in January or when we hear about acceptance.

A tender going out shortly for washrooms at Downtown terminal. There are some concerns about AAC being included in process at the right time. Would like to see proposed layout before tender. Project is a retrofit.

Update on Glenridge and Westchester – project is moving forward, contractor was looking at it this week, construction started. Reviewed a drawing this morning and looks appropriate. Maybe not done before winter. Signals will have audio. Question for follow up: Do random audible signals help or would you not need them all to be audible to help someone needing them.

David best indicated some are better than none.

Staff to investigate and report back to committee on process of retrofitting a traffic signal. Does a request help the process move along?

Wayfinding group – met with an Economic Development team member and the Mayor regarding the St. Catharines tourism website. Altering the website for low budget changes. Looking at “things to do” tab – and possibly include an accessible experiences tab within. Identify places that are accessible. On the tab it tells you what accessible features are there. i.e. entrance and exit. Would like it to work along other wayfinding apps. Help understand information about the place while visiting; must be AODA compliant and integrated with website. Looking to put together criteria, would like to focus on city wide and not just downtown core.

Updates on FADS – did vote to move the recommendations to Council, with some minor amendments. Will go to Council in minutes in January.

Happy Rolfe’s special meeting- discussed availability of members and that Staff Liaison will send out an invite to members and other staff who need to be included.

Membership vacancies – 3: will be putting out application to the public, We will vote on a new Chair in January.

Kate – any update on the Carousel, can we get this for January.

Christine Adams – 2021 capital budget making its way through approvals. Focus from Councilors on trail improvements and transportation

Michelle – capital budget – washroom update at City Hall, will be accessible, just at preliminary stages. Investigating self-cleaning washroom. Will be Mike and Vince overseeing.

Public meeting for TMP – next Thursday December 3rd. Have invited Chairs on December 7th. Link to be sent to committee to participate in meeting.

Sidewalk and snow clearing – person from Municipal Works to attend Transportation meeting

9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

10. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Jennifer Taylor, Seconded by: David Reed

Carried