

City of St. Catharines

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility (MACOA) MINUTES, Wednesday, January 23, 2013

A meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility was held on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 in Committee Room #1 at City Hall at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor McMullan
Diane Foster, Co-chairperson
Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Bob Asham
Ian Crawford
Steve Kurtic-Lentinello
Linda Marie O'Hagan
Mary Jane Waszynski

Regrets: Councillor Matthew Harris
Chantal Barrette
Tony DiPaola
Julie Morris
David Reed

Staff: Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, Corporate Support Services
Sam Carrera, Building Plans Examiner, Planning & Development Services

Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS):

The FADS guideline was approved by the Region of Niagara in September 2005 and adopted by the City of St. Catharines Council on April 24, 2006 for use in municipal facilities.

1. Call to order:

Shelley Stewart, co-chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Introductions:

New member Steve Kurtic- Lentinello was welcomed to MACOA. Everyone was welcomed and round table introductions were made.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility for October 24, 2012 and November 28, 2012 were approved.

That the minutes of October 24, 2012 be approved.

Motion by: Diane Foster

Seconded by: Bob Asham

CARRIED

That the minutes of November 28, 2012 be approved.

Motion by: Diane Foster

Seconded by: Mary Jane Waszynski

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from Minutes:

a. Accessibility Plan / AODA:

The draft 2013-2015 Accessibility Plan was reviewed and several suggestions were made that will be included in the final document. Diana Lecinski noted the addition of more staff reps to ensure more direct communication between key areas relating to accessibility. Mary Jane Waszynski asked that contacts be named for Transit and the Library as well.

When discussing the Transit section of the Accessibility Plan members continued to flag a concern that audio announcements are not always turned on, on in-service buses, as they should be. The Mayor noted that he would discuss this with Transit. It was suggested that anyone who finds this situation when travelling on a bus should notify Transit of the bus number, route and time so it can be addressed immediately.

The long-term Accessibility Plan is scheduled for the February 11th Council meeting. After discussion regarding the Plan and its presentation to Council, the membership decided that it will be presented by Diane Foster, Bob Asham and Steve K-Lentinello. Diana Lecinski will work with the presenters on their pieces and the message that MACOA wants to put forward at the Council presentation.

Moved by: Bob Asham
Seconded by: Diane Foster

That the 3-year, 2013-2015 Accessibility Plan be endorsed and presented to Council at its meeting of February 11, 2013.

CARRIED

b. AODA Standards and amendments:

The long-pending Accessible Built Environment Standard has recently had its external elements rolled into an existing Standard (as noted below) and its technical interior elements put forward for public consultation as proposed changes/additions to a future updated Ontario Building Code (OBC).

The Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulations was recently amended by O. Reg. 413/12 for the addition of Public and Outdoor Spaces. This amendment addresses areas such as parks, trails, beach access, boardwalks, exterior ramps and paths of travel, picnic areas, play spaces, pedestrian signal, accessible parking, service counters, queues and waiting areas. Staff noted that this amendment has already been circulated to key staff and a meeting to review requirements and discuss implementation on or before deadlines will be arranged shortly.

A discussion regarding technical elements under the OBC was led by Sam Carrera, Senior Plans Examiner and MACOA staff rep. He provided an overview of the proposed changes. As MACOA members have various disabilities and opinions on barriers it was suggested that they provide feedback to this OBC consultation as individuals. As the City is also in favour of improved accessibility and clarity of application, MACOA suggested that a letter of overall support for the proposed changes be sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The Mayor offered to forward MACOA's support on his letterhead. Diana Lecinski will circulate a link to MACOA for

the OBC public consultation for proposed accessibility additions.

Moved by: Linda Marie O'Hagan
Seconded by: Diane Foster

That MACOA provide a letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in support of improved accessibility requirements to a future Ontario Building Code.

CARRIED

5. New Business:

a. Spectator Facility:

MACOA reps met with staff and the spectator facility design team on January 9 and 16 to discuss exterior and interior design and accessibility. The meetings were productive and certainly addressed many areas of accessible design. Several areas were discussed that deviated from FADS slightly but addressed a greater good in doing so. MACOA provided a list of suggestions and requirements and also passed a motion to support its position regarding several FADS elements being the listening assistive devices and a small change in grading at a re-located position of several accessible parking spaces.

Moved by: Diane Foster
Seconded by: Bob Asham

That the spectator facility be designed to FADS except for the following elements to allow consideration of safety and greater good;

1. A portion of the accessible parking be moved out of the middle of the parking lot (farthest spaces) and placed closer to the building to allow pedestrians with disabilities to directly access the sidewalk adjacent to the building despite the area having a 3% slope instead of FADS preferred 1.5% slope.
2. The number of listening assistive devices be reduce to an initial number of 16, but allow more to added to meet FADS if the need is demonstrated once use has begun.

It was suggested that the sidewalk adjacent to the building (between Maguire Street and the main spectator facility entrance) have areas of level relief as demonstrated in the FADS illustration 4.1.9.1.

CARRIED

b. MACOA elections

Shelley Stewart called for a motion to pass the chair to staff in order to hold MACOA's annual election.

Moved by: Diane Foster
Seconded by: Steve K-Lentinello

That the chair be passed to Diana Lecinski in order to hold MACOA's annual election.

CARRIED

Diana Lecinski thanked Shelley Stewart and Diane Foster for their 2012 dedication to MACOA as co-chairs. This recognition was echoed by the members.

Accessibility staff then reviewed the role of members and of the chairs. MACOA continues to prefer having 2 co-chairpersons instead of a chair and vice-chair.

Further to its advisory role to Council, it was restated that the role of MACOA in the community are as ambassadors, and members are encouraged to distribute FADS or suggest that businesses visit City Hall or other facilities that demonstrate good examples of access. MACOA was reminded that despite a building being inaccessible it is almost assured that it is building code compliant. Accessibility staff often sends out copies of FADS and/or information on the AODA to assist community businesses or stakeholders recognizes the requirements and benefits of becoming accessible.

Diana Lecinski outlined the nomination process and then called for a nomination for the co-chairperson.

Moved by: Bob Asham
Seconded by: Steve K-Lentinello

That Shelley Stewart be nominated as co-chairperson for MACOA.

CARRIED

Shelley Stewart accepted the nomination.

Moved by: Mary Jane Waszynski
Seconded by: Shelley Stewart

That Diane Foster be nominated as co-chairperson for MACOA.

CARRIED

Diane Foster accepted the nomination.

No further nominations were received. Based on the nominations received and the acceptance of these nominations Shelley Stewart and Diane Foster were re-elected as MACOA's co-chairpersons for a term of one year. The chair was returned to Shelley Stewart.

6. Updates:

a. Site Plan Review:

Refer to 5.a) New Business regarding future spectator facility.

b. DDRC:

Julie Morris sent a request that a new MACOA rep be appointed to DDRC and Bob Asham offered to assume this non-voting DDRC role in order that the DDRC better recognizes accessibility in its undertakings. Julie Morris will forward material to Bob Asham and staff will notify PDS staff of this change and for future meeting notification. Thank you to Bob.

7. Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in Committee Room #1.

MACOA was informed that the redesigned Performing Arts Centre and its design team will attend this meeting. There will also be an update regarding procedural changes to enforcement of accessible parking spaces.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility adjourned.

Moved by: Linda Marie O'Hagan
Seconded by: Bob Asham

That this meeting do now adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

CARRIED