

City of St. Catharines

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility (MACOA) MINUTES, Wednesday, February 27, 2013

A meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility was held on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 in Committee Room #1 at City Hall at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Matthew Harris
Diane Foster, Co-chairperson
Shelley Stewart, Co-chairperson
Bob Asham
Chantal Barrette (until 2:30 p.m.)
Ian Crawford
Steve Kurtic-Lentinello
Julie Morris
David Reed
Linda Marie O'Hagan
Mary Jane Waszynski (from 2:15 p.m.)

Regrets: Tony DiPaola

Staff: Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, CSS
Christine Adams, Manager of Engineering and Construction, TES
Vincent Covatta, Project Supervisor, TES
Steve Solski, Executive Director, Performing Arts Centre
Rick Lane, Director of RCS

Guests: Michael Treacy, Diamond and Schmitt Architects Inc.
Kristin Speth, Diamond and Schmitt Architects Inc.
Bob Topping, Designable Environments Inc.

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:

Diane Foster, co-chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Introductions:

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 January 23, 2013 were approved.

That the minutes of January 23, 2012 be approved.

Motion by: Linda Marie O'Hagan

Seconded by: Bob Asham

CARRIED

4. Presentations/Discussions:

a. Performing Arts Centre (PAC)

Steve Solski provided a backgrounder and process update of the revised PAC designs. There was a significant budget difference and the redesign has been rescaled but retained accessible elements. Michael Treacy provided a detailed overview of the renewed concepts noting it was specific to the building and not outdoor spaces. Several questions were asked regarding access elements such as accessible seating, listening assistive devices, railings, way-finding, etc. all of which were discussed and confirmed. Michael Treacy indicated that a signage consultant would be brought in a later stage as clear signage and way-finding was flagged by MACOA. It was noted that the architects had again retained Designable Environments to make an access audit review of the latest design using FADS criteria. Bob Topping provided a report and noted that the audit reflected compliance in the public and back of house areas. The complete audit was distributed to MACOA and discussed. More detailed plans will be distributed to MACOA for review and via site plan review.

Diane Foster thanked all representatives of the PAC design team for their dedication to accessibility and looked forward to further opportunity for input.

b. Dunlop Seniors Centre

Vince Covatta provided an overview of the various washroom and doorway renovations planned for the Dunlop Seniors Centre. Large scale plans were available around the meeting table and projected on the Smart Board. Each part of the renovation was reviewed and several suggestions were put forward; the individual family washroom should have the counter turned 90 degrees and the door moved closer to the outside wall, all soap dispensers should be reachable beside the sink, not behind. All washroom and entrance doors should have PDO's. Consideration will also be given to auto-sliding main entrance doors however clearances, budget and building compliance will need to be checked. MACOA noted that they have identified senior recreations centres as a priority for access improvements and are pleased to see access renovations and updates being made to this facility. It was noted that the parking lot was newly renovated in 2011, including new lighting, a larger footprint that revitalized the front entrance, proper accessible parking spaces and new asphalt.

Diane Foster thanked Vince Covatta for reviewing the plans and recognizing the suggestions put forward.

c. Accessible Parking Permit (APP) procedures

Tracey Miller gave MACOA a copy of the hand-out that would accompany warnings and tickets to vehicles incorrectly parked in accessible parking spaces. It has been a growing concern that APP's are not being used or displayed properly and this notification will help support proper use and display. This will help ensure that accessible parking is available to valid APP holders. The hand-out will also be emailed. Members supported this approach and procedure and thanked Tracey Miller for Parking Enforcement's commitment to productive use of accessible parking in the City.

d. Rick Lane, Director of RCS briefly came to MACOA's meeting to provide an update on the Spectator Facility design. He noted that amended designs would be coming forward to MACOA shortly and that previous suggestions had been acted upon.

5. Business Arising from Minutes:

a. Accessibility Plan / AODA:

The draft 2013-2015 Accessibility Plan was presented to and approved by Council on February 11th. Thank you to Diane Foster, Bob Asham and Steve Kurtic-Lentinello for their presentations. This was MACOA's first presentation from the podium and the adjustability of the podium was well demonstrated along with other recent access renovations to Council Chambers. The new long-term Accessibility Plan was distributed to members and it has been posted on the City's website, corporate accessibility page. It has also been sent to the Accessibility Directorate's Office.

Diana Lecinski will follow-up with staff reps and departments on the Plan and its objectives. Plans were also distributed to the Library and Transit.

6. Updates:

- a. Site Plan Review: On-going.
- b. DDRC: Bob Asham provided a brief update on access with the DDRC. Diane Foster thanked Julie Morris for her previous dedication as MACOA's DDRC rep.
- c. Other: Linda-Marie O'Hagan noted that she had been contacted by the Region of Niagara regarding her appointment to their AAC going forward to Regional Council. MACOA noted that they have long advocated to have a St. Catharines rep on the AAC as a liaison and were pleased to see this moving forward.

7. Next Meeting:

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

8. Adjournment:

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

Moved by: Julie Morris

Seconded by: Bob Asham

That this meeting do now adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

CARRIED