

# **City of St. Catharines**

## **Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility (MACOA) MINUTES, Wednesday, March 27, 2013**

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

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

Regrets: Councillor Matthew Harris  
Chantal Barrette  
Tony DiPaola

Staff: Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, CSS  
Steve Bittner, Transportation Technologist, TES

Guests: Ashley Short, Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara  
Chantelle Keay, Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara

### **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:**

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 February 27, 2013 were approved.

That the minutes of February 27, 2012 be approved.

Motion by: Diane Foster

Seconded by: Julie Morris

CARRIED

**4. Presentations/Discussions:**

a. Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara (LDAN); Ashley Short and Chantelle Keay

Representatives of LDAN provided an in-depth review of what a learning disability is and what supports are offered throughout Niagara by their organization. Their office is located at 366 St. Paul Street however much of their support programming is offered through both boards at various school locations. Their website is [www.ldaniagara.org](http://www.ldaniagara.org). They would appreciate MACOA members promoting LDAN with their colleagues and staff suggested that the presenters send an email of LDAN information for staff to send to MACOA members for sharing.

## **5. Business Arising from Minutes:**

### **a) Accessibility Plan / AODA:**

Updating the City's corporate accessibility webpage:

Diana Lecinski noted that the City's accessibility webpage will be updated. She reviewed pertinent information that should be included and asked for any further suggestions from MACOA. Members were asked to visit the webpage and provide feedback.

Reminding staff of accessible information and communication:

The December 2012 staff newsletter included a comprehensive article that reviewed and reminded all staff to create accessible documents, update PC defaults to Arial 12 as a minimum and included links to the Guide to Accessible Information and Communication used for staff training in 2011.

Corporate AODA training in 2013:

Comprehensive staff access training scheduled for later 2013 will include a review of the above-noted guide and accessible customer service objectives, along with current AODA training requirements (e.g. Ontario Human Rights Code awareness). A session has been arranged in April with key staff from TES and RCS to promote understanding and awareness of the new Design of Public Spaces Standard, the latest amendment to the Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation.

Provincial Forum hosted by the ADO in Burlington:

Staff circulated information regarding a Provincial AODA forum being held in several locations throughout Ontario. Burlington on May 9<sup>th</sup> is the closest location for this all-day focus with municipal Accessibility Advisory Committees (AAC's). Space is limited and Diana Lecinski will circulate registration information and arrange transportation if needed. Most members were interested in attending.

### **b) New Hospital Access Tour**

An accessibility focused tour was organized by hospital staff on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from Accessibility Advisory Committees throughout Niagara had an opportunity to receive a guided tour of the new hospital. During the initial presentation much concern was voiced regarding the NHS's new policy to charge for parking to APP permit holders throughout NHS sites.

Reps were reminded that the facility was built to Ontario Building Code compliance yet still has a number of accessible enhancements. Access reps noted concern that the accessible parking might not be to the City's zoning standards and Steve Bittner confirmed that he would make a site visit and evaluate this compliance. Any notations made during the tour are items of suggestion to improve accessibility for people with a disability. MACOA asked Diana Lecinski to canvass the other municipal access reps for interest in compiling a group response. Staff noted that MACOA is advisory to Council and that the noted suggestions should be provided to Council first.

Moved by: Diane Foster  
Seconded by: Mary Jane Waszynski

That MACOA's access advice with respect to the new hospital in St. Catharines be consolidated into a letter regarding accessibility and submitted to Council through these Minutes for endorsement in order to forward to the Niagara Health Systems.

CARRIED

c) Spectator Facility Update:

Staff noted that the design team drawings are not quite ready to come back to MACOA for further input. This is likely to come forward at MACOA's April meeting, possibly before.

**6. Updates:**

a. Site Plan Review:

Site Plan Manual:

Britney Williamson of PDS was unable to attend however sent a status report on the new Site Plan Manual.

- The draft has been reviewed by Development Committee, as well as by Ian Crawford and David Reed on behalf of MACOA
- All revisions have been made, including more emphasis on accessibility as a standalone section and integrated throughout the document
- Common accessible standards like curb cuts, ramps and accessible parking, have been adopted as City standards
- Drawings for curb cuts and ramps, prepared by TES, are included in the manual as City standards
- The document has been created in an accessible format as per the City's policy

- Staff is working with Communications to translate the more technical aspects into plain language that's easy to understand.
- Edits include re-organizing the document so that it flows chronologically through the site plan process

Britney Williamson offered to attend the April meeting to provide further updates and expects to provide a more final layout by that time.

#### Performing Arts Centre (PAC):

Ian Crawford and David Reed reviewed the designs and provided feedback to the PAC team. Ian Crawford noted continued concern that the inner doors to the theatre will open by attendants only and only the outer doors have auto-openers. He also noted that the drawings did not seem to clearly depict the location of all PDO's. Diana Lecinski will forward these concerns to Steve Solski, PAC Director and Michael Treacy, Architect for response.

#### Zoning By-law update:

Staff suggested that MACOA members visit the City's homepage for a link to the draft and details on consolidating a comprehensive zoning by-law. Ellen Savoia of PDS will review this draft at an upcoming meeting.

b. DDRC: Bob Asham noted no meeting has taken place since his last update.

c. Other:

March of Dimes Breaking the Barrier Awards is May 29<sup>th</sup>. Members were asked to promote this event with their colleagues and consider nominations.

### **7. Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, April 24, 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: Steven K. Lentinello

That this meeting do now adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

**CARRIED**