

# Accessibility Advisory Committee

## Minutes

**Wednesday, March 24, 2021**

**Electronic Meeting at 1:30pm**

### **Attendance:**

Bob Asham, Diane Foster, David Reed, David Best, Barb Legg, Matthew Goodman, Kate Wiley, Jennifer Taylor.

### **Absent:**

Michelle Woods, Michelle Sanders, Jasmine Olah.

### **Guests:**

Vince Covatta – Project Supervisor, EFES

Bob Prince - Consultant

John Kukalis – Manager of Operations

Christine Adams – Manager of Engineering and Construction

Stuart Green – Landscape Architect

### **Staff Liaison:**

Megan Detlor – Human Resources Consultant, Accessibility

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#### **1. Call meeting to order (Chair)**

1:33 pm the meeting was called to order by Diane Foster

Barb Legg joined the meeting at 1:37pm

#### **2. Recognition of Traditional Territories**

Matthew Goodman 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: roundtable introduction

**4. Motion to approve the agenda**

Moved by: Matthew Goodman

Seconded by: Kate Wiley

That the March 24, 2021 agenda of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

**Carried**

**5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**

Moved by: David Reed

Seconded by: Bob Asham

That the February 24, 2021 minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

**Carried**

**6. Declarations of Interest – there were none**

**7. Presentations (invited guests)**

*Vince Covatta – Project Supervisor for the City of St. Catharines, and Bob Prince (Consultant), reviewed the washroom/changeroom upgrades at Merritton Centennial Arena. Adding an accessible washroom and accessible path of travel. Universal Washroom is in accordance with our FADS. The washroom includes a powered adult change table, transfer area and large turning radius.*

- *Discussion initiated by Diane about not everyone transferring from the same side. However, Bob Prince offered that the placement of the bar is a building code requirement.*
- *Recommendation to move the shelf out of the transfer area to a different wall.*
- *Discussed tactile surfaces and signage, will be done to City's standard with raised letters and braille*
- *Locking – recommendation to ensure there is a larger space between the “push to open” and “push to lock” buttons*
- *Ceiling Lift/track – was there any consideration for this? Vince confirmed that since the building is not staffed by City employees, we would not be looking at this option.*
- *Emergency call signal – will be a vertical strip, not button. When it is activated a light goes off.*
  - o *Concern about how sensitive it is, could a blind person activate without really knowing? Bob confirmed it need pressure to be applied to push, not just grazing to set it off.*
- *Changeroom door will comply with FADS*
- *Same feedback as given on washroom will be applied to changeroom*
- *Door handles horizontal and not vertical*
- *Overall, committee is satisfied with designs*

*John Kukalis – Manager of Operations joined for discussion at 2:38pm about snow removal*

- *Has been tackling roads in last year since he joined the City of St. Catharines. MW operations in general are reactive, responding based on callouts*
- *Under the Municipal Act there are minimum maintenance standards. City of St. Catharines follows to comply, while recognizing that minimum standards are usually not helpful to those with accessibility issues.*
- *Is there potential to partner with the region? City partners with region and does roads on behalf of region, sidewalks are also our jurisdiction*
- *John would like to hear from AAC about our priorities so we will meet further on topic and provide with more concrete feedback*
- *Also discussed process for issuing fines and enforcement process. What happens on the other end of process and people ask to be exempt or have it waived.*

*Stuart Green/Christine Adams – Montebello Park Play Structure*

- *Putting in a new structure. Looking to include 2 accessible swings, a number of ground level play elements, a ramped area, rubberized surface. Will update the committee once they have actually selected a vendor.*

#### **8. Business arising from the minutes**

- David Reed – intersection at Glenridge and Westchester repairs look great after repairs and updates.
- Megan to send thank you letter for Blindsquare presentation and copy committee members on email

#### **9. Business**

- a. **9.1 – 2020 Accessibility Plan update approved**  
Moved by: Matthew Goodman  
Seconded by: David Best

**Carried**

#### **10. Items of Correspondence**

Reviewed Memo to Equity and Inclusion committee.

Motion for this memorandum to be sent to the Equity and Inclusion Committee

Moved by: Matthew Goodman  
Seconded by: Kate Wiley

**Carried**

#### **11. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

**12. Motion to Adjourn**

Moved by: David Reed

Seconded by: Barb Legg

**Carried**