- MINUTES -
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
Tuesday, January 16, 2007
3:30 p.m. – Council Chambers
City Hall, 71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Sandi Bell, Patty Cameron, Anthony Haynes, Brian Lane, Aznive Mallett, Kim Nolan, Tim Nolan, Marie Pennacchietti, Robert Semkow, Mary Smithson, Marlene Thomas

Regrets: Darlene Burkett, Meg Metson, Kimberly Walker, Gay Walton

Also Present: Jane Lee, Maxine Carter, Carolyn Bish – Customer Service, Access & Equity Division, Corporate Services
Hart Solomon –

Additions to Agenda:
 i) Community Consultation on Transportation
 ii) Meeting with Mayor Eisenberger
 iii) New Year’s Eve Transportation Service

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None declared.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING:

(Pennacchietti/Lane)
That the minutes of the December 5, 2006 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be approved as circulated. CARRIED

3. CONSENT ITEMS:

3.1 Police Services Representative
ACPD agendas will be forwarded to Superintendent Michael Shea of the Hamilton Police Services.
Discussion on policy from HPS regarding police checks and assists to hospitals.
Staff to locate this documentation for distribution at February meeting.

3.2 Citizen Appointments
Tim Nolan advised that he had met with Clerk’s staff (Kevin Christenson, Rose Caterini and Mary Gallagher) regarding legislative assistance and support to the ACPD.
It was agreed that ACPD needs to be more specific regarding appointments to certain committees, i.e. whether appointments be from the advisory committee or a person with a disability from the community.

(KNolan/Pennacchietti)
That a letter be sent to the Selection Committee for citizen appointments to City agencies, boards and committees requesting that a position be made available to a representative from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities on the Hamilton Police Services Board, HECFI, City Housing Hamilton Corporation and Hamilton Conservation Authority. CARRIED.

3.3 ACPD Response to Initial Proposed Customer Service Standard
Tim Nolan advised that comments had been submitted to the Province. The Provincial Customer Service Standards Committee will reconvene to consider the comments and forward the Standard to the Minister.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 ACPD Draft Response re Canadian Committee for Development of Standards for Signs & Traffic Signals to Hart Solomon
Hart Solomon, Manager, Traffic Engineering & Operations, Public Works Department, attended to obtain further comments from committee members on the standards for pedestrian signals. Comments/questions that were received previously were distributed to members. Hart responded to the questions.

Further comments made by committee members included:
- choose tones that the majority of individuals can hear
- consult with other groups, i.e. CNIB, Canadian Hearing Association, Brain Injury Services of Hamilton
- voice activation vs. push button (concern with numerous languages required for voice activation)
- need for increased crossing time
- pushbuttons need to be place so people with wheelchairs can reach
- like the second countdown

To report problems with bad signals, call 905 546-4376. This is a direct line which is staffed Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You will reach an answering machine after hours.

Hart advised that the consultants will finalize the report and submit it to the Canadian Committee approximately April 2007.

Once this is in place, staff can address an outstanding recommendation from ACPD with respect to pedestrian signals being placed at all intersections over time. At that time, Hart will return to the committee for feedback on priority locations.
Tim Nolan suggested that the committee could perhaps form a working group to go through this process at that time.

4.2 ATS Performance Report – September 2006
Tim Nolan suggested that the committee wait to received the December 2006 report and then review the entire cycle.
On behalf of the committee, staff will request that ATS add the previous year’s comparator for the same time period.
Marie Pennacchietti raised the issue of subscription trips. This will be placed on the agenda of the Transportation Subcommittee.

**4.3 Citizens with Disabilities Ontario Survey on Accessible Housing**

Concern expressed by members on where we would obtain this information and why/who requires this information. It was agreed that members would respond individually. Marlene Thomas commented that she had already responded.

*(Semkow/KNolan)*

That Sandi Bell respond on behalf of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities to a request from Jerry Ford of Citizens with Disabilities – Ontario, regarding a survey on accessible housing, stating that the survey had been distributed to the members of the committee for their own personal response.

CARRIED.

**4.4 Follow-up – Administrative Assistance from Clerks Office**

Tim Nolan advised that he and Jane Lee met with Clerk’s Office staff, Kevin Christenson, Rose Caterini and Mary Gallagher to discuss the requirement for assistance with reporting to standing committees, referrals to staff and follow-up on outstanding issues. Mary has agreed to assist ACPD with making a presentation to Council through Committee of the Whole on this issue. Following discussion, the following motion was passed:

*(Bell/Thomas)*

a) That a letter be sent to the City Clerk requesting that a delegation and presentation from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities regarding the work of the advisory committee be added to a Committee of the Whole agenda.

b) That a working group be struck consisting of members of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, with assistance from Mary Gallagher of the Clerk’s Office, to prepare and present the presentation to Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED.
The following members agreed to be part of the working group to assist in the preparation and presentation to Committee of the Whole:
Aznive Mallett
Sandi Bell
Marlene Thomas
Kim Nolan
Tim Nolan
Marie Pennacchietti (if available)

4.5 Review of Questions for meeting with Planning Department re Site Plans
Kim Nolan distributed a copy of proposed questions to be used as a basis for submitting to Planning Department. Additional comments/questions to be forwarded to Carolyn Bish by January 23, 2007. Staff to forward questions to and invite staff from Planning & Economic Development and/or Public Works to the February meeting.

4.6 End of Term Presentation to Audit & Administration Committee
Deferred to February meeting.

4.7 Update – Transportation Standards Development Committee
Deferred to February meeting.

4.8 ATS Customer Survey
Deferred to February meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Community Consultation on Transportation
Tim Nolan advised that the DARTS contract with the City expires in June 2008. Staff will be issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the provision of accessible transportation services in the summer of 2008. As a result of a meeting between Tim Nolan, Jane Lee, Paul Thompson and Sandi Bell, ACPD and Transit (ATS) will form a partnership to conduct community consultation in the form of focus groups to discuss strengths and weaknesses of accessible transportation services, the results of which will be included in the RFP process.

(Bell/Thomas)

a) That, in the preparation of an RFP process, the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities appoint a working group of committee members to work with Accessible Transportation Services (ATS), Public Works Department, to establish 3 community based focus group meetings for the purpose of providing needs and requirements, strengths and weaknesses of accessible transportation services;

b) That the focus groups consist of a broad and diverse cross-section of users of the accessible transportation system;

c) That the information gathered as a result of the focus group meetings be used by ATS to assist in the development of a transportation services model which
would then be used in the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Delivery of Transportation Services. **CARRIED.**

The following ACPD members volunteered to form the working group:
- Sandi Bell
- Kim Nolan
- Aznive Mallett
- Marlene Thomas

**5.2 Meeting with Mayor Eisenberger**
Tim Nolan advised that he has a meeting with the Mayor scheduled for February 6, 2007, prior to the ACPD meeting. He wants to discuss the importance of getting our messages to Council and to engage the Councillors in discussion on issues.

**5.3 New Year’s Eve Transportation Service**
The committee was informed that HSR provided free bus service between 6:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. on New Year’s Eve. However, the same free service was not extended to DARTS clients. Following discussion the following motion was passed:

(Haynes/Pennacchietti)
The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities recommends to Council that where, at certain times or occasions, public transportation service is extended, at cost or no cost, to the general community (i.e. New Years Eve) that the same courtesy be provided to persons with disabilities using the specialized transit system. **CARRIED.**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**
On motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.