Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities
MINUTES
4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 10, 2008
Committee Room 207
Hamilton Convention Centre
One Summer’s Lane

Present:
Pat Cameron, Robert Helwig, Brian Lane, Dr. Tomas Manzuk, Kim Nolan, Tim Nolan, Robert Semkow, Mary Smithson, Marlene Thomas, Terri Wallis

Regrets:
Councillor Bernie Morelli
Sandi Bell, Darlene Burkett, Roger-Wayne Cameron, Fran Chesney, Sharon Derkach, Deborah Eker, Aznine Mallett, Elizabeth Wagner

Also Present:
Drina Omazic, Mayor’s Office
Jane Lee, Maxine Carter, Corporate Services
Bryan Shynal, Public Works
Marty Hazell, Planning and Economic Development
Mary-Ann Meyer, City Clerk’s Office

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:
The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)
The Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

Added as Item 6.7 is Accessibility in the City of Hamilton, Conservation Authorities, Royal Botanical Gardens and School Boards (ACPD08004) (City Wide)

Added as Item 6.8 is the Hamilton Municipal Seniors Citizen of the Year Award Event.

On a motion (B. Lane/K. Nolan), the agenda was approved as amended.
(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) MINUTES (Item 3)

(i) Minutes of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting held on May 13, 2008 (Item 3.1)

(B. Lane/R. Semkow)
That the minutes of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting held on May 13, 2008 be approved as presented. CARRIED

(d) SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES (Item 4)

(i) Transportation Sub-Committee (Item 4.1)

The Transportation Sub-Committee provided an update of their meeting on May 27, 2008. Jane Lee outlined the highlights of the minutes.

The Committee requested that the Clerk add a copy of the sub-committee minutes to the next agenda.

On a motion (T. Wallis/B. Lane), the Transportation Sub-Committee update was received.

(ii) Built Environment Subcommittee (Item 4.2)

The Built Environment Sub-Committee provided an update of their meeting on May 25, 2008. Maxine Carter outlined the highlights of the meeting.

The Sub-Committee spent the meeting finishing the terms of reference and working on a report on options for other meeting spaces.

On a motion (B. Lane/K. Nolan), the Sub-Committee update was received.

(e) PRESENTATIONS (Item 5)

(i) Snow Removal Update (Item 5.1)
The Committee welcomed Bryan Shynal, Operations and Maintenance, and Mary Hazell, Parking and By-Law Enforcement Services.

Marty Hazell advised Committee that, due to an operational review of by-law enforcement, the division is being set up into four teams: property standards, special enforcement, licensing and permits, and environmental officers. The environmental team will enforce snow clearing by-laws.

Marty Hazell further advised that a report will be going to Council in September to endorse a priority-based response time, so that Council can effectively allocate resources. He suggested that the Committee pass a motion to refer the Snow Removal report to the Operational Review Sub-Committee.

He also told Committee that a new position is being created to review the existing by-laws and amend them. Amendments affecting snow removal will be brought back to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities for comment prior to implementation.

Bryan Shynal advised that a report to Committee of the Whole is in progress, and the impact of by-law amendments respecting snow removal will be addressed in that report. Snow removal at HSR stops is currently being assessed and will also be addressed in the report. A copy of the report will be directed to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities for information.

Bryan Shynal further advised that a preliminary study examining the cost of making sidewalk clearing a city function has been done in Ward 1. A report is coming forward in the summer. Brian Lane requested a copy of this report.

(B. Lane/T. Wallis)

(a) That snow removal enforcement, as outlined in the Snow Removal Report (ACPD08004), which was referred to Public Works staff for a report back to Committee of the Whole, be given a high-level of prioritization when considering priority-based response times;

(b) That it is the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities’ hope that a revised by-law be implemented for the winter of 2008/2009;

(c) That changes to the by-law be done in consultation with the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities by October 2008.

CARRIED
Committee thanked Mr. Shynal and Mr. Hazell for their presentation. On a motion (T. Wallis/M. Thomas), the presentation was received.

(ii) Equity and Inclusion Policy (Item 5.2)

Maxine introduced Maureen Brown, the consultant that is helping develop the City Of Hamilton’s corporate Equity and Inclusion Policy. She advised that Ms. Brown would work through a questionnaire with Committee and then take some time for a free-flowing discussion.

Committee deferred the focus group until after the meeting adjourned, to be done as a separate meeting.

(f) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 6)

(i) Curb Cuts Report (Item 6.1)

This item was referred to the Built Environment Sub-Committee for a report back to Committee on July 8, 2008. Mary Smithson advised that she would like to report back to the individual that approached her as soon as possible. The Chair requested that the report be made a priority at the next Built Environment Sub-Committee meeting.

The Clerk was requested to add this item to the July meeting agenda.

(ii) HSR Fares for Attendants for Persons with Disabilities (Item 6.2)

Jane Lee advised that the Transportation Sub-Committee is still discussing this issue, and will be reporting back to ACPD with recommendation at a future date.

On a motion, (B. Lane/M. Thomas), the update was received and this item was referred to the Transportation Sub-Committee for further discussion.

(iii) Update: ATS Eligibility Criteria (Kim Nolan) (Item 6.3)

Kim Nolan provided an update on a meeting that the working group had last month with the ATS Consultants. The consultants will develop eligibility criteria with information provided by the group, and will be in touch via a conference call for next month.

On a motion (T. Manzuk/T. Wallis), the update was received.
(iv) Update: 2008 Inter-municipal Accessibility Symposium (Item 6.4)

Mary Smithson provided an update on the 2008 Inter-municipal Accessibility Symposium, which she attended on May 10, 2008 in Welland. The general theme was independence. A handout was distributed.

On a motion (K. Nolan/M. Thomas), the update was received.

(v) Update: UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (T. Nolan) (Item 6.5)

Tim Nolan provided an update on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which came into being on May 3, 2008. As twenty countries have ratified the Convention, it has the force of international law. On May 12, 2008, a special ceremony for the CRPD took place at the United Nations in New York.

The Clerk advised that formal declarations no longer take place at Council, in response to an e-mail discussion that took place between meetings.

Jane Lee told Committee that, if Committee is interested in ensuring that this information is brought up at Council, they can ask Councillor Morelli to bring it up. Committee directed Jane Lee to contact Councillor Morelli.

Marlene Thomas suggested that the Committee host an annual awards dinner to recognize disabled persons that are contributing to the community.

The Clerk was requested to add an awards topic to next agenda.

On a motion (B. Lane/B. Helwig), the update was received.

(vi) Physicians for Persons with Disabilities (Item 6.6)

This item was deferred to next meeting.
(vii) Accessibility in the City of Hamilton, Conservation Authorities, Royal Botanical Gardens and School Boards (ACPD08004) (City Wide) (Item 6.7)

The Clerk advised that the report had been amended to remove the recommendation that the City solicit knowledge respecting the recreational needs of persons with disabilities, as this was dealt with in a previous report.

On a motion (B. Lane/T. Wallis), the amended report was approved.

(viii) Hamilton Municipal Seniors Citizen of the Year Award Event (Item 6.8)

Tim Nolan advised that the Hamilton Municipal Senior Citizen of the Year Award event is being held on June 24, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. ACPD nominated Mary Smithson for the award, and was provided one free ticket. Additional tickets are $20. Tim asked interested members to e-mail Carolyn Bish by Friday.

Committee agreed that Sandi Bell should be given the free ticket, as she brought forward the nomination. Should she not be available, the free ticket should go to Marlene Thomas, as she helped Sandi compile the forms and background information.

(g) NEW BUSINESS (Item 7)

(i) Human Rights Commission Information Update

Brian Lane advised that he would like to provide committee with a verbal update on some changes to the Human Rights Commission that will take effect in December.

(ii) Rick Hanson Wheels in Motion

Terri Wallis provided an update on the Rick Hanson Wheels in Motion event, which took place on Sunday, June 8, 2008.

(h) ADJOURNMENT (Item 8)

(T. Wallis/B. Lane)
The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities adjourned at 5:40 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Tim Nolan, Chair  
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Mary-Ann Meyer  
Legislative Assistant  
June 10, 2008