1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Added requests by:

Maxine Carter, Access & Equity Coordinator to speak to Committee about (1) interviews with the consultant regarding the annual accessibility plan, and (2) an invitation to First Annual Disability Awareness Event from the Community Functionality Facilitation Inc. (Added as Item 4.5 and Item 4.6)

Kim Nolan regarding snow removal. Maxine Carter advised that the current Item 4.4 – Priorities List from the 2007 Accessibility Plan could be deferred to the February agenda so that Snow Removal could be dealt with today. (Snow Removal added as Item 4.4)

Committee approved the agenda as amended.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(T. Wallis/R. Cameron)
That the minutes of the ACPD meeting held on December 11, 2007 be approved as presented. CARRIED.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 D.A.R.T.S. – Advance Bookings

The Committee welcomed Charles Fitzsimmons from Accessible Transportation Services. Mr. Fitzsimmons advised that the background for this issue was a meeting he had with a long term care facility management team. Concern was expressed at that meeting that appointments with a specialist are made well in advance of the 7-day booking period allowed by D.A.R.T.S. Mr. Fitzsimmons advised that the current D.A.R.T.S. system does not allow for transportation bookings to be made prior to 7 days. The technical changes could be made and the committee’s input is sought about whether or not it should be done.

Member comments included:
- currently many clients don’t bother waiting to book D.A.R.T.S. and make other arrangements
- need to define “specialist”
- many clients on a waiting list with specialists and could get an appointment “tomorrow” in the event of a cancellation
- consider using advance bookings as a pilot project
- caution must be used to avoid creating a barrier for another group
- clients with on-going appointments need to be considered in the definition
- pilot project will require a long time period
- suggestion to poll clients for input (consider using 3rd party to conduct confidential poll)
- requirement for clear communication with clients

4.2 ATS Performance Report

Discussion on the September 2007 ATS Performance Report took place. It was suggested that questions on this report be dealt with by the ACPD Transportation Subcommittee. Chair Nolan requested that Charles Fitzsimmons take the lead on organizing a Transportation Subcommittee meeting for February. A list of ACPD members and their contact information who volunteered to sit on this subcommittee will be forwarded to Mr. Fitzsimmons.

Mr. Fitzsimmons informed the committee members that invitations will be sent out seeking assistance in helping test a new system.
Chair Nolan thanked Mr. Fitzsimmons for attending the meeting.

4.3 Nash Jackson – Renovations Update

Maxine Carter advised that she had received the Barrier Free Assessment for the Nash Jackson house and has received confirmation that where they can install accessible features, they will. Ms. Carter inquired if there are committee members interested in touring the facilities. Brian Lane, Elizabeth Wagner, Mary Smithson and Darlene Burkett indicated their interest in this tour. More information will be provided by Maxine Carter.

4.4 Snow Removal

The ongoing issue of snow removal was once more discussed by the Committee. Members commented that the streets, sidewalks, ramps, areas for the back doors of buses and not being adequately cleared or only cleared with a shovel width. The current complaint system is not working. The by-law is not being enforced. The Snow Angel program is ineffective. It was also commented on that this issue comes up every year and a long term solution needs to be made.

(B. Lane/T. Manzuk)
Pending recommendations from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities for change in the current bylaw respecting snow removal, that Council for the City of Hamilton direct staff to immediately respond upon receiving notification from a person with a disability regarding a snow removal issue. CARRIED.

(B. Lane/T. Manzuk)
That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities compile a report to Council outlining their snow removal issues, concerns and recommendations for change. CARRIED.

Tom Manzuk volunteered to draft the report to Council for the Committee’s consideration.

4.5 Consultant Interviews Regarding Annual Accessibility Plan Resources

No discussion.

4.6 Invitation from Community Functionality Facilitation Inc.

Maxine Carter informed the committee that an invitation to the First Annual Disability Awareness Event was received from Community Functionality Facilitation Inc.

(B. Lane/S. Derkach)
That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities authorize 2 committee members to attend the First Annual Disability Awareness Event hosted by Community Functionality Facilitation Inc. on Saturday, January 26, 2008.

CARRIED.

Darlene Burkett and Kim Nolan expressed an interest in attending.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Meeting Location

Discussion took place regarding the inaccessibility of Room 207. The elevator is too dark and the buttons are too high. The room is too far from the exit for a quick evacuation. Difficulty for those with manually-operated mobility devices to get to the room due to the carpet on the floor and distance to the room.

(T. Manzuk/S. Derkach)
The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities respectfully requests:

a) That staff investigate alternate meeting places more accessible to those with mobility devices and include other accessibility features such as a sound system, and

b) That Council be informed of the lack of accessibility to temporary meetings rooms used to conduct business by the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities and lack of accessibility to other city business taking place in the Hamilton Convention Centre; and

c) That Council be requested to assign the necessary resources required to improve accessibility. CARRIED.

Staff and committee members to bring suggestions for alternate meeting space to the February meeting.

6. BUSINESS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

(a) Hamilton Conservation Authority

(b) City of Hamilton Confidentiality Policy

(c) Curb Cuts
   (i) M. Smithson to provide location of problematic location and sample of a good location for inclusion on February agenda

   (ii) Issue as a whole at a future meeting.
(d) Sky Pilot Presentation (A. Mallett) (outline to be provided for inclusion on February agenda)

(e) Crossing In Front of Limeridge Mall
Roger Cameron advised that this issue has been resolved. Item will be removed from the agenda.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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