Present: Darlene Burkett, Pat Cameron, Janice Ferguson, Anthony Haynes, Brian Lane, Aznive Mallett, Kim Nolan, Tim Nolan, Robert Semkow, Carol Sheppard, Mary Smithson, Marlene Thomas, Gay Walton

Regrets: Sandi Bell, Meg Metson, Marie Pennacchietti, Kimberly Walker

Also Present: Maxine Carter, Jane Lee, Carolyn Bish – Customer Service, Access & Equity Division, Corporate Services
Ron Gallo – Public Works
Cynthia Graham – Public Works
Darlene Broderick, Joanne Leung – Planning & Economic Development

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 7, 2006

(KNolan/Cameron)
That the minutes of the March 7, 2006 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be approved as circulated. CARRIED.

Brian Lane informed the Committee of an incident in Toronto where high winds damaged a sign injuring 3 people and asked that this be brought to the attention of the Building & Licensing Division.
http://www.pulse24.com/News/Top_Story/20060315-014/page.asp

3. PRESENTATION

3.1 Ron Gallo, Public Works Department re Roundabouts

The Committee welcomed Ron Gallo, Supervisor of Signals & Systems, who attended to hear comments regarding roundabouts. Ron advised that currently there is only 1 roundabout in Hamilton, located at the intersection of Wilson
Street West at Meadowbrook Drive & Hamilton Drive in Ancaster. The focus is on safety and roundabouts are designed to slow traffic down. Pedestrians cross in advance of entry into roundabout and therefore have to deal with traffic from only one direction. Public Works is currently conducting research and feasibility studies for different areas of the city.

Concerns/questions from the committee included:
- need for signals to assist pedestrians with visual and hearing disabilities
- are more roundabouts being built and what are the locations
- are bicycles allowed in a roundabout
- traffic circles at Kenilworth and Queenston
- perhaps obtain drawing to see locations of pedestrian crossings

Members are to bring any further questions / concerns to May meeting.

3.2 Cynthia Graham, Public Works Department
Darlene Broderick, Joanne Leung, Planning & Economic Development Department

The Committee welcomed Cynthia Graham, Darlene Broderick and Joanne Leung. Cynthia commented that Public Works has prepared a draft response to address concerns expressed in a report from ACPD (June 2005) regarding urban Braille. This response addresses the financial implications of ACPD’s concerns and is scheduled to appear on the Public Works, Infrastructure & Environment Committee (PWIE) agenda of April 24, 2006 and on Council’s agenda on April 26, 2006.

A second report from Planning & Economic Development will address location. Darlene commented that they are currently doing an inventory analysis and interviewing stakeholders to determine the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the present system.

Comments from the committee included:
- plan should be developed to achieve City-wide urban Braille by 2025
- use of consistent size lettering & location of signs
- issue being discussed at Provincial Development Standards Committees

4. CONSENT ITEMS (for information only):

4.1 Minutes of Transportation Subcommittee – March 14, 2006

Clarification on Item 5 – Subscription Trip Policy provided. Minutes of Transportation Subcommittee of March 14, 2006 were received.

4.2 Minutes of Customer Service Subcommittee – March 22, 2006

Minutes of Customer Service Subcommittee of March 22, 2006 were received.
4.3 ACPD Finances – January 1 to March 31, 2006

Jane Lee advised that she expects that the budget will be approved by next month. It was suggested that the Committee develop a policy regarding expenses to be covered by budget. Jane advised that the use of the $800 reserve must be approved by Council. Members to come up with some ideas for use of the reserve.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Update – Renovation of Ancaster Library / Municipal Service Centre

Maxine Carter provided an update. After discussion, the Chair suggested that this issue be placed on the agenda of the Built Environment Subcommittee.

5.2 Update – Working Group re November 18, 2005 letter from Hamilton Police Service Board re Police Clearances Release of Information

No update provided – meeting could not be arranged. Deferred to May agenda.

5.3 Update – Transportation Standards Development Committee

Tim Nolan provided an update on the AODA Transportation Standards Development Committee. Goal is to have transportation standards for Ontario by spring 2007.

5.4 Teleconferencing

Item deferred and to be combined with Item 4.3 – ACPD Finances.

5.5 Coalition of Ontario Accessibility Advisory Committees

See Item 6.1.

5.6 ATS Performance Report – December 2005

Committee comments/questions to be forwarded to Paul Thompson for a response. Next performance report due in May (for quarter ending April 30, 2006).

5.7 Crosswalk Signals Update

Jane Lee provided an update on a meeting she and Maxine Carter had with Hart Solomon and Ron Gallo. Hart & Ron were presented with a copy of the motion passed at the March 7, 2006 ACPD meeting regarding signals at crosswalks. Staff to draft a report to Council on this issue.
6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Human Rights Reform Action Kit

The Committee discussed the proposed amendments to the Ontario Human Rights Code by the Ontario Government. The following motion was passed.

(Lane/Thomas)
That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities for the City of Hamilton send a letter to the Province of Ontario supporting the position of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance, in their letter to the Province dated February 27, 2006. CARRIED.

It was also suggested that letters be sent individually. The proposed changes will make it impossible for anyone with low income to access the Human Rights complaint process. There are multiple issues. The Committee suggested that individual letters could address some of these issues, and encouraged members to send their own letters. Upon further discussion, the following motion was passed.

(Lane/Mallett)
That a copy of the letter from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities for the City of Hamilton to the Province of Ontario regarding the proposed amendments to the Ontario Human Rights Code be provided to Council for the City of Hamilton; and

That Council be requested to support the position of the ACPD and the position of the AODA Alliance as contained in their letter to the Province of February 27, 2006. CARRIED.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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