Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

MINUTES

4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 14, 2009
Committee Room 207
Hamilton Convention Centre
One Summer’s Lane

Present:  
T. Nolan (Chair)  
Councillor B. Morelli  
D. Burkett, F. Chesney, B. Helwig, B. Lane, A. Mallett, T. Manzuk, K. Nolan, R. Semkow, M. Smithson, T. Wallis

Absent with Regrets:  
P. Cameron, R. Cameron, S. Derkach

Also Present:  
E. Lee, Mayor’s Office  
J. Lee, M. Carter, Customer Service, Access & Equity  
M. Meyer, City Clerk’s Office

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

(a)  CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk announced the following changes to the agenda:

Item 5.1(a), the Built Environment Subcommittee Report from June 19th, will be a verbal report rather than written.

Deleted from the agenda is Item 5.1(b), Minutes of the May 22nd Built Environment Subcommittee meeting, as those minutes have not yet been approved.

Also deleted from the agenda is Item 5.2(a), report from the Transportation Subcommittee meeting held on June 23, 2009, as that meeting was cancelled and a workshop held instead.
Several items of correspondence have been distributed and will be addressed under “New Business”.

On a motion (T. Wallis/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 June 9, 2009 (Item 3.1)

(B. Helwig/B. Semkow)

That the minutes of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting held on June 9, 2009 be approved.

CARRIED

(e) SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES (Item 5)

(i) Built Environment Sub-Committee (Item 5.1)

A. Recommendations/Reports for Approval from the meeting held on June 19, 2009 (Item 5.1(a))

Darlene Burkett provided a verbal report. She advised that, among other things, the subcommittee is working on the model and design for the HSR transit terminal on MacNab Street.

Mary Smithson advised that she has had difficulty getting onto city buses with her walker. She asked the driver to deploy the front ramp, but bus #97 doesn’t have a front ramp.

Fran Chesney advised that one of the issues outstanding with MacNab Street Terminal was the bus curb elevations.

On a motion (K. Nolan/A. Mallett), the update was received.
(ii) Transportation Sub-Committee (Item 5.2)

A. Minutes of the meeting held on May 26, 2009 (Item 5.2(b))

(B. Semkow/T. Wallis)
That the minutes of the Transportation Sub-Committee meeting held on May 26, 2009 be received.

CARRIED

(f) 2009 Accessibility Plan and Consultations (Item 6.1)

Maxine Carter, Access and Equity Coordinator, advised that she is putting together the 2009-2010 Accessibility Plan. She wanted the Committee to consider the following items identified by Committee members in previous meetings:

- The process for determining what items are dealt with at the subcommittee level and what items are dealt with at the committee level.
- Priorities for the coming year.
- Additional subcommittees – how to manage more subcommittees and what they would be.

Maxine Carter advised that she has been updating all of the consultations and will mail a package to Committee for review. She will mail the plan that pertains to the whole organization and will e-mail the portion pertinent to each subcommittee.

Some discussion ensued, including but not limited to the following:

- The role of ACPD is to monitor and support City Departments with respect to the accessibility plan.
- Each department could make a presentation to ACPD once a year on their part of the accessibility plan. This would help ACPD get involved at an earlier stage and would allow ACPD to ask what barriers the departments are facing and what type of advice they need in order to move the item along.
- What accountability do departments have to ensure completion of their projects within the accessibility plan; what role does ACPD have in ensuring those are being completed; and what role is Council playing in ensuring completion of accessibility plans?
- It is important to consider the way in which the Committee works with staff.
- It would be beneficial to have Council’s blessing.
- Would like departments to inform ACPD of the priority of the project and the status of the project.
• Could categorize the departments’ priorities by sub-committee and the subcommittees could work with staff on those items.
• Councillor Morelli suggested that he and the Chair of ACPD meet with the City Manager to discuss having accessibility added as part of the triple bottom line report checklist for staff. That way every report will consider accessibility issues.

(D. Burkett/F. Chesney)
That the Chair of ACPD and Councillor Morelli meet with Chris Murray respecting the consideration of accessibility issues in decision-making and report back.

CARRIED

Maxine Carter advised that there is also a form for staff to fill out respecting their departmental accessibility plans. The form includes a short synopsis of the project. She further advised that she will send out a draft for comment.

Committee expressed concerns with the timeframes in which staff expect feedback from the Committee, as well as the wording of motions that go forward to Council.

Jane Lee advised that staff can provide some template language for motions. She further advised that most motions from ACPD are referred to staff for a comprehensive report back so that Council has the full picture when making a decision.

Maxine Carter asked that Committee members think about whether there are items not linked to the AODA Standards or ACPD subcommittees that they would like to see on the agenda.

ACPD members agreed that ACPD is doing a good job of determining which items should be dealt with. The Committee members agreed that the process of referring to subcommittees should be refined and more criteria added.

Some discussion ensued with respect to whether ACPD does a good job of looking at how issues advance their mission, vision, and values, including but not limited to the following:

• The Chair could open meetings by reiterating the mission, vision, and values
• The yellow laminated sheets that are distributed each meeting serve as a reminder
• Because information often comes late to the Committee, members have to scramble to make comments and decisions and, therefore,
are not able to adequately check whether the issues advance the Committee’s mandate.

- It would be nice, even before the whole package is prepared, if staff could provide advance notice that issues are going to be coming before the Committee so that there is additional time to think about them.

The discussion respecting additional subcommittees was deferred to the next meeting.

(g) NEW BUSINESS (Item 7)

(i) Correspondence from Mary Smithson Respecting the Winona Shopping Centre

Mary Smithson suggested that ACPD could take on the new shopping complex in Winona as a barrier-free project and could base their ideas on Marydale Park.

(ii) Correspondence from Mary Smithson Respecting HSR Survey

Mary Smithson advised that she had received an invitation to go to Toronto for public meeting respecting transportation, and that she felt that Hamilton should hold a similar public meeting. She requested that this item be tabled until the next meeting of ACPD for further discussion.

(iii) Correspondence from Brad Calder Respecting Request for Information from HECFI

(B. Lane/K. Nolan)
That the correspondence from Brad Calder respecting the Request for Information from HECFI be referred to the Built Environment Subcommittee.

CARRIED

(iv) Staff Access and Equity Committee Accessibility Resource Fair

Jane Lee and Maxine Carter advised that the staff Access and Equity Committee is planning to hold an accessibility resource fair in September. While the fair will not be open to members of the public, an invitation will be extended to members of ACPD.
(v) **Roundabouts**

Brian Lane advised that he submitted comments to the City respecting a proposed roundabout at Governors Road and Davidson Road in Dundas.

Fran Chesney advised that no one had been assigned to the Roundabout Working Group. This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Chair Nolan requested that Brian Lane provide his comments, which he had previously submitted to the City, to the Committee in writing.

(vi) **Policies and Fees**

Chair Nolan advised that there is no written policy respecting fees for the Chedoke Golf Course, as other blind golfers have received different golf fee options.

Jane Lee, Director of Customer Service, advised that the Customer Service Subcommittee had met previously that day to discuss a draft policy statement specifically including fees for support persons.

(j) **ADJOURNMENT (Item 8)**

(T. Wallis/B. Lane)

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Nolan, Chair  
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Mary-Ann Meyer  
Legislative Assistant  
July 14, 2009