Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

MINUTES

4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 13, 2010
Committee Room 207
Hamilton Convention Centre
One Summer’s Lane

Present:
T. Nolan (Chair)
P. Cameron, F. Chesney,
S. Derkach, A. Mallett, T. Manzuk,
R. Semkow, M. Thomas, T. Wallis,
R. Cameron, D. Burkett, B. Lane

Absent with Regrets:
K. Nolan, Councillor B. Morelli, B. Helwig, M. Smithson,

Also Present:
J. Lee, J. Hayat, M. Nuyaba, Customer Service, Access and Equity
E. Lee, Mayor’s Office
Sheila DuVerney, Community Services
Andy Grozelle, Legislative Assistant, Clerks Office
Ida Bedioui, Legislative Assistant, Clerks Office

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised that there was one change to the agenda.

Item 6.4 was moved before Item 6.1 out of consideration for staff in attendance.

On motion (T. Wallis/ D. Burkett) 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 March 9, 2010 (Item 3.1)

(A.Mallett/R.Cameron)
That the minutes of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting held on March 9, 2010 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

(d) PRESENTATIONS (Item 4)

None

(e) SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES (Item 5)

(i) TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Aznive Mallett provided the Committee with a verbal update on the Transportation Sub-Committee. Indicating to the members that the Sub-Committee had introduced a report card and suggesting that a similar report card may be introduced at The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

(ii) BUILT ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Darlene Burkett provided members with an update around social housing, as it was discussed at a recent Built Environment Subcommittee meeting. She indicated that they were Interested in seeing if a rental supplement program could be expanded to include people with disabilities.

Other updates included Darlene Burkett pointing to the fact that the Built Environment Subcommittee is very eager to be involved in some capacity with the Pan Am Games. Pointing out that the subcommittee has specifically expressed a desire to review building plans at the early stages of the project.

(f) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 6)

(i) Terms of Reference – Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities

Jane Lee introduced Shelia DuVerney in attendance from Community Services, in order to get feedback on the first draft of the Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities.
Sheila Duverney indicated to Committee that this Needs Assessment document was born out of engagement with their Committee pointing out that the document was being brought before the Committee at this time so that their input could be included and that it will be brought before them again in the future.

- Fran Chesney indicated that she was concerned that much of the focus was on children and youth pointing out that they should examine population statistics in terms of the people living with disabilities to make sure the service is representative of the group seeking services.
- Fran Chesney also indicated that they need to look at distinct disabilities, in an effort to not miss out on any groups specific service needs. She used the example of people with MS who need cooler pool temperatures for recreation which can be hard to find. By not focusing on individual groups needs they will not be able to help all people with disabilities.
- Fran Chesney added that there needs to be someway to survey people that can not do traditional surveys because of a disability or else they will left out of the Needs Assessment.
- Aznive Mallett suggested that they look at coordinating between Fitness and Recreation groups as fitness can be achieved both through sports and recreation.
- Darlene Burkett suggested using ODSP postal code files to see where disabled individuals live in the community so services can be implemented in the areas they are most needed.
- Roger-Wayne Cameron, suggested that services for people with disabilities should be more visible on the website explaining what activities are available at every site. The Committee was informed that web page changes in this regard were being implemented soon.
- Pat Cameron, inquired about funding and a completion date of the Needs Assessment and was informed that funding for programming would hopefully become as a result of the Needs Assessment which would be completed at the earliest by next spring or summer.
- Chair Tim Nolan commented that social needs as well as the physical needs should be addressed. Recreation should be also seen as a form of socialization not just about physical fitness. He suggested that this is particularly important for the people with severe disabilities or the elderly who may need more day programming.
- Chair Tim Nolan also indicated that there needs to be a consideration for how disabled people access recreation. This is because many of the need to take the HSR or DARTS and there would be little sense offering programming if it was inaccessible because of lack or distance of transportation.
- Pat Cameron expressed concern that groups may be overlooked in the survey.
Chair Tim Nolan thanked Sheila DuVerney for her work in bringing the Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities project forward and for bringing the first draft before the Committee.

(ii) The Committee agreed that Item 6.1 on the Agenda - Rescue Vehicles – Fran Chesney be dealt with as the last discussion Item to allow for a lengthier discussion.

(iii) (a) Pan Am Games, ACPD involvement update (no copy)(Item 6.2(a))

Jane Lee provided the Committee with a verbal update on the Pan Am Games. The main points of which were that the City is still unsure of what level of advisory involvement they will have with the Games. Jane Lee indicated that the City itself won’t be constructing the facilities or hiring the staff for the Games. Also the athletes will not be staying in the Hamilton area. Jane Lee also told the Committee that they would be provided with updates as they become available indicating that at this early stage everyone is still waiting for details.

Jane Lee inquired whether the Committee would like to begin discussing the Pan Am Games at the Subcommittee level, deciding what matters they want to advocate for and then have it brought back before Committee in September. By this point she informed the Committee they would hopefully have more information on what matters would be within the City’s control and what matters the Committee would have to seek support to advocate for.

There was some general discussion around what important matters the Committee would need to advocate for in relation to the Pan Am Games. Out of this discussion members highlighted their desire to be involved in the process be it through having representation on Advisory Committees for the Games or working closely with them.

It was suggested by Darlene Burkett that the Pan Am Games Item be placed as a standing Item under discussion for all of the ACPD subcommittee’s meetings. Chair Tim Nolan added that if sometime down the road there needed to be a more comprehensive discussion around the Pan Am Games it could be brought back before Committee prior to September. The Committee agreed upon these directions.
(b) Pan Am Information Update from City Manager (Item 6.2(b))

There was no discussion on this Item as the topic was dealt with under Item 6.2(a). It was noted that this item was included for information.

(iv) A request from the Coalition of Ontario Accessibility Advisory Committees (COAAC) seeking members

(S. Derkach/T. Wallis)
That this item be deferred for a period of two months while Committee Members familiarize themselves with the Coalition of Ontario Accessibility Advisory Committees website to better decide whether or not to pursue membership.

CARRIED

(v) Rescue Vehicles – Fran Chesney (Item 6.1) (Deferred from the February 9, 2010 meeting and the March 9, 2010 meeting).

Chair Tim Nolan began by commenting that having a wheelchair break down could be compared to someone injuring their leg. Noting that while in one case you would call emergency services there is no clear procedure in place for the other.

Several Committee members shared stories of how they had encountered difficulties, be it through plastic bags snagged in wheelchairs to flat tires or being stuck in the snow. After a discussion about this issue that several Committee members indicated has been a longstanding problem it was decided that more work needed to be done on the matter.

(A. Mallett/F. Chesney)
That it be based by motion that a working group be formed to further explore the issue of rescue vehicles response to incidents where someone in a wheelchair is stranded and to determine the scope of what is an emergency and who to consult and report back to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

CARRIED

Aznive Mallett volunteered to take the lead in organizing the Rescue Vehicles Response Working Groups first meeting. Terri Wallis, Darlene Burkett, Roger-Wayne Cameron and Fran Chesney volunteered to participate in the working group.

Thomas Manzuk suggested that EMS be invited to meet with this Working Group for the purposes of providing information.
(g) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(i) Robert Semkow inquired about the progress of the Committees Motion to tour the Renovated City Hall and was informed by Jane Lee it has been approved by the Committee of the Whole and will be before council at their next meeting.

(h) NEW BUSINESS (Item 7)

(i) ADJOURNMENT (Item 8)

(P.Cameron /S. Derkach)
The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities adjourned at 5:51 p.m. CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Nolan, Chair
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Andy Grozelle
Legislative Assistant
April 13, 2010