Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities
MINUTES
4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 9, 2010
Committee Room 207
Hamilton Convention Centre
One Summer’s Lane

Present:  T. Nolan (Chair)
           R. Cameron, F. Chesney, S. Derkach, B. Lane, A. Mallett,
           T. Manzuk, K. Nolan, R. Semkow, M. Smithson, T. Wallis

Absent with Regrets:  Councillor B. Morelli, D. Burkett, P. Cameron, B. Helwig

Also Present:  J. Lee, M. Carter, J. Hayat, M. Nuyaba, Customer Service,
               Access and Equity
               M. Agro, City Manager’s Office
               D. Cuming, Community Planning and Design
               D. Falletta, Development Planning
               I. Bedioui, City Clerk’s Office

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

(a)  CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

       The Committee Clerk advised that there were no changes to the agenda.

       (K. Nolan/T. Wallis)
       That the agenda be approved as presented.

                       CARRIED

(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 January 12, 2010 (Item 3.1)

(T. Manzuk/R. Cameron)
That the minutes of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting held on January 12, 2010 be approved as presented. CARRIED

(e) Workforce Census Information Update – Mary Agro (Item 4.1)

Mary Agro, Manager of Organizational Development, made a verbal presentation respecting the City of Hamilton employee Workforce Census. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Council has approved funding to hire a consultant to launch a Workforce Census;
- TWI Inc. is the vendor who will be developing the Census;
- The information will be used to obtain data on the organization specifically employee demographics, i.e. staff activities, their dependents, education, religious affiliation, languages spoken, etc.
- Information will be used to educate the Human Resources and City Departments to understand who the City employs, what do the trends indicate, are there any gaps?
- The project aligns with the City’s strategic plan.

Mary Agro handed out copies of a page from the (draft) Census which includes questions related to disabilities and asked for the Committee’s input with respect to the appropriateness of the wording. Committee members provided the following comments:

- In the definition of a person with a disability, the words mental and psychiatric as they refer to a disability mean the same - change to intellectual or cognitive, or consider the definition in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA);
- insert the words and may before the words consider himself/herself to be disadvantaged; or
- Just use the line at the top and exclude the two bullets;
- If the question is changed too much it would change the demographics – cannot change the nature of the actual question;
- Is the word Impairment acceptable?
The Ministry has advised staff that Impairment is on the list of inappropriate words;
• The term “disability” is a classification a broader category—“impairment” is a state of being – the appropriateness has always been debated.

Mary Agro asked if the Committee could include additional questions, what would they be? Committee advised as follows:

• include more questions respecting the types of disabilities as all disabilities cannot be grouped under a general category; - i.e. the question respecting the type of disability is too general - it needs to be divided up more.

The Committee asked the following questions:

• Will the Census include organizations affiliated with the City?
• Will the Census include questions related to job categories?
• What if the Census reveals that there is a low representation of a certain demographic group in the City’s workforce?
• What is the long term goal of the Census?

The Committee expressed interest in reviewing the information once it has been obtained through the Census and made public and may decide to invite staff back to provide further input at that time.

Mary Agro collected back the hand-outs as they are property of TWI Inc.

(T.Wallis/M.Smithson)
That the staff presentation respecting the Workforce Census Information Update be received.

CARRIED

(f) Urban Braille Design and Implementation Manual – Maxine Carter (Item 6.1)

Maxine Carter provided an introduction and read from a memo she had received from David Falletta and David Cuming respecting the installation of Urban Braille in new locations. She advised that Planning staff will be presenting a report respecting this issue to the Economic Development and Planning Committee on March 23, 2010.

David Falletta addressed Committee and explained that the section of the manual they are presenting today relates to the expansion of the Urban Braille to the downtown and village cores of the former area municipalities (i.e. Dundas, Stoney Creek, Ancaster, Waterdown and Binbrook).
Committee asked the following questions to which David Falletta and David Cuming responded:

- When will this be implemented? (If approved, it will be budgeted through the 10 year capital plan budget.)
- How will staff utilize the comments which they receive from Committee with respect to the staff report? (Comments will be included in the report and staff may change the priorities or the recommendation.)
- Has staff considered the barrier free guidelines? (Yes, but this is a community installation and the budget implications need to be taken into consideration.)
- What is the difference in cost between regular concrete sidewalks and Urban Braille sidewalks? (Urban Braille is 2.5 times more expensive.)

Staff requested the Committee’s input. The Committee confirmed its previous recommendation to staff that Urban Braille needs to be installed throughout the City because people are mobile everywhere in the City, not just in the downtown core areas.

The Committee indicated that Urban Braille should be installed everywhere where there is new construction, even in the side streets. Some private properties should also have Urban Braille, such as the Port Authority on the harbour and privately owned apartment buildings.

After some discussion and debate, the Committee approved the following motions:

(F. Chesney/T. Wallis)
(a) The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities recommends that the installation of Urban Braille be expanded and that Urban Braille be incorporated in any necessary construction related to the Pan Am Games venues and the connections between those venues.

(b) The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities recommends that in addition to the priorities identified in the Urban Braille Design and Implementation Manual, Urban Braille be incorporated in any pedestrian routes adjacent to new developments and site plan developments.

CARRIED

(g) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following items were deferred to the next meeting due to shortage of time:

(i) Evaluation Process and 2009-2010 Priorities – Maxine Carter (Item 6.2)
(ii) Rescue Vehicles – Fran Chesney (Item 6.3)

(h) NEW BUSINESS (Item 7)

Terry Wallis asked the Committee to advise her if they know of any bus stops that are in bad locations as she will be taking photos of them and completing a report for staff.

(j) ADJOURNMENT (Item 8)

(T.Wallis/ T.Manzuk)

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Nolan, Chair
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Ida Bedioui
Legislative Assistant
February 9, 2010