Present: Darlene Burkett, Pat Cameron, Fran Chesney, Bob Helwig, Brian Lane, Aznive Mallett, Dr. Tomas Manzuk, Kim Nolan, Tim Nolan, Robert Semkow, Mary Smithson, Terri Wallis, Elizabeth Wagner
Regrets: Sandi Bell, Roger Cameron, Sharon Derkach, Deborah Eker, Marlene Thomas
Also Present: Jane Lee, Carolyn Bish Customer Service, Access & Equity Division, Corporate Services

1. ADDITIONS TO FUTURE AGENDAS

The following items will be added to future agendas of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

i) Human Rights Commission Draft Policy on Mental Health Discrimination and Police Record Checks
ii) Pride in Ability Centre
   - Invitation Douglas Bentley to attend a meeting to present to the committee on this issue.
iii) City of Hamilton Culture & Recreation Subsidy for Persons with Disabilities
   - Invitation to be extended to Culture & Recreation staff to attend the March 12, 2008 meeting to discuss this issue.
iv) Attitudinal Barrier due to appearance, dress, etc. (B. Lane)
v) DARTS Contract Discussion
vi) Update: DARTS Eligibility Criteria Committee (K. Nolan)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(B. Lane/T. Wallis)
That the minutes of the ACPD meeting held on January 8, 2008 be approved as presented. CARRIED.

4. FOLLOW UP FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 Item 4.4 – Report to Council regarding Snow Removal Issues
T. Manzuk updated the committee on the status of the draft report regarding snow removal. He spoke with and did a walk around with the Mayor; has spoken with City staff; has reviewed the bylaw and is waiting for an email regarding the protocol on enforcement. He suggested recommending that the enforcement be stricter and that Council fund public service announcements. He requested that committee members email further suggestions within next 48 hours.

Comments from committee members included:
- businesses treated the same as residents
- City or contractor should clear paths through parks
- bus back door area needs to be cleared
- prepare medial releases
- snowplough deposits snow back on to already shoveled sidewalks
- conduct study to determine the cost to taxpayers for City to clear snow on sidewalks
- taking care of ice (i.e. with sand or salt) as well as snow
- education – bylaw enforcement staff could deposit notices in mailboxes
- bylaw needs amending to include commercial
- fines needs to be steeper – businesses feel it’s less expensive to have City clear snow & be fined as opposed to hiring a contractor to clear the snow
- absentee landlords
- the public gets plenty of notice that a storm is coming – complaints do make a difference
- Council could be requested to make the necessary changes by raising fines, issuing tickets, having enforcement blitzes, etc.

Upon conclusion of the discussion on the draft snow removal report, the following motion was passed.

(A. Mallett/K. Nolan)
That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities authorize Tom Manzuk to complete the draft report on snow removal for submission to Council upon approval of the draft report by the Committee. CARRIED.
Further discussion took place on the issue of ACPD-issued media releases and the following motion was put forward:

(B. Lane/P. Cameron)
That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities issue media releases each time it snows to advise residents and businesses to clear the snow.

Comments from the committee included:
- complete the draft report to Council regarding snow removal first
- take photographs to emphasize concerns
- media releases must be approached carefully and am reluctant to agree to this
- Public Works has communications staff to put out notices as does Fire (i.e. digging your hydrants)

Following discussion, the above motion was amended to read:

(B. Lane/P. Cameron)
That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities invite the communications staff from the Public Works Department to assist the committee with a plan to address the issue of snow clearing and the impact of snow removal to persons with disabilities and other.  CARRIED.

4.2 Item 4.6 – Update:  First Annual Disability Awareness Event – Jan 26 08
Tim and Kim Nolan attended this event.  Less that 100 people in attendance.  Good venue for networking.

4.3 Item 5.1 – Update:  Meeting Location
Jane Lee advised that she and Maxine Carter had met with Facilities staff regarding the sound system, elevators, room location.  Alternate meeting locations were discussed, however, no one location fits all criteria – sound system, parking, location within building, accessible washroom, temperature.  Some location suggestions were Central Library, Board of Education, Dundas Town Hall, Ancaster library.

5.  SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

ACPD members making up the subcommittees was discussed at the December 11, 2007 meeting.  They are as follows:

Customer Service Sub-Committee
- Mary Smithson
- Bob Helwig
- Thomas Manzuk
Transportation Sub-Committee
- Kim Nolan
- Tim Nolan
- Robert Semkow
- Marlene Thomas
- Terri Wallis
- Aznive Mallet

Built Environment
- Roger Cameron
- Pat Cameron
- Marlene Thomas
- Darlene Burkett
- Elizabeth Wagner
- Fran Chesney
- Brian Lane

5.1 Transportation Subcommittee
First meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

5.2 Customer Service Subcommittee
No meetings scheduled.

5.3 Built Environment Subcommittee
No meetings scheduled.

The Chair requested that someone from each subcommittee take the lead to get the members together to meet.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Priorities List from the 2007 Accessibility Plan
Deferred to next meeting.

6.2 Snow Removal – draft report to Council
Deferred to next meeting.

6.3 Curb Cuts – problematic location
Deferred to next meeting.

6.4 SCI (Spinal Cord Injury) Pilot Presentation
Deferred to next meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS
7.1 New Business For Future Agendas
   (a) Hamilton Conservation Authority
   (b) City of Hamilton Confidentiality Policy
   (c) Curb Cuts – issue as a whole

7.2 Resources to the Committee
The issue of staff resources from City Departments and Council to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities was discussed.

(A. Mallett/K. Nolan)
That a working group consisting of 4 to 6 members of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be formed to discuss the issue of obtaining staff resources from City Departments and Council and to develop a plan outlining the expectations of the Advisory Committee. CARRIED.

Kim Nolan, Aznive Mallett, Mary Smithson and Elizabeth Wagner agreed to be part of the working group.

8. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.