Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities
REPORT 10-007
4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 14, 2010
Room 192 City Hall
71 Main Street West

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

Absent with Regrets: M. Thomas, D. Burkett, K. Nolan

Also Present: J. Lee, M. Carter, J. Hayat, D. Sadler, A. Komocsi,
Customer Service, Access and Equity
Andy Grozelle, Legislative Assistant, Clerks Office

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PRESENTS
REPORT 10-007 AND RESPECTFUL RECOMMENDS:

1. Audible Signals Recommendation
   a) That ACPD recommend to Council that Traffic Engineering, Public Works prepare an implementation plan that details the financial and human resources needed for a replacement and installation plan including replacement criteria for Accessible Pedestrian Signals and that the implementation of these signals be completed by 2025 to meet the goals of the AODA, 2005.

   b) That ACPD recommend to Council that, if Traffic Engineering, Public Works staff are unable to complete the retrofits and new installs of Accessible Traffic Signals by the year 2025 with current budget conditions, they will also develop a strategy to identify new sources of funding to accelerate the process to meet the target date of 2025.
FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Chair Nolan.

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda.

(i) That the Minutes of the October 18, 2010 meeting of the Built Environment Sub-Committee be added to the agenda as item 5.2

(ii) That the Minutes of the November 15, 2010 meeting of the Built Environment Sub-Committee be added to the agenda as item 5.3

(iii) That the Report of the November 15, 2010 meeting of the Built Environment Sub-Committee be added to the agenda as item 5.3 (a)

(iv) That the Minutes of the November 23, 2010 meeting of the Transportation Sub-Committee be added to the agenda as Item 5.4

On a motion 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 November 9, 2010 (Item 3.1)

The minutes of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting held on November 9, 2010 were approved as presented.

(d) SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES (Item 5)

(i) ATS Performance Report – September 2010: REVISED

The ATS performance report was referred to the Transportation Sub-Committee for review.

(ii) Minutes of the October 18, 2010 meeting of the Built Environment Sub-Committee (Added Item 5.2)
R. Cameron provided an update to the Committee on the activities of the Built Environment Sub-Committee his points included but were not limited to the following;

- R. Cameron indicated that they are looking into the housing rates to see if the 5% number has moved forward
- They were invited to present at a housing conference however the date has been delayed
- Still planning the date for that presentation
- Discuss if that they may have input to bring back to the Built Environment Sub-Committee regarding barrier free housing after the housing conference
- Discussed the bus stop design issue that Wallis is continuing to work on
- Discussed the issue of Audible Signs as has already been approved in principal by Council however has been held up because of the need for costing.
- Also discussed that and that staff have suggested that ACPD suggest a trainer for Audible Signals however it is the Sub-Committees opinion that this should be done by staff.

That the Minutes of the October 18, 2010 meeting of the Built Environment Sub-Committee be received.

(iii) Minutes of the November 15, 2010 meeting of the Built Environment Sub-Committee (Added Item 5.3)

R. Cameron provided an update to the Committee on the activities of the Built Environment Sub-Committee his points included but were not limited to the following;

- Discussed how this meeting was largely a continuation of the previous meeting
- Discussed how there is a real need to address Turner Park
- Indicated that ramps are there but that they are still not accessible as they are blocked at peak times
- Read out the recommendation arrived at on Audible Signals

The Minutes of the November 15, 2010 meeting of the Built Environment Sub-Committee were received.

(iv) Report of the November 15, 2010 meeting of the Built Environment Sub-Committee (Added Item 5.3 (a))
R. Cameron provided an update to the Committee on the activities of the Built Environment Sub-Committee his points included but were not limited to the following;

− Discussed how the Sub-Committee came to the recommendations that that he read into the record
− There was some discussion on how new Audible Signals are being installed only at new locations and that they haven't been going back and retrofitting other areas

There was some discussion by the Committee on where the AODA standards are currently on the requirement for audible signals.

− Mallett asked what would occur if they do not meet the standards when they are brought into legislation.
− There was some discussion that the province isn’t likely to set up municipalities for failure.

Chair Nolan asked if any retrofits had been done.

− Staff indicated that there was one that is moving forward now Victoria Street and Barton

**Audible Signals Recommendation**

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b) That ACPD recommend to Council that, if Traffic Engineering, Public Works staff are unable to complete the retrofits and new installs of Accessible Traffic Signals by the year 2025 with current budget conditions, they will also develop a strategy to identify new sources of funding to accelerate the process to meet the target date of 2025.

The Report of the November 15, 2010 meeting of the Built Environment Sub-Committee was received.

R. Cameron indicated his desire to have all Sub-Committee Reports added as a standing item to the agenda so that they would not have to be added through changes to the agenda

The Committee Clerk indicated that the yellow copies were distributed because reports were submitted after the agenda had been mailed out.
The Committee Clerk also identified that adding the Sub-Committee Updates as standing agenda items would likely result in an increase in the amount of late report and would not serve the Committee in the sense of giving them time to review documents before making decisions on them.

Staff indicated that there was an issue where the Sub-Committee Reports and Minutes had to be approved at a subsequent Sub-Committee meeting before coming to ACPD.

Chair Nolan indicated that perhaps it was better to have the new Committee membership decide on this, since there was a motion on the floor the matter was put to a vote.

The recommendation that Sub-Committee Reports be added as a Standing item on the Agenda was defeated on a vote.

(v) Minutes of the November 23, 2010 meeting of the Transportation Sub-Committee (Added Item 5.4)

A. Mallett provided an update to the Committee on the activities of the Built Environment Sub-Committee his points included but were not limited to the following;

- Mallett indicated that there hasn’t been a meeting of the Accessible Taxi Review in sometime
- Mallett indicated that somebody from the Light Rail group will be visiting the committee
- Discussed taxi scripts program and the eligibility criteria
- Discussed the oversized mobility devices and how conventional buses and DARTS can not accommodate them.

T. Wallis provided an update to the Committee on her activities with the Light Rail Advisory Group her points included but were not limited to the following;

- Discussed how she is coming up against are going against attitudes issues
- One of the biggest problems is that people think AODA standards will take care of everything
- Indicated that the group was not making Accessibility issues as a priority

Committee members asked the following questions;

- Asked how the passenger surveys were done and how they were selected

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− Indicated that they are randomly done and however they encourage them to do a more random approach to this
− Smithson indicated that she knew people who complained and did not receive surveys
− Smithson indicated that she had an issue with the phone message being hard to understand because of hearing issues
− There was a discussion on the oversized wheelchairs
− There was an issue that there are difficulties in size and weight that they can take
− Smithson indicated that bus drivers are asking them to leave a bus backwards
− Wallis indicated that they need to take strollers off backwards so that could be how this occurs
− Chair Nolan indicated that

The Minutes of the November 23, 2010 meeting of the Transportation Sub-Committee were received.

(e) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 6)

Chair Nolan requested that he be allowed to introduce two items of New Business as he had to leave early and would be handing over the meeting to Vice-Chair Chesney. There was no objection from Committee members. For disposition on these items look below under items f(i) and f(ii) in New Business.

Vice-Chair Chesney chaired the remainder of the meeting.

(i) Audible signal update (referred from November meeting) (no copy) (Item 6.1)

This item was addressed in above item d (iv) under the disposition of agenda item 5.3 (a)

(ii) Request from David Lepofsky Chair of the AODA Alliance for the ACPD to write to the Premier of Ontario in support of the AODA Alliance’s brief on proposed Integrated Accessibility Standards. (Item 6.2)

That the request from David Lepofsky Chair of the AODA Alliance for the ACPD to write to the Premier of Ontario in support of the AODA Alliance’s brief on proposed Integrated Accessibility Standards be approved.
(iii) **Verbal update on Marydale Park (Maxine Carter)**

Maxine Carter gave the background that Committee members had been asked to advise the Marydale Park group and then told they were not needed. She indicated that they had since made contact with representative from Marydale Park and received no response;

Councillor Morelli indicated that he desired to know who staff were contacting at camp Marydale. Staff replied that they did not have the individuals name on hand.

The Committee Clerk indicated that Chair Nolan had brought this matter before Committee recently and that the Marydale Park representatives wanted to come before the Committee but were deferred to the Sub-Committee for their presentation.

This item was tabled until the next meeting

(iv) **Verbal update on results of the Hamilton Police Services discussion with ACPD (Maxine Carter)**

Maxine Carter indicated that she had followed up with her contact in the Hamilton Police Service because the Services Accessibility Customer Service Standards had not yet been made available to her. Councillor Morelli indicated that he desired to know who staff were contacting at the Police Service. Staff replied that they did not have the individuals name on hand.

The Committee Clerk did a search of the previous meetings minutes attendance to which Maxine Carter indicated that she believed it was Sergeant Mark Cox.

This item was tabled until the next meeting

(v) **Letter sent to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, relating information about the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers (Item 6.5)**

No nominations were brought forward.

The correspondence sent to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, relating information about the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers, was received.

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NEW BUSINESS (Item 7)

(i) Inadequate snow removal on City Hall Accessibility Ramp

Chair Nolan indicated that he had attended City Hall earlier in the week and while the snow was cleared from the stairs that same was not true with the accessible ramp at the front of City Hall. Chair Nolan also pointed out that the snow was piled stairs were all cleaned however

That a representative from Public Works Operations Division e asked to attend an upcoming meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities to receive the Committees comments.

(ii) McMaster University application for grant funding to improve Accessibility at Mills Library

Chair Nolan advised that there is a federal grant application for the McMaster University looking to retrofit the library to make it more accessible.

Chair Nolan asked if the Committee would be inclined to approve a letter to the Ministry to make the McMaster Library more accessible.

The Committee Clerk identified that the Chair may be in conflict being an employee of the University. Chair Nolan declared himself as being in a possible conflict position and abstained from voting on the matter.

Councillor Morelli indicated that if they wrote the letter to be very clear that we are just advocating on behalf of the Accessibility issues and as a indication of general support of the University itself.

P. Cameron indicated that if any other similar requests come forward the Committee should support them all in a similar fashion.

The Following was passed by motion, That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities provide a letter of support for the application for grant funding for the purposes of retrofitting the McMaster Mill Library to make in more accessible. Further details were to be provided to the Clerk to assist with the task of writing this letter.

(iii) McNab Street Terminal Tour
Smithson indicated that she doesn’t think the articulated buses will be pulled up with the curb as she has never seen that done, she asked that members keep an eye out for this when they take part in the upcoming tour.

(iv) Accessible bathroom/ City Hall Deficiencies

Mallett indicated that there is a major issue with the accessible bathrooms and that they can’t lock the doors unless they can work a door lock. This creates a situation where some individuals can’t use the facilities without risking being walked in on.

There was a discussion how they have worked through the Built Environment Sub-Committee to address the deficiencies with City Hall.

There was a discussion as well with the problem with the bars that stick out at the bottom of the accessible ramps accessing City Hall.

There was discussion on the lack of speakers in the committee rooms, the lack of seating or a waiting area for ATS pick up inside City Hall, the lack of correct signage to direct those with accessibility issues.

Chesney indicated that they would need to work to identify these issues in the Built Environment Guidelines.

(g) ADJOURNMENT (Item 8)

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Nolan, Chair
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Andy Grozelle
Legislative Assistant
December 14, 2010