Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

MINUTES
4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 8, 2008
Committee Room 207
Hamilton Convention Centre
One Summer’s Lane

Present: Darlene Burkett, Robert Helwig, Dr. Tomas Manzuk, Kim Nolan, Tim Nolan, Robert Semkow, Mary Smithson, Marlene Thomas, Elizabeth Wagner, Terri Wallis

Regrets: Sandi Bell, Pat Cameron, Roger-Wayne Cameron, Fran Chesney, Sharon Derkach, Deborah Eker, Brian Lane, Aznive Mallett

Also Present: Councillor Bernie Morelli
Drina Omazic, Mayor’s Office
Jane Lee, Maxine Carter, Corporate Services
Mary-Ann Meyer, City Clerk’s Office

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

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

Marlene Thomas announced that Mary Smithson won the 2008 Hamilton Municipal Senior Citizen of the Year Award. Mary has done extensive volunteer work with a variety of organizations, including serving on the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities. The Committee congratulated Mary on this achievement.

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

Item 5.1, City Hall Renovation Update – Gerry Davis, presentation deferred until the meeting to be held on August 12, 2008.

On a motion (M. Thomas/R. Semkow), 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 10, 2008 (Item 3.1)

(R. Semkow/K. Nolan)

That the minutes of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting held on June 10, 2008 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

(d) SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES (Item 4)

(i) Built Environment Subcommittee (Item 4.1)

The Built Environment Sub-Committee provided an update of their meeting on June 25, 2008. Marlene Thomas outlined the highlights of the minutes as follows:

- Lawrence Stasiuk, Capital Planning and Implementation, attended the meeting to discuss accessibility in the Victoria Park. The sub-committee will meet with him again to provide further input to ensure that the design of the community gardens is barrier-free.
- Paul Smeltzer, Philips Engineering, and Melanie Jajko, Capital Planning and Implementation, met with the sub-committee to discuss the proposed accessible bridge on Locke Street North. The sub-committee requested that a representative from Capital Planning and Implementation, along with the consultant, bring the completed design plans back to the sub-committee.

(M. Thomas/D. Burkett)

That staff be directed to include the following in the plans for the Strathcona Neighbourhood-Waterfront Trail pedestrian bridge located on Locke Street North:

(i) A vehicle drop-off zone and a vehicle parking area that can be utilized by persons with disabilities, as well as parents with children.
(ii) An accessible washroom located on the waterfront side of the bridge, along the Waterfront Trail.

CARRIED

The Clerk was directed to advise both the General Manager of Public Works and the Capital Planning and Implementation Division of this motion.
Maxine Carter, Access & Equity, advised that Lawrence Stasiuk, Capital Planning & Implementation, had asked the Built Environment Sub-Committee for ideas on what an accessible garden could contain. Maxine requested that ACPD members submit their ideas to her.

Councillor Morelli recommended that ACPD members examine the Gage Park greenhouse and Marydale Park for ideas. Committee agreed that site visits to Gage Park and Marydale Park would be a good idea.

Committee requested that staff invite John Spatazzo, Executive Director of the Catholic Youth Organization, to present at a future ACPD meeting.

Committee members expressed some accessibility concerns respecting Hamilton Entertainment and Convention Facilities. Staff advised that Duncan Gillespie, Chief Executive Officer, has been invited to attend the next Built Environment Sub-Committee meeting.

Marlene Thomas advised Committee that the Chamber of Commerce and the MS Society have been working together to obtain an accessibility grant for business improvement to enable businesses to deal with accessibility issues.

On a motion (T. Wallis/K. Nolan), the Built Environment Sub-Committee update was received.

(ii) Minutes of the Transportation Sub-Committee meeting held on May 27, 2008 (Item 4.2)

Discussion included, but was not limited to, the following points:

- There has been much discussion on rapid transit, but little consultation with persons with disabilities on the issue.
- Increased taxi fares negatively impact persons with disabilities.
- There is already a $3 fuel surcharge for persons with disabilities for gas tax purposes. This can cause monetary hardships.
- There is not a lot of competition in the taxi industry to drive prices down.
- The amount of advance time needed for bookings has been increasing.
- The Transportation Sub-Committee should keep abreast of transportation changes in Hamilton.
(e) **City Hall Renovations (Item 5.1)**

Councillor Morelli advised that the renovations are on schedule. The City is working with a team of architects to complete the renovations on schedule and within budget.

Committee agreed that it would be a good idea for each member to have a question ready for Gerry Davis when he presents to Committee in August.

(f) **DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 6)**

(i) **Accessibility Plan – ACPD’s Priorities and Status Update (Item 6.1)**

Maxine Carter provided an update on ACPD’s priorities. She advised that the Committee will be better able to provide input into the 2009 accessibility plan after the July 14th strategic planning session. When providing input, the Committee should examine the progress to date and whether the Committee is meeting its commitments.

Maxine advised that she has started to put together the 2009 accessibility plan, and will circulate it for comment via e-mail and hard copy.

(ii) **Awards (Item 6.2)**

Committee discussed the possibility of instituting a recognition program for persons with disabilities and agreed that recognition should be given to persons with disabilities. This will also raise awareness.

Committee agreed that most expedient way to go about this would be to form a working group and to look at senior’s award as a model.

(R. Helwig/R. Semkow)
That a working group be formed to examine the institution of a formal recognition for the contributions of persons with disabilities, and that the working group be comprised of the following individuals:

(i) Marlene Thomas  
(ii) Darlene Burkett  
(iii) Kim Nolan  
(iv) Terri Wallis

CARRIED

(iii) **Physicians for Persons with Disabilities (Item 6.3)**

This item was deferred to the August meeting.
(iv) Human Rights Commission Takeover (Item 6.4)

This item was deferred to the August meeting.

(g) NEW BUSINESS (Item 7)

(i) Marydale Park

(M. Thomas/T. Wallis)
That John Spatazzo and Peter Rosser be invited to present to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities respecting Marydale Park.

CARRIED

(h) ADJOURNMENT (Item 8)

(T. Wallis/R. Semkow)
The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Nolan, Chair
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Mary-Ann Meyer
Legislative Assistant
July 8, 2008