Present: Sandi Bell, Patty Cameron, Anthony Haynes, Brian Lane, Kim Nolan, Tim Nolan, Marie Pennacchietti, Robert Semkow, Mary Smithson, Marlene Thomas

Regrets: Darlene Burkett, Aznive Mallett, Meg Metson, Kimberly Walker, Gay Walton

Also Present: Jane Lee, Maxine Carter, Gudelia Huamani, Carolyn Bish – Customer Service, Access & Equity Division, Corporate Services
               Michael Shea – Hamilton Police Services
               Marjorie Walker – Mayor’s Office

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
   None declared.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING:
   Brian Lane felt that it should be noted in the minutes that there was tremendous savings by purchasing high floor buses due to them being less expensive to purchase, operate & maintain.
   Item 4.6 – Brian Lane advised that the report from David Christopherson was written in July 1988 not 1980 as recorded.

   (Pennacchietti/Smithson)
   That the minutes of the February 6, 2007 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be approved as amended. CARRIED.

Maxine Carter introduced Gudelia Huamani, Community Outreach Research Assistant in the Access & Equity Section.

3. CONSENT ITEMS (for information only):

   3.1 ATS Performance Report – December 2006
   This item was deferred until receipt of the 1st Quarter 2007 Report. Staff were requested to contact ATS and ask for columns be added to the report to reflect statistics for the full previous year (i.e. 2006) and for the previous year’s quarterly data to be used as comparators.
4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Update/Discussion – High Floor vs. Low Floor DARTS Vehicle
Members were informed that there were no compliant bidders for the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Specialized Transit Vehicles and that HSR/ATS would be rewriting the specifications and reissuing the RFP.

The Committee discussed their next steps. It was suggested that committee members who use this service could provide their feedback on the benefits & drawbacks of both high floor and low floor vehicles. Staff will list benefits & drawbacks already discussed and email to committee members. Further feedback to be emailed to Carolyn Bish by Monday, March 12, 2007 to add to the list. This list will be passed on to the ACPD Transportation Subcommittee for further discussion at the March 13, 2007 meeting.

Concern was expressed that we may be pre-empting what may come out of the upcoming transportation consultation. It was felt that one issue dealt with the vehicle and the other with the service.

The following motion was passed.

(Lane/KNolan)

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities recommends to the ATS/Transit Division, Public Works Department,

a) That the revised Request for Proposal for the acquisition of DARTS vehicles give consideration to the attached list of benefits & drawbacks to the low floor and high floor options; and

b) That the vendors responding to the Request for Proposal try to achieve as many or all of the benefits & address the drawbacks of each model; and

c) That the Transit Division arrange for a review by the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities of qualifying low and high floor models once the new Request for Proposal has closed.

CARRIED.

Sandi Bell wished to be recorded as abstained.

It was suggested that members who have never used the ATS system should be able to experience the ride, lifts and ramps and wonder if this could be arranged. It was suggested that non-users should go through the whole process -- right from the booking of a ride and a lengthy trip in order to experience the variety of clients and situations that occur. This issue will also be discussed at the Transportation Subcommittee meeting.

4.2 Update – Rosedale Arena Addition / Renovation (MCarter)
Maxine Carter informed the committee that she had met with the architect and Culture & Rec staff to review updated plans for the partial renovation of Rosedale
Arena. Maxine had some concerns which are being addressed. They are not ready for signage yet. Suggested that the Built Environment Subcommittee get together to discuss this. Maxine will follow up regarding visual tours of facilities.

The architect would like feedback on the style of grab bar to be used. It was suggested that the committee consult with an occupational therapist rather than recommending a personal preference.

4.3 Update – Presentation to Committee of the Whole
Tim Nolan informed the committee that the working group for this project is meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. Suggested items for the presentation include:
- representation on committees by persons with disabilities
- follow up on items coming from the Committee
- resources to the Committee by Council
- Council attendance at meetings
- form a mini workshop on how to fill out the applications and the interview process
- should be an audit of the number of persons with disabilities on committees.

Jane Lee informed the committee of the tracking sheet that is filled out by applicants but kept separate from applications. She will check if the form includes persons with disabilities.

4.4 Update – Community Transportation Consultation
Tim Nolan advised that the Community Transportation Consultations will take place on Wednesday, March 14, 2006 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm and 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Notices were sent out to volunteer committee, place on DARTS vehicles and posted on the Community Information Network.

It was suggested that a sound system be in place for these meetings.

It was noted that the notice did not indicate whether or not there was a need to RSVP and that there was no contact information.

4.5 Update – Transportation Standards Development Committee
Tim Nolan informed the members that the next meeting is scheduled for later this week. Almost through conventional transit. The next issue is specialized transit. The Transportation Standards Development Committee is scheduled to meet into May 2007.

4.6 Segway Legislation
Mike Shea distributed a copy of the Segway Pilot Project legislation to committee members and highlighted the key information for the committee. Discussion followed on educating enforcers of the legislation and the individuals using Segways. It was suggested that the Committee members read the legislation and be prepared to discuss at the April meeting. It’s possible that a report or press release could be done. A copy will be forwarded to Public Works and Culture & Recreation for their information.

A copy of the legislation also be forwarded to the individual who had previously contacted the Chair regarding this issue.
Jane Lee advised that representatives from Public Works and Planning would be attending the April 2007 meeting to discuss the strip mall questions.

4.7 Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)  
Deferred to April 2007 meeting.

4.8 Social Housing  
Deferred to April 2007 meeting.

4.9 Police Clearances – Assist to Hospital  
Mike Shea distributed a copy of a memo and letter regarding Person to Hospital – Contact Release Policy for the information of the Committee.

4.10 Emergency Response (Police) for Persons Using Assistive Devices  
Deferred to April 2007 meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. ADJOURNMENT  
On motion, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.