Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities
MINUTES
4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 9, 2008
Committee Room 207
Hamilton Convention Centre
One Summer’s Lane

Present: Councillor Bernie Morelli, Fran Chesney, Sharon Derkach, Bob Helwig, Brian Lane, Aznive Mallett, Tom Manzuk, Kim Nolan, Tim Nolan, Robert Semkow, Mary Smithson, Marlene Thomas, Terri Wallis, Elizabeth Wagner

Regrets: Sandi Bell, Darlene Burkett, Pat Cameron, Roger-Wayne Cameron

Also Present: Jane Lee, Maxine Carter, Customer Service, Access & Equity Mary-Ann Meyer, City Clerk’s Office

Due to the late arrival of the Chair, Marlene Thomas, Vice-Chair, assumed the Chair. Ms. Thomas introduced Eddie Lee, Community Relations in the Mayor’s office. Committee welcomed Mr. Lee.

Marlene Thomas, on behalf of Councillor Morelli, presented a certificate to Mary Smithson in honour of her receipt of the Hamilton Senior Citizen of the Year award. Committee congratulated Mary Smithson.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

Item 5.1 is deleted, as the August meeting of the Built Environment Sub-Committee did not achieve quorum.

On a motion (K. Nolan/B. Helwig), 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 August 12, 2008 (Item 3.1)

(F. Chesney/M. Smithson)

That the minutes of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting held on August 12, 2008 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

(d) PRESENTATIONS (Item 4)

(i) Marydale Park (Item 4.1)

The Committee welcomed Anthony Frisina, Peter Rosser and Megan Bidwell from the Catholic Youth Organization to present on Marydale Park.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- A history of the CYO and the decision to open Marydale Park, presented by Peter Rosser
- Benefits of Marydale Park, including the opportunity to be independent and to find gainful employment, presented by Anthony Frisina
- A DVD presentation on Marydale Park
- An overview of financial support, presented by Megan Bidwell

Some discussion ensued, including but not limited to the following:

- Committee suggested a number of groups/organizations that the CYO could present to, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Business Takes Action, the MS Society, and others.
- Marydale Park should incorporate and facilitate winter activities as well as summer activities.

Peter Rosser advised that he would welcome a member of ACPD to sit with their campaign committee. He advised that the time commitment consisted of one (1) hour every two (2) weeks.
That Sharon Derkach, Kim Nolan, and Terri Wallis be appointed to the Marydale Park Campaign Committee.

CARRIED

The Clerk’s office was directed to coordinate the contacts.

Committee thanked Mr. Frisina, Mr. Rosser and Ms. Bidwell for their presentation. On a motion (K. Nolan/B. Lane), the presentation was received.

(ii) Hamilton Convention Centre Fire Procedures (HECFI) (Item 4.2)

Marlene Thomas advised Committee that staff had just been informed that the presenter was unable to attend. The presentation was deferred to the meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities to be held on October 14, 2008.

(e) SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES (Item 5)

Tom Manzuk advised that, at the next Built Environment meeting, the following issues would be discussed:

- Fire accessibility – a member of the Hamilton Fire Services will be presenting.
- Washroom renovations in the Convention Centre – accessible washrooms will be finished by the end of November (all of washrooms will be done)
- Accessible elevators in the Convention Centre – A working accessible elevator is now located near Room 207. Grab bars will be added to the other elevators to make them more accessible and safe.

Maxine Carter advised of the following:

- Electronic equipment is being tested at 3:00 on the second Tuesday of every month to ensure that it is working.
- The Convention Centre is using the barrier-free guidelines in their washroom renovations and may come back and ask about things that are not clear.

On a motion (B. Lane/T. Wallis), the update was received.

(f) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 6)

(i) Physicians for Persons with Disabilities (Item 6.1)

Aznive Mallett provided an update on a proposal to make information and equipment available to doctors to better enable them to work with persons with disabilities.
Councillor Morelli advised that he would mention this to the Physician Recruitment Committee.

Some discussion ensued. Committee agreed that most aspects of this topic are outside of the scope of the Committee.

(ii) Human Rights Commission Changeover (Item 6.2)

Brian Lane advised that the Human Rights Commission’s system for dealing with complaints is changing. As of June 30, complainants have the option to fast track their complaints. In January, complainants will have to reapply under the new system.

Staff suggested that the written information that was previously provided to Committee respecting these changes be provided to Committee members again.

(B. Lane/A. Mallett)
That staff contact a representative from the Ontario Human Rights Commission to speak to committee respecting changes in the process for handling complaints.

The motion was CARRIED on the following recorded vote:

Yeas: Bob Helwig, Brian Lane, Aznive Mallett, Tom Manzuk, Kim Nolan, Robert Semkow, Marlene Thomas, Terri Wallis, Elizabeth Wagner
Total Yeas: 9
Nays: Fran Chesney, Sharon Derkach, Mary Smithson
Total Nays: 3
Absent: Sandi Bell, Darlene Burkett, Pat Cameron, Roger-Wayne Cameron, Tim Nolan
Total Absent: 5

(g) NEW BUSINESS (Item 7)

(i) Presentation Respecting Transit Issues

Based on the new recommendations being presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting for transit issues on September 18, Kim Nolan advised that the presentation working group would like to make some additional recommendations.
(K. Nolan/T. Wallis)
That the working group revise the presentation for the Committee of the Whole meeting to be held on September 18, 2008 to include the following recommendations:
(a) That, should the external government model be chosen, the DARTS board consist of 50% representation of passengers;
(b) That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be consulted on all policies affecting passengers;
(c) That Council affirm the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities as the advisory committee to Council on transportation issues;
(d) That ATS should receive all complaints.

CARRIED

Mary Smithson requested that the Clerk provide a list of the dates on which the presentation was previously discussed. Committee also requested that the working group e-mail Committee a copy of the presentation prior to the Committee of the Whole meeting.

(ii) Light Rail Transit Presentation

Jane advised that Scott Stewart, General Manager of Public Works, would like to make a presentation respecting Light Rail Transit. Committee agreed to the request.

(h) ADJOURNMENT (Item 8)

(B. Lane/T. Wallis)
The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Thomas, Vice-Chair
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Mary-Ann Meyer
Legislative Assistant
September 9, 2008