Present: Tim Nolan (Chair), David Binns (Vice-Chair), Darlene Burkett, Pat Cameron, Janice Ferguson, Anthony Haynes, Brian Lane, Jocelyne Lebel, Sandi Mugford, Mary Smithson, Kimberly Walker, Gay Walton

Regrets: John Fuca, Marie Pennacchietti, Carol Sheppard

Also Present: Jane Lee, Maxine Carter, Elfadil Elsharief, Carolyn Bish - Customer Service/Access & Equity Division, Corporate Services

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None declared.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(Cameron/Burkett)
That the minutes of the May 3, 2005 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be approved as circulated. CARRIED

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Kevin Berry, Culture & Recreation Plans for new Sackville Hillpark Building

The committee welcomed Kevin Berry, Project Co-ordinator with the City’s Culture & Recreation Division, Steven Parazader of S.P. Design Inc and Brian McKibbin of Brian McKibbon Architect Inc. who attended to get input on the plans for a new field house building being built at Sackville Hillpark. The former building is being torn down. At present, no grandstand is being built. The committee had the opportunity to review the plans prior to the meeting and had the following comments / concerns:

- addition of a family, accessible washroom
- removal of the “leg” on the L-shaped privacy walls inside the doors of both the men’s and women’s washrooms to make it easier to manoeuvre in and out of the door
- suggestion of a curtain or moveable wall would still offer some privacy
- confirmation that auto door openers be placed on the inside and inside of washrooms
- possibility of auto door openers on all doors
- that the order of stalls be changed – accessible stall should be first, not last
- use of urban Braille inside and out
- path of travel from the parking lot and bus stops to the building

(Mugford/Walker)

a) That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities endorse the plans for the field house at Sackville Hillpark with the recommended changes, and

b) That the Culture & Rec Division advise the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities if any of the proposed changes cannot be made and why the change is not possible.  

CARRIED

3.3 Derek Watters, Ontario March of Dimes DesignAbility Program
The Committee welcomed Derek Watters, Chair of the Ontario March of Dimes DesignAbility Program.  Mr. Watters explained that the DesignAbility Program is made up of a group of volunteers who will tailor-make assistive devices specific to a client’s needs.  A requisition form needs to be completed and sent to Ontario March of Dimes.  The cost of the materials is the only expense to the client.  In hardship cases, this costs could be reduced or waived.  Mr. Watters would like to use the committee as a referral of persons with disabilities to the Ontario March of Dimes.  Mr. Watters distributed brochures about the DesignAbility Program.

3.2 Andrea Cook, Lindsay Crawford, Allison Kennedy, Andrea McDonald, Davorka Vujanovic, Amanda Westbrook – Template for the Future: Housing for Persons with Disabilities in Hamilton-Wentworth
The Committee welcomed this group of 2nd year Occupational Therapist students from McMaster University.  They have been working with Darlene Burkett and the Disability Action & Network Group touring various housing units in the Hamilton area and rating them.  Areas inspected were – Liuna Hamilton Association, Upper Wellington; Mistywood Village, Stoney Creek; 557 Queenston Road (still under construction) – a total of 27 units.  Despite technical difficulties with their presentation, the group managed to make it clear to the committee the strengths and weaknesses of the various units inspected.  A copy of the report with their findings, as well as a copy of their presentation, will be attached to the minutes.  A question and answer period followed.  The Chair thanked the group and commended them for the great work they have done.

(Mugford/Cameron)
That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities invite Hamilton Housing to a future meeting of the committee to speak about what Hamilton Housing is doing with respect to housing for persons with disabilities.

CARRIED

3.4 Phil Coburn, Medi-Van
The Committee welcomed Phil Coburn and Derek Wharrie from Medi-Van, a division of Ontario Patient Transfer. Medi-Van handles non-emergency transportation, usually from hospital to hospital. They currently have 2 mini-vans and provide service to St. Catharines, Niagara, Burlington and Toronto, 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Staff are all emergency-first responders. Medi-Van is a private company and receives no funding. Service is paid for through different facilities, agencies, insurance companies, etc. or by the client.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 Derek Watters advised the committee of The Summer Solstice BBQ Lunch & Wheelchair Rally hosted by the Ontario March of Dimes at Villa Verdi, 20 Jarvis Street on Saturday, June 18, 2005 from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm.

4.2 Sandi Mugford – Ontario March of Dimes and Hamilton Public Library are hosting Roll into Summer on June 15, 16, 2005 at Central Library.

4.3 Jane Lee distributed information on upcoming Public Information Centres. Staff will continue to be in contact with Departments/Divisions to arrange consultation with ACPD. Timing is sometimes difficult. May look at the possibility of inviting all 8 volunteer committees to a couple of workshops to consult.

5. NEXT MEETING

An extra meeting of ACPD is required and will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 110.

6. ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the committee adjourned at 6:05 p.m.
### OUTSTANDING BUSINESS
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**  
(as of February 1, 2005)

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Regrets: Janice Ferguson, John Fuca, Jocelyne Lebel

Also Present: Jane Lee, Carolyn Bish
- Customer Service/Access & Equity Division, Corporate Services
Paul Thompson, ATS, Public Works
Councillor Maria Pearson

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None declared.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(Haynes/Smithson)
That the minutes of the June 7, 2005 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be approved as circulated. CARRIED

3. CONSENT ITEMS

3.1 Minutes of the Transportation Sub-committee, Apr 26, 2005 (attached)
3.2 Minutes of the Transportation Sub-committee, May 24, 2005 (attached)

(Haynes/Pennacchietti)
That the minutes of the Transportation Sub-committee for April 26 and May 24, 2005 be received. CARRIED

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 ATS Trip No Shows, Late Cancellations and Excessive Cancellations Policy
i) **Selection of ACPD Representative for Appeals Committee**

Three individuals to be appointed to Appeals Committee – 1 by DARTS; 1 by ATS; 1 by ACPD. It is expected that there will be one meeting per month.

*(Cameron/Pennacchietti)*

That Sandi Mugford be appointed as the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities’ representative on the Appeals Committee for the ATS Trip No Shows, Late Cancellations and Excessive Cancellations for the balance of the term of this committee.  **CARRIED**

ii) **Selection of Members of Steering Committee**

Two individuals from ACPD to be appointed to the Steering Committee to assist with the implementation of the policy. It is estimated that this group will meet frequently prior to the implementation of the policy. The term commitment will be shorter. Marie Pennacchietti, Mary Smithson, Darlene Burkett and Gay Walton put their names forward to be considered for the Steering Committee. The committee selected Darlene Burkett and Mary Smithson to represent the ACPD on the Steering Committee.

4.2 **Hospital Side Rooms**

Marie P. described for the Committee the attitudinal barriers and trauma faced by persons with invisible disabilities and the use of side rooms (bubble rooms) at hospitals. Sandi Mugford advised that she sits on the Advisory Committee to Hamilton Health Sciences which has its own ODA committee and plan. She feels that this is an issue that would best be addressed by that group and volunteered to assist Marie in getting on the agenda of the Hamilton Health Sciences’ ODA Committee.

*(Pennacchietti/Lane)*

That a letter be sent from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities for the City of Hamilton to the Hamilton Health Sciences ODA Advisory Board:

1) advising that the issue of attitudinal barriers and trauma faced by persons with invisible disabilities and the use of side rooms in hospitals has been brought to our attention, and
2) requesting that this issue be investigated and addressed in the Hamilton Health Sciences ODA Advisory Board Accessibility Plan.  **CARRIED**

4.3 **DRAFT Urban Braille Report**

The Committee reviewed the Urban Braille draft report and a brief discussion followed.
(Mugford/Burkett)
That the report on Urban Braille from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be accepted as written and forwarded to Council for consideration. CARRIED

4.4 DRAFT Integrated Accessible Taxi Service Report

The Chair opened the floor to the committee for discussion on the draft Integrated Accessible Taxi Service report. Comments made were:
- don’t feel there is any advantage with several items in the report
- current taxi fees are discriminatory
- provides spontaneous
- increases amount of options available
- concerns with lack of safety regulations
- concern with giving a monopoly to one private sector company
- concerns with financial implications
- likes the competitive bid process
- concern with phrase “…. it may be helpful …” as it could be considered inclusive

(Haynes/Lane)
That the report regarding Operation of Integrated Accessible Taxi Service be amended to reflect the concerns of the Committee as discussed, and

That the amended report be forwarded to Council for consideration. CARRIED

4.5 Sub-committees – Membership and Terms of Reference

i) Transportation Sub-committee
- Development of Action Plan Items

In order to get things in place for the remainder of this term, Tim Nolan expressed the need to determine the membership of the sub-committee, define its role and establish a Terms of Reference. The Sub-committee currently consists of 2 members of ACPD – himself and Marie Pennacchietti; Mary Sinclair representing the Seniors Advisory Committee and 2 staff members – Paul Thompson and Mark Mindorff. He advised that Gay Walton, Janice Ferguson and Jocelyn Lebel attend the meetings but have not been official appointed by ACPD.

(Haynes/Sheppard)
That Gay Walton, Janice Ferguson and Jocelyn Lebel be appointed to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities’ Transportation Sub-Committee for the remainder of the term of the Committee. CARRIED.

Sandi Mugford wished to be recorded as opposed.
Tim advised that the Transportation Sub-committee would meet the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Tuesday of each month, starting Tuesday, July 12, 2005 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. He stated that the work of the sub-committee over the next year needs to focus on the components of the ODA and working with Transit. The sub-committee needs to determine the priorities for persons with disabilities to work on over the next 12 months. These items will be the basis for the ODA workplan.

ii) Facilities Sub-committee
Deferred to July meeting.

iii) Signage Sub-committee
Deferred to July meeting.

4.6 Accessibility Plan – Identify Priorities

Jane Lee advised that it is time to start thinking about the 2005 Accessibility Plan and what the Committee’s priorities are. This will be discussed at the July meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Resignation – Martha Underwood

(Walton/Lane)
That a letter of thanks be sent to Martha Underwood for her contribution to on the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities. \textbf{CARRIED}

5.2 Paul Thompson advised that the City and HSR are in negotiations with the Amalgamated Transit Union. The City has applied for a “no board report” and effective June 25, 2005, either party would be in a position for a “lock out” or a strike. He advised that this could have an impact on DARTS transportation.

6. ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the committee adjourned at 6:10 p.m.
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Prepare report to Community Services Committee recommending that Urban Braille be standard for all new site plans and all retrofitted/revised streetscapes in the City of Hamilton. | COMPLETE Draft report approved by ACPD (June 16 05) to be forwarded to Council |
| O      | Accessibility Advisory Committee Coalition | Mar. 7/05          | Staff, Corporate Services  
Prepare letter to Provincial Coalition of Accessibility Advisory Committees advising of ACPD’s interest. | COMPLETE                                       |
| P.     | Operation of Integrated Accessibility Taxi Service | Mar. 7/05          | Staff, Public Works & Corporate Services  
Prepare report to PWIE Committee recommending that a 12-month pilot project for the operation of an integrated accessible taxi service be endorsed. | COMPLETE Amended draft report approved by ACPD (June 16 05) to be forwarded to Council |
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| **Q.** BILL WARNICK re amendment to Section 11(13) of the On-Street Parking By-law (being By-law No. 01-218) such that holders of the MTO Disabled Person Parking Permit would be exempted from the “No Parking Except By Valid Permit” regulation. | May 3/05 | Staff, Hamilton Municipal Parking System | a) That the request to amend the On-Street Parking By-Law allowing holders of the MTO Disabled Person Parking Permit to be exempted from the “No Parking Except By Valid Permit” regulation be referred to staff for consideration, consultation with Mr. Warnick, and for the development of possible solutions and a recommendation; and  
b) That the recommendation and solutions be presented to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, with Mr. Warnick being invited to attend. | |
| **R.** Police Checks – Police Record/No Crime | May 3/05 | Staff, Hamilton Police Service | That Hamilton Police Services be requested to review their policy regarding release of information and how the information is released, in consultation with the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, and report back to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities on this matter. | |
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities
Tuesday, July 5, 2005
4:00 p.m. - Room 110
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Tim Nolan (Chair), Anthony Haynes, Brian Lane, Sandi Mugford, Marie Pennacchietti, Carol Sheppard, Mary Smithson, Kimberly Walker, Gay Walton

Regrets: David Binns (Vice-Chair), Darlene Burkett, Pat Cameron, Janice Ferguson, John Fuca, Jocelyne Lebel

Also Present: Jane Lee, Maxine Carter, Carolyn Bish
- Customer Service/Access & Equity Division, Corporate Services
Paul Thompson, ATS, Public Works

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None declared.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(Sheppard/Pennacchietti)
That the minutes of the June 16, 2005 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be approved as circulated. CARRIED

Sandi Mugford wished to clarify reason for her objection on motion in June 16, 2005 minutes. This item to be addressed under “New Business”.

Marie Pennacchietti commented on the work to be done by the representatives appointed by ACPD to the ATS and DARTS Steering Committee and hopes that the issue of invisible disabilities, mental illness and brain injuries will be addressed. She would also like to see people with invisible disabilities on boards and committee.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Peter Bailey, Keitha McKay – Hamilton Police Service

The Chair welcomed Peter Bailey and Keitha McKay from Hamilton Police Service. Tim Nolan outlined the background information that resulted in this
invitation, namely, “assists to hospital” information recorded in an individual’s file being released when agencies (for employment or volunteer purposes) request a police clearance. He pointed out that the Committee views this information as confidential and the release of it as discriminatory.

Peter Bailey advised that the police only become involved when there is evidence of an attempted suicide, if there is a severe mental episode and if a person is a danger to themselves or others. These situations are recorded on the database as “person to hospital”. Currently provide information to 400-500 agencies. Agencies are met with to determine what information they seek and its relevance. Agencies are instructed to look at the dates and number of incidences. Incidents over 5 years old is not released. In response to a query for a copy of the policy, Mr. Bailey advised that they have an internal training policy only and it is not available to the public. Required to follow Freedom of Information Act. Also governed by Police Services Board.

Concerns expressed by ACPD members included:
- individual’s health should be a personal matter
- agencies discriminate based on the release of these facts
- whether mental health act allows for the release of the information
- mental health disability should be equated to physical disability
- attempts to dispense with the stereotype regarding mental health

(Walton/Pennacchietti)

a) That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities send a letter to the Police Services Board requesting that the Police Services Board take the necessary steps to develop a policy regarding the acceptable steps for the disclosure of information related to persons with disabilities; and

b) That the Police Services Board report back to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities on their findings as it relates to the Federal and Provincial Freedom of Information policies. CARRIED

3.2 Kathy Drewitt – Downtown Hamilton BIA

The Committee welcomed Kathy Drewitt representing the Hamilton Association of Business Improvement Areas. Ms. Drewitt seeking Committee’s ideas and solutions around the abuse of the disabled parking permits and requested that the Committee send a letter to the Province outlining the problems in the Hamilton area with examples of abuse.

Committee comments:
- issue previously discussed with Bill Young regarding the addition of a municipal stamp to the Provincial permit. K.Drewitt advised that the Province will not allow that.
- an extensive “walk-around” by members of the committee & Bill Young took place. No answers have been received from Parking Enforcement.
- by-law is enforced at Eastgate Square
- permit holders travel in different vehicles – permit can’t be permanently fixed in one vehicle
- clarification that abuses occur in the dispensing of permits as well as in the use of permits.
- BIA needs to know that permit holders are equally frustrated with 3-hour time limit, especially in hospital areas
- sometimes may appear that person is not disabled

(Haynes/Mugford)
a) That Bill Young be invited to the August meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities to update the Committee on the Disabled Parking Permits.

b) That a small working group be reconstituted to investigate the problems with disabled parking permits to include Bill Young and Kathy Drewitt. CARRIED

Kathy Drewitt will be invited to attend the meeting with Bill Young.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Sub-committees – Membership and Terms of Reference

The Chair expressed the need to get the Facilities Sub-committee and the Signage Sub-committee up and operating. Membership on the 2 committee needs to be established along with a regular meeting date and time. The sub-committees will be required to develop a Terms of Reference and to determine what priorities they will focus on.

i) Facilities Sub-committee
The Facilities Sub-committee currently consists of Darlene Burkett, Patty Cameron and Carol Sheppard. Brian Lane volunteered for this sub-committee.

(Walton/Pennacchietti)
That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities appoint the following members to the Facilities Sub-committee:
  Darlene Burkett
  Patty Cameron
  Brian Lane
  Carol Sheppard CARRIED

Carol Sheppard volunteered to take the lead on contacting members and getting a meeting together.

ii) Signage Sub-committee
The Signage Sub-committee currently consists of Sandi Mugford. Anthony Haynes, Kim Walker and Gay Walton (who transferred from the Transportation Sub-committee) volunteered for the Signage Sub-committee.

(Shepperd/Pennacchietti)
That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities appoint the following members to the Signage Sub-committee:

- Anthony Haynes
- Sandi Mugford
- Kimberley Walker
- Gay Walton

CARRIED

Sandi Mugford volunteered to take the lead and contact members to establish a meeting date.

4.2 Accessibility Plan – Identify Priorities

i) Priority Setting for 2005-6 Accessibility Plan
Jane Lee distributed the ACPD’s section of the 2004 Accessibility Plan with 3 activities planned for the coming year with an update on the status of these 3 items. A lot of business comes to the committee & the committee needs to be realistic & limit the number of items to take on for 2005-6. She suggested that we consider looking at the broad range and identify barriers across the board.

Tim Nolan advised that there are 4 broad areas of accessibility at AODA – customer service; built environment; communication & information; accommodation. Suggested that committee taken the document and review it for August meeting.

Jane Lee intends to bring draft Accessibility Plan to the August meeting. Suggested to go “around the table” tonight to determine individual issues. They included:

- housing
- attitudinal barriers
- policy on police checks
- customer service
- HSR customer service – recent purchase of 28 buses
- hearing issues
- transportation schedules in large print
- parking issues
- audible signals
- access to services/programs for low income and persons with disabilities
- recreational needs
ii) **Priority Setting for Transportation Sub-committee**
Priorities will be used as items for AODA plan. Priorities suggested were workplan, reporting mechanism, Human Rights settlement issues, follow-up on taxi issue, DARTS review. Paul Thompson advised that he has done a preliminary ODA plan for Transit and the last 3 items are included.

4.3 **Social Housing – Persons with Invisible Disabilities (M.Pennacchietti)**

This item to be deferred to August meeting.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 Relating to the appointments to the Transportation Sub-committee at the June 16, 2005 meeting, Sandi Mugford wished to expand on her objection by adding that she “wished to be recorded as opposed to the appointment of Janice Ferguson and Jocelyn Lebel to the ACPD Transportation Sub-committee, as the Transportation Sub-committee will now include three DARTS Board of Director members; none of whom are DARTS passengers.”

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion, the committee adjourned.
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b) That the recommendation and solutions be presented to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, with Mr. Warnick being invited to attend. |
| Police Checks – Police Record/No Crime                              | May 3/05              | Staff, Hamilton Police Service          | That Hamilton Police Services be requested to review their policy regarding release of information and how the information is released, in consultation with the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, and report back to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities on this matter. |

R. [COMPLETE] July 5 05
Present: Tim Nolan (Chair), Anthony Haynes, Sandi Mugford, Marie Pennacchietti, Carol Sheppard, Mary Smithson, Kimberly Walker, Gay Walton

Regrets: David Binns (Vice-Chair), Darlene Burkett, Pat Cameron, Janice Ferguson, John Fuca, Brian Lane, Jocelyne Lebel

Also Present: Jane Lee, Maxine Carter
  - Customer Service/Access & Equity Division, Corporate Services
  - DON HULL, DOUG BAUGHAN
  - Transit Division, Public Works

Additions to Agenda:
1. Bus Viewing – diesel fuel
2. New Transit Steering Committee & Task Force
   a. Gas Tax
   b. Transit Master Plan
   One dedicated representative from ACPD required.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
   None declared.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

   Marie Pennacchietti clarified her comment that she would like to see people with invisible disabilities on boards and committee.

   (Sheppard/Walton)
   That the minutes of the July 5, 2005 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be approved as amended. CARRIED
Don Hull & Doug Baughan from Transit attended the meeting. They brought one of the new buses, which arrived in July, and made it available for committee members to view.

Mr. Hull noted that once they had taken delivery of the new buses, they found they couldn’t get a scooter on board one of the buses, so they started investigating. The new buses are the norm for municipalities in North America, with one notable exception – we have both front & rear door ramps. As the fuel tank is located immediately opposite rear door entrance, longer scooters could not board the buses. We had an exception in natural gas buses, because the fuel tank was not located under the seats, and the seats near the rear entrance could be raised to allow for the longer scooters. He noted that buying these buses make us the same as everyone else. They had talked to manufacturers & suppliers of scooters, and only about 5% are longer than 48”. The bus is designed to ADA standards. They discovered that the #’s of scooters longer than 48” are in decline as they have accessibility issues, and do not comply with Assistive Devices Program. The challenge that transit has is that we are getting into different fleets, and there needs to be work on the methodology to advise users/operators which one they are on and what the procedures are. There will need to be a change from past practices – personal mobility devices always boarded at the rear door. There will also need to be a communications plan as well. Another problem is that 100 older buses are not air conditioned & not on a warranty program, so they want to get new buses out on the road as soon as possible. They would have preferred a more effective communications approach first. He noted that the new buses are being introduced on lines where there were high floor buses; and that the operators have flyer for users of new buses. He noted that there are a number of orientation sessions like the one held today. He also noted that they are not hearing that people are being by-passed deliberately or that ramps are not working.

He offered the following suggestion; volunteer Doug’s phone number – ext 1854, who would ensure that concerns are properly logged and investigated. He noted the need to have more objective information, and to address the gap between perception and reality. He pointed out that the database does not indicate this is a problem. Don noted that he was also available if Doug were not, and that he could be reached at ext.1860. Jane was asked to let the Customer Contact Centre know that concerns related to operation of the low floor buses should be directed to Doug Baughan.

Committee members made the following suggestions for other orientations
- Sanford Avenue
- St. Joseph’s Villa, St. Elizabeth Village, Wellington Place, 20 Jarvis/King William
Don agreed to send the list of where the orientation session have been and then the committee could offer additional suggestions.

Comments/questions from Committee members included the following:

Mary Smithson asked how long it takes to put the ramp down as there ends up being crowding of other people. Don Hull noted that there is quite a bit of time, on busy lines (1-3 minutes or more).
One of the committee members noted that they are sometimes told that the ramps aren’t working, and that they hear from other clients that operators are putting their schedules in front of Personal Mobility Devices.

Don H noted that he had fleet check every ramp on every bus & found no failures, and that if a user comes to a stop and the ramp is not working, can send the supervisor to check right away.

Mary Sinclair noted that seniors are often embarrassed to ask for the front ramp to be lowered, and that persons with walkers should be a given for having the ramp lowered.

Don H noted the need to recondition the operators to the use of the front ramp. Don H will provide a list of where the new buses are being put, and it will be on the ATS website. He also noted that any passenger can at any time call and they will do trip planning for them.

Gay Walton asked how long will it take to hear back if they call with a complaint. Doug Baughan noted that they would respond within a 24-hour period for Personal Mobility Devices. Don H noted that complaints to Doug will be investigated, and will also be entered into database of complaints. Don was asked if there is there flexibility in the schedule for operators. Tim noted that if the bus is full of people, there is difficulty getting on a bus that’s full & on schedule.

Don noted that there is flexibility in the system, and that the routes with the highest level of service & service frequency also have the highest level of PMDs, i.e. Eastgate to McMaster, Mohawk. He noted that usually there is a small number of chairs per route. He noted that we are fast approaching the time to look at DARTS as a scheduled route.

Marie P noted that many drivers do not use the intercom and suggested that the drivers use them more frequently for persons with invisible disabilities, cognitive disabilities or new to the route. Tim noted a recent Human Rights case related to Toronto subway stops requiring announcements of stops, and suggested the drivers be encouraged to do it voluntarily.

**TRANSIT STEERING COMMITTEE & TASK FORCE**

Don explained the structure of the transit planning exercise that is commencing soon. He noted that they want a higher level of citizen involvement in the development of the Transit Master Plan. He noted that there is a Steering Committee with 5 members of Council (Ferguson, Merulla, Whitehead, Collins) who it is hoped will become experts on gas tax monies & a task force that will contribute to the creation of Transit Master Plan – 15 person task force – one member from ACPD & one from Seniors Advisory Committee. He noted that there will be monthly meetings, with the first meeting to be held in mid-September. Don is to provide the staff report & terms of reference for a vote/selection for the next ACPD meeting. Members are to be invited to volunteer, and will be given an opportunity at the next meeting to submit their names. Mary, Marie, Sandi, Gay, and Tim have volunteered. It was agreed that there should be one designate & 2 alternates.
3. **CONSENT ITEMS** (for information only):

3.1 Notes of the Transportation Sub-committee, July 12, 2005

The notes of the Transportation Sub-committee for July 12, 2005 were received for information.

4. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

4.1 Social Housing – Persons with Invisible Disabilities (M. Pennacchietti)

A discussion took place about boarding houses, and members were concerned about whether or not there are standards in boarding house, particularly about eating, and vermin. It was questioned as to whether or not there are policies or regulations for boarding houses. It was noted that there is a need for additional housing for low-income people and that there is a 5 year waiting list for subsidized housing. People with physical disabilities have not always been able to be accommodated due to barriers in the social housing.

It was noted that there is a boarders & roomers committee. It was noted that there are a number of issues to be addressed, including the availability and quality of social housing, the condition of social housing including cleanliness and food, and a lack of accessible social housing, and regulations around boarding houses.

It was agreed that the Facilities Sub-committee should address this matter, after there was a presentation to the Advisory Committee about an overview of Social Housing. It was suggested that Vicki Woodcox be invited to present a Social Housing overview, including how the City implements policy and their accountability, waiting list information, types of housing in the City, and the availability and provision of accessible social housing. In addition, there should be a presentation from Licensing and Standards with respect to the regulation of rooming and boarding houses.

(Pennacchietti/Walton)

That a representative from Social Housing, and Licensing & Standards be invited to the September 2005 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities. CARRIED

4.2 Coalition of Ontario Accessibility Advisory Committee Website Cost Sharing

(Walker/Sheppard)

That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities for the City of Hamilton contribute $50.00 towards the cost sharing of the Coalition of Ontario Accessibility Advisory Committee Website. CARRIED
4.3 2005 AODA Plan

The draft plan was reviewed to the end of the section regarding the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities and the committee discussed their section in terms of priorities. The final plan will be distributed for review at the September meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Draft Handbook on “Resources and Information for Persons with Disabilities” (M. Carter) – this information will be distributed for the next meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.
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<td>May 3/05</td>
<td>Staff, Hamilton Municipal Parking System</td>
<td>a) That the request to amend the On-Street Parking By-Law allowing holders of the MTO Disabled Person Parking Permit to be exempted from the “No Parking Except By Valid Permit” regulation be referred to staff for consideration, consultation with Mr. Warnick, and for the development of possible solutions and a recommendation; and&lt;br&gt;b) That the recommendation and solutions be presented to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, with Mr. Warnick being invited to attend.</td>
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- MINUTES -
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities
Tuesday, September 6, 2005
4:00 p.m. - Room 110
Hamilton City Hall, 71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Tim Nolan (Chair), Janice Ferguson, John Fuca, Anthony Haynes, Sandi Mugford, Marie Pennacchietti, Carol Sheppard, Mary Smithson

Regrets: Darlene Burkett, Pat Cameron, Brian Lane, Kimberly Walker, Gay Walton

Also Present: Maxine Carter, Carolyn Bish
- Customer Service/Access & Equity Division, Corporate Services
Barb Powell, Carmen Bian
- Program Policy & Planning, Public Health & Community Services
Don Hull, Paul Thompson
- Transit Division, Public Works
David Beck
- Legal Services

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None declared.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(Haynes/Pennacchietti)
That the minutes of the August 2, 2005 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be approved. CARRIED.

3. CONSENT ITEMS (for information only):
There were no consent items.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS


The Committee welcomed Don Hull, Transit Division, and David Beck, Legal Services, who attended the meeting to discuss Transit’s/City of Hamilton’s
response to Ontario Human Rights Commissions regarding the OHRC’s Position Paper for Special Program Status of para transit services.

Mr. Hull & Mr. Beck outlined the major points of their response. Mr. Hull advised they had discussed this issue with the other 3 municipalities who had been invited to respond (i.e. Toronto, Windsor and London) and also with the Ontario Community Transit Association (OCTA) and Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA). Mr. Hull advised that the 4 municipalities and 2 organizations had reached 100% agreement to the request from OHRC that:

i) this is a legal issue;

ii) the process is severely flawed;

iii) there is a perception that OHRC is seeking control of municipal policy; and

iv) it appears the OHRC has already made their decision.

Mr. Hull advised the committee that they had not consulted with ACPD for several reasons. For example:

i) OHRC request was considered to be a legal issue and not an operational one.

ii) It was not clear on the intent of what OHRC was trying to accomplish.

He also commented that the issue would have been presented to ACPD after OHRC reached a decision.

Concerns / comments expressed by the Committee included:
- Why were just 4 municipalities consulted?
- OHRC advised that this was a municipality initiated endeavour.
- Could this upset the Committee’s position to make decisions?
- What is Committee’s obligation to report to OHRC?
- Not a great deal of time to respond.
- If a “no comment” response is given, do we jeopardize our position as an advisory committee?
- Wording is misleading.

The Committee passed the following motion:

(Sheppard/Haynes)

In response to the request by the Ontario Human Rights Commission regarding the Commission’s Position Paper requesting that para-transit services be recognized as “special programs” under section 14 of the Human Rights Code, the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities for the City of Hamilton recommends:

i) that the Commission take no action on this issue at this time;

ii) that the Commission allow the duty to accommodate be the basis for complaints; and,

iii) that the Commission only consider invoking section 14 on an individual case by case basis.

CARRIED.
Sandi Mugford wished to be recorded as OPPOSED. ARCH (a Legal Resource Centre for Persons with Disabilities) should have provided ACPD with their own legal counsel.

A letter will be sent to the Ontario Human Rights Commission with the above motion and also outlining the concerns expressed by the Committee.

4.2 2005 AODA Plan

Maxine Carter thanked the committee for the comments on the draft 2005 AODA Plan.

(Haynes/Fuca)
That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities endorse the 2005 Accessibility Plan for the City of Hamilton. CARRIED.

4.3 Selection of ACPD representative for Provincial Gas Tax and Transit Master Plan Task Force

As a result of a vote by attending members of the ACPD, Tim Nolan will represent ACPD on the Provincial Gas Tax & Transit Master Plan Task Force. Alternates will be Sandi Mugford and Mary Smithson.

Staff will advise Transit Division of the names of the representatives.

4.4 Snow Clearing Focus Group Meetings

The Committee welcomed Pam Hubbard and John Smith from LURA Consulting and Barbara Powell and Carmen Bian from Public Health & Community Services. As background, Barbara Powell advised the Committee that City Council had requested that PH&CS investigate and report back on the development of a program to assist those who have difficulty with snow removal and compliance with the snow removal bylaw. PH&CS hired LURA Consulting to conduct a series of focus group meetings to solicit feedback. They were invited to attend the ACPD meeting to report on the results of the focus group meetings. Pam Hubbard reported that focus group meetings were held with service providers, caregivers and potential users of this service, i.e. seniors, persons with disabilities, low income residents. As a result of feedback received, 5 options were developed:

i) Social marketing program (i.e. neighbours helping neighbours);
ii) City / Service Provider partnership;
iii) City outsourcing to private contractors;
iv) Direct client subsidy;
v) Hybrid option using components of all 4 options.

Comments from Committee members included:
- concern about after the snowplough goes through.
- clearing of public spaces – once homeowner’s snow is cleared, still can’t go anywhere
- telephone number required if service not suitable
- follow-up system
- timeliness
- ice removal
- DARTS clients require sufficient room for DARTS vehicles
- suggestion to “dovetail” with Barrier Free Standards group (snow removal is one of the barriers being addressed)
- removal of snow rather than just pushed to the side & piled
- confidentiality

(Mugford/Smithson)
That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities endorse Option #5, the hybrid option, in order to incorporate the best components of all the options with respect to the development of a snow removal program to assist those who have hardship with snow removal and compliance with the snow removal bylaw, CARRIED.

4.5 2006 Budget Submission

A copy of 2006 Business Plan/Budget Submission was previously distributed to the members for review.

(Haynes/Fuca)
That no additional funds over and above the 2005 budget allocation be requested in the 2006 Business Plan / Budget Submission by the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities. CARRIED.

4.6 Draft Handbook on “Resources and Information for Persons with Disabilities” - Maxine Carter

A copy of the draft Handbook on “Resources and Information for Persons with Disabilities” was distributed to member by Maxine Carter. Committee members were asked to review & come prepared to discuss at the October 2005 meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Resignations

The Chair advised that he had received resignations from Jocelyne Lebel and David Binns.

(Ferguson/Sheppard)
That the Advisory Committee for Persons with disabilities accept the resignations of Jocelyne Lebel and David Binns from the Committee. CARRIED.

A letter of thanks will be sent on behalf of the Committee.
5.2  Next Meeting

Tim Nolan advised that he will be unable to attend the October meeting.

(Fuca/Pennacchietti)
That Sandi Mugford be Acting Chair for the October 4, 2005 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities.    CARRIED.

5.3  Anthony Haynes advised the committee that he had contacted Gary Makins from Culture & Rec to request that a bucket swing be installed at the park close to where his “special needs” daughter lives. The swing was installed within a week’s time.

6.  ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.
- MINUTES -
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities
Tuesday, October 4, 2005
4:00 p.m. - Room 110
Hamilton City Hall, 71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present:  Sandi Mugford (Acting Chair), Darlene Burkett, Pat Cameron, Janice Ferguson, Brian Lane, Marie Pennacchietti, Mary Smithson

Regrets:  John Fuca, Anthony Haynes, Tim Nolan, Carol Sheppard, Kimberly Walker, Gay Walton

Also Present:  Maxine Carter, Jane Lee
- Customer Service, Access & Equity Division, Corporate Services

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None declared.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(Pennacchietti/Smithson)
That the minutes of the September 2, 2005 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be approved as presented. CARRIED.

3. CONSENT ITEMS (for information only):

3.1 Notes of Transportation Subcommittee, September 13, 2005

Sandi noted breakdown of draft reports from Paul Thompson. Committee was asked to comment on draft reports and what is important to the Committee.
Comments received:
- simplify report
- dedicated km per trip – helpful information
- consider mean, medium, mode (for consideration at next meeting)
- total system requested trips
- compliments or complaints need to be broken down to understand nature of complaints
- “other” needs to be explained
- glossary of descriptions will be helpful
Unresolved issues to be further reviewed.
Next Transportation Subcommittee meeting is Tuesday, October 13th.
4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Draft Handbook on “Resources & Information for Persons with Disabilities”

A draft copy of the handbook had been provided to Committee members for review prior to the meeting. Committee members were very pleased with the document and noted that it would be a document that would need to be kept up to date.

Comments received:
- add DISH
- add date of publication
- big gap as far as health care is concerned
- CCAC – personal care, home care, respite, referral/resource
- CCAC – single point of access to adult day services
- include Community Information Services
- include parks, trails, conservation authority & accessibility features
- include purpose of ODA
- larger print / block lettering (i.e. Verdana – 14 pt.)
- St. Charles Adult Learning Centre
- avoid acronyms
- page 29 – definition – supported or supportive housing
- Tenant Information Line

Maxine thanked the Committee for their comments and commended them for the wonderful job in helping with this.

4.2 Nominations / Election of Vice-Chair

There was a suggestion to have a rotating Vice-Chair. The Committee agreed to decide next meeting whether or not they would have a rotating Vice-Chair. If the committee decides not to have a rotating Vice-Chair, there were two members nominated for the Vice-Chair: Marie Pennacchietti and Sandi Mugford. Additional members could be nominated at the next meeting, if desired. The committee discussed having each of the nominees explain in two minutes their thoughts, prior to a vote.

4.3 Membership

(Burkett/Pennacchietti)
That 4 additional members be sought from community at large, including consumer groups. CARRIED.
4.4 Membership and Structure of Sub-committees

The Committee proposed structuring the sub-committees on the areas noted to be coming in terms of AODA standards. There was some discussion about the current committees, and the need for committees to address issues of education, income and housing as well.

It was agreed that this matter should be discussed at a future meeting. Staff will bring back information on the current sub-committees, the 4 proposed new sub-committees, together with the items the committee established as priorities in the Accessibility Plan, to a future meeting for discussion.

4.4 Education Subcommittee

It was noted that there is a need to make the public aware of the Advisory Committee, and to educate people about the AODA / ODA and the Committee. This sub-committee will also be considered with the others in the review.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Committee members were informed of the presentation of the Accessibility Plan scheduled for October 19, 2005 at the Corporate Administration Committee.

6. ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the meeting adjourned.