

MINUTES



MISSISSAUGA ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

www.mississauga.ca

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2011 – 2:00 p.m.

PROGRAM ROOM 1, MISSISSAUGA VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
1275 Mississauga Valley Boulevard, Mississauga, Ontario, L5A 3R8

Members Present

Councillor Katie Mahoney, Ward 8
Councillor Pat Saito, Ward 9
Rabia Khedr, Citizen Member (Chair)
Naz Husain, Citizen Member (Vice-Chair)
Glenn Barnes, Citizen Member
Kristine Beavis, Citizen Member
Al Cormier, Stakeholder Member
Clement Lowe, Citizen Member
Carol MacEachern, Citizen Member

Staff Present

Sonja Banic, Manager, Public Affairs
James Bisson, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement
Frank Buckley, Parks Manager South District
Lawrence Franklin, Urban Designer, Development and Design Division
Sue Hinton, Communications Coordinator, Customer and Business Services
Virginia Kalapaca, Project Coordinator Landscape Architect
Raymond Lau, Roadway Programmer
Natalie Javed, Legal Services Volunteer
Suzanne Noga, Acting Staffing and Development Consultant, Corporate HR
Diana Simpson, Accessibility Coordinator
Frank Spagnolo, Manager, Plan Examination Services
Samson Tien, Systems Support Services Coordinator
Alana Tyers, Transit Planner
Andrea Wilson-Peebles, Legal Counsel

Others Present

Carol-Ann Chafe, Former AAC Member

CONTACT PERSON: Julie Lavertu, Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk, Telephone: 905-615-3200, ext. 5471, Fax: 905-615-4181
Julie.Lavertu@mississauga.ca

CALL TO ORDER – 2:05 p.m.

DECLARATIONS OF DIRECT (OR INDIRECT) PECUNIARY INTEREST – Nil

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Simpson requested to speak about the proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation in Item 7.

Mr. Barnes requested to speak about unspent grant money from the 2010 Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion event in Oakville and the 25th anniversary of Rick Hansen's Man In Motion World Tour in "Other Business."

Ms. Khedr requested to speak about Mississauga Transit's progress with bus stop announcements and windrow snow in "Other Business."

Approved as amended (N. Husain)

DEPUTATIONS – Nil

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Approved (G. Barnes)

2. Mileage and Public Transit Reimbursements for Citizen Members

Ms. Lavertu provided a brief overview regarding mileage and public transit reimbursements for Citizen Members of committees.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Mississauga Accessibility Plan

Memorandum dated January 19, 2011 from Diana Simpson, Accessibility Coordinator, regarding the City of Mississauga Accessibility Plan: 2010 Annual Report, 2011 Initiatives.

Ms. Simpson provided an overview of the Mississauga Accessibility Plan. She noted that the implementation of the proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation will direct work during the next five years. Ms. Simpson advised that she was planning a one or two day workshop in April 2011 to develop the vision, strategy, goals, obstacles, and priorities for the 2012 Mississauga Accessibility Plan.

Committee members discussed the Mississauga Accessibility Plan, postponing the workshop until May 2011, hiring additional staff, perhaps on contract, to help Ms. Simpson with the implementation of the proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation, and the advantages of multi-year, versus annual, accessibility plans.

Ms. Tyers provided an overview of Mississauga Transit's Accessibility Plan 2010. She advised that 63 percent of routes were accessible and that 92 percent of the fleet was accessible. Mississauga Transit is working with Infrastructure Planning staff to coordinate accessible bus routes with the construction of new sidewalks.

Ms. Tyers noted that Mississauga Transit is targeting the end of March 2011 for the system wide implementation of bus stop announcements. In response to a question from a Committee member, Ms. Tyers advised that not all operators are currently announcing bus stops, but that Mississauga Transit continues to train operators because they will provide the announcements if the technology fails.

Recommendation

AAC-0001-2011

That the memorandum dated January 19, 2011 from Diana Simpson, Accessibility Coordinator, regarding the City of Mississauga's Accessibility Plan: 2010 Report, 2011 Initiatives, be received.

Received (G. Barnes)

Recommendation

AAC-0002-2011

That the Mississauga Accessibility Advisory Committee supports the City of Mississauga's Accessibility Plan: 2010 Report, 2011 Initiatives.

Direction (P. Saito)

Recommendation

AAC-0003-2011

That the Mississauga Accessibility Advisory Committee supports the hiring of additional staff before the fall of 2011 to assist the Accessibility Coordinator with increased workload due to the implementation of the proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation.

Direction (K. Beavis)

4. Corporate Policy and Procedure - Civic Recognition Program Policy (06-04-01)

Ms. Khedr spoke about the Civic Recognition Program Policy (06-04-01) and, specifically, the Civic Awards of Recognition for Citizen Members of committees. She indicated that she was disappointed that a former AAC member, who served most of her term, was not recognized at the Civic Awards of Recognition event in November 2010 because she was no longer a current Committee member. Ms. Khedr asked staff to review and revise Policy 06-04-01 so that Citizen Members who resign due to unforeseen or personal circumstances are recognized at the Civic Awards of Recognition event at the completion of their appointed terms.

Committee members concurred with Ms. Khedr's concerns and request to staff and Councillor Mahoney apologized for the situation.

Ms. Banic apologized for the situation and advised that Communications staff manage the policy and program. She indicated that staff would review the policy with Councillors Mahoney and Saito and return this matter to the Committee.

Recommendation
AAC-0004-2011

That staff review the Corporate Policy and Procedure – Civic Recognition Program Policy (06-04-01) in light of the concerns expressed by Rabia Khedr, Citizen Member and Chair, and report back to the Mississauga Accessibility Advisory Committee with their recommendations.

Direction (K. Mahoney)

5. National Access Awareness Event

Diana Simpson, Accessibility Coordinator, provided a verbal update about the National Access Awareness Event.

Ms. Simpson advised that she had a brief meeting with Committee members to plan the event which will be held on Tuesday, May 31, 2011 from 1:30-4 p.m. in the LC Taylor Auditorium at the Mississauga Valley Community Centre. The event will focus on invisible disabilities and, specifically, workplace mental health issues, involve a speaker from the Canadian Mental Health Association, and that the main target for the event are City staff (however, everyone is welcome to attend). Ms. Simpson asked Committee members to contact her with their suggestions for a title or theme regarding invisible disabilities like mental health.

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2005 (AODA) –
ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

6. Proposed Transportation Standard

No update at this time.

7. Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation

Ms. Simpson provided a brief overview of the proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation and indicated that the government was accepting feedback on the proposed regulation until March 18. She advised that the Accessibility Advisory Committee Staff Working Group was meeting on February 8 to discuss this matter and decide on next steps. Ms. Simpson asked Committee members to provide her with their feedback or to participate in an upcoming conference call.

8. Ontario Regulation 429/07 - Accessible Customer Service Standard

Ms. Khedr advised that she was recently appointed to the Accessibility Standards Advisory Council of Ontario for a one year term that ends on November 30, 2011.

9. Accessible Built Environment Standard

No update at this time.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – Nil

REGION OF PEEL ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ms. Husain advised that the Committee's new session began two weeks ago and that William Goursky was reappointed as the Committee's Chair. She noted that there are many new Committee members with diverse backgrounds, skills, qualifications, and experiences such as Ward 7 Councillor Nando Iannicca.

PENDING WORK PLAN ITEMS

10. Pending Work Plan Items dated February 7, 2011

Recommendation
AAC-0005-2011

That the pending work plan items dated February 7, 2011 be received for information.

Received (K. Mahoney)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – Nil

OTHER BUSINESS

Unspent Grant Money from the 2010 Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion Event

Mr. Barnes spoke about unspent grant money from the 2010 Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion event in Oakville and the possibility of the City matching these monies to purchase accessible fitness equipment for one or more community centres. Mr. Barnes advised that he is a member of the 2010 Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion Committee which reviews applications for grant monies and that the Committee wishes to fund requests that address community needs.

Committee members discussed the grant money, the feasibility of purchasing accessible fitness equipment for community centres, and whether the City and/or community groups could match the funds. Committee members advised Ms. Simpson and Mr. Barnes to discuss this matter with Community Services staff.

25th Anniversary of Rick Hansen's Man In Motion World Tour in 2011

Mr. Barnes spoke about the 25th anniversary of Rick Hansen's Man In Motion World Tour in 2011 and the possibility of having an event, funded by the City or another group, in Mississauga. Councillors Saito and Mahoney asked Mr. Barnes to provide them with their written request, as the Mississauga Celebration Square Events Committee should formally consider the request.

Ramp Issues at the Mississauga Valley Community Centre

Councillor Saito indicated that the wide ramp at the front of the Mississauga Valley Community Centre was very steep near the TransHelp drop-off area and could pose a danger to individuals with disabilities. She requested that her feedback be shared with appropriate staff so that they could investigate.

Installation of Accessibility Devices/Features in Residential Dwellings

Councillor Saito spoke about the many requirements facing residents seeking to

install accessibility devices/features, such as elevators or ramps, in their homes. She noted that the City should be facilitating permits for these types of requests.

Mr. Spagnolo provided a brief overview of the requirements. He advised that many residents are frustrated and confused with the requirements and that the City could provide residents more detailed information to simplify and clarify the requirements and process. Mr. Spagnolo added that many residents seeking to install accessibility devices/features in their homes rely on time-restricted grants. Committee members agreed with Councillor Saito's concerns and discussed the lack of flexibility with grants provided by the March of Dimes.

Ms. Wilson-Peebles advised that Legal Services staff could help the Building Division draft easy-to-understand documents on legal requirements regarding the installation of accessibility features/devices in residential dwellings.

Recommendation

AAC-0006-2011

That the Mississauga Accessibility Advisory Committee supports that the City of Mississauga's Building Division provides building permit applicants with more information about what is required to install accessibility devices/features (e.g., elevators, ramps) in residential dwellings.

Direction (K. Beavis)

Recommendation

AAC-0007-2011

That, on behalf of the Mississauga Accessibility Advisory Committee, Rabia Khedr, Citizen Member and Chair, write a letter to the March of Dimes (and copy the Minister of Community and Social Services) requesting more flexibility with their grant deadlines to accommodate the process of constructing accessibility devices/features in residential dwellings.

Direction (P. Saito)

Windrow Snow Issues

Ms. Khedr spoke about windrow snow, its negative impact on persons with disabilities, and inquired about the City's driveway windrow snow program.

Councillor Saito provided a brief overview of the City's driveway windrow snow clearing pilot program and advised that detailed information regarding the program was available on the City's website.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on Monday, March 7, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in Program Room 1, Mississauga Valley Community Centre.

Facility Accessibility Design Subcommittee (FADS) on Monday, February 14, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in Committee Room D, 2nd Floor, Civic Centre.

ADJOURNMENT – 3:49 p.m.