



City of Hamilton

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AGENDA

Meeting #: 21-012

Date: November 9, 2021

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall

All electronic meetings can be viewed at:

City's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton>

Carrie McIntosh, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 2729

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(Added Items, if applicable, will be noted with *)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1. October 12, 2021

4. COMMUNICATIONS

5. DELEGATION REQUESTS

6. CONSENT ITEMS

6.1. Built Environment Working Group Update (no copy)

6.2. Housing Issues Working Group Update

6.2.a. Housing Issues Working Group Meeting Notes - September 21, 2021

6.3. Outreach Working Group Update

6.3.a. Outreach Working Group Meeting Notes - August 17, 2021

6.3.b. Outreach Working Group Meeting Notes - September 21, 2021

6.4. Transportation Working Group Update

6.4.a. Transportation Working Group Meeting Notes - October 26, 2021

6.5. Strategic Planning Working Group Update

6.5.a. Strategic Planning Working Group Meeting Notes - October 27, 2021

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1. David Lepofsky, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance, respecting Current Activities of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance and Progress Towards a Fully Accessible Ontario by 2025 (no copy)

7.2. 2022 Municipal Election: Poll Locations and Planning for Accessibility

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS / DELEGATIONS

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. MOTIONS

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

12. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS

12.1. Accessibility Complaints to the City of Hamilton (no copy)

12.2. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) Update (no copy)

12.3. Presenters List for the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

12.4. Delegation to Audit, Finance and Administration Committee - Deferred from October 12, 2021

Regarding Consultant Report to Accessible Transportation Services funded by Provincial Audit and Accountability Fund

12.5. Update on Presentation to All Advisory Committee Meeting - Deferred from October 12, 2021

13. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

14. ADJOURNMENT



Hamilton

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES
MINUTES 21-011**

4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

**Due to COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall,
this meeting was held virtually.**

Present: P. Kilburn (Vice-Chair), S. Aaron, J. Cardno,
M. Dent, L. Dingman, S. Geffros, L. Janosi,
J. Kemp, T. Manzuk, C. McBride, M. McNeil,
T. Murphy, K. Nolan, T. Nolan, and R. Semkow

**Absent
with regrets:** Mayor F. Eisenberger
A. Mallet (Chair),
P. Cameron, A. Frisina

Also Present: C. Cutler, Advisor to the Mayor
Jessica Bowen, Supervisor, Diversity and
Inclusion

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO THE
GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION:**

- 1. Formation of an Accessible Open Spaces and Parklands Working Group (Item 6.1(b))**

(T. Nolan/Cardno)

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities has identified a gap in current standards and legislation, including but not limited to, the Ontario Building Code, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (O. Reg 191/11), and the City of Hamilton Barrier Free Design Guidelines, relating to specific accessible design guidelines for public open spaces and parklands; and

WHEREAS, a Working Group is needed to develop accessible design guidelines for City-owned open spaces and parklands.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That an Accessible Open Spaces and Parklands Working Group of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be established on an ad hoc basis for the purpose of developing accessible design guidelines for City-owned open spaces and parklands;
- (b) That the Accessible Open Spaces and Parklands Working Group be comprised of the following Members:
 - (i) Tim Nolan
 - (ii) Kim Nolan
 - (iii) James Kemp
 - (iv) Tom Manzuk
 - (v) Paula Kilburn
 - (vi) Mark McNeil
- (c) That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities respectfully requests the participation of relevant staff to assist the Working Group by providing

their expertise, input and any other required information to complete the mandate of the Working Group.

CARRIED

2. 2022 Budget Submission for the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (Item 9.2)

(Kilburn/Semkow)

That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities base budget submission, in the amount of \$6,100 for 2022, be approved and referred to the 2022 budget process for consideration.

CARRIED

3. Request from Aznive Mallett for a Leave of Absence from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities until November 9, 2021 (Item 10.1)

(McNeil/Kilburn)

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Advisory Committee Procedural Handbook, members of the Committee who miss more than three meetings during their term without Committee approval, may be subject to replacement on the Committee and may not be eligible for re-appointment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That Aznive Mallett be authorized to be absent from meetings of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities up to and including November 9, 2021, due to medical reasons.

CARRIED

4. Presenters List for the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (Item 12.3)**(a) Invitation to Denise Davy to Present to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (Item 12.3)****(Cardno/Dingman)**

That Denise Davy, author of *Her Name was Margaret: Life and Death on the Streets*, be invited to attend a future meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

CARRIED**FOR INFORMATION:****(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)**

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

12. GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS

12.4 Delegation to Audit, Finance and Administration Committee

Regarding Consultant Report to Accessible Transportation Services funded by Provincial Audit and Accountability Fund

12.5 Update of Presentation to All Advisory Committee Meeting

(Semkow/Geffros)

That the agenda for the October 12, 2021 meeting of the

Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)

(i) September 14, 2021 (Item 3.1)

(Semkow/McNeil)

That the minutes of the September 14, 2021 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

(i) September 24, 2021 – Special Meeting (Item 3.2)

(Aaron/McNeil)

That the minutes of the September 24, 2021 Special Meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

P. Kilburn relinquished the Chair to J. Kemp for the remainder of the meeting due to technical difficulties.

(d) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 6)

(i) Built Environment Working Group Update (Item 6.1)

(1) Built Environment Working Group Verbal Update (Item 6.1(a))

(McNeil/Kilburn)

That the Built Environment Working Group Verbal Update, be received.

CARRIED

(ii) Housing Issues Working Group Update (Item 6.2)

J. Kemp relinquished the Chair to P. Kilburn to provide updates on the Housing Issues Working Group (Item 6.2) and the Outreach Working Group (Item 6.3).

(1) Housing Issues Working Group Meeting Notes – August 17, 2021 (Item 6.2(a))

(Semkow/K. Nolan)

That the Housing Issues Working Group Meeting Notes of August 17, 2021, be received.

CARRIED

(iii) Outreach Working Group Update (Item 6.3)

(McNeil/K. Nolan)

That the Outreach Working Group verbal update, be received.

CARRIED

J. Kemp resumed the Chair.

(iv) Transportation Working Group Update (Item 6.4)

(1) Transportation Working Group Meeting Notes - September 28, 2021 (Item 6.4(a))

(Kilburn/McNeil)

That the Transportation Working Group Meeting Notes of September 28, 2021, be received.

CARRIED**(v) Strategic Planning Working Group Update (Item 6.5)**

J. Kemp relinquished the Chair to P. Kilburn to provide an update on the Strategic Planning Working Group.

(McNeil/Geffros)

That the Strategic Planning Working Group Verbal Update, be received.

CARRIED

J. Kemp resumed the Chair.

(e) STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 7)**(i) AODA Annual Status Report (Item 7.1)**

Jessica Bowen, Supervisor, Diversity and Inclusion) provided the AODA Annual Status Report with the aid of a presentation

(Kilburn/Dingman)

That the AODA Annual Report presentation, be received.

CARRIED**(f) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 9)****(i) Social Determinants of Health in COVID-19 (BOH20015) (City Wide) (Item 9.1)**

(McNeil/Cameron)

That Report BOH20015, respecting Social Determinants of Health in COVID-19, be deferred and staff be invited to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities to speak to the report.

CARRIED**(g) GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS (Item 12)****(i) Accessibility Complaints to the City of Hamilton (Item 12.1)**

No update.

(ii) *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) Update (Item 12.2)*

No update.

(Kilburn/McNeil)

(ii) That the following items be deferred to the November 9, 2021 Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting due to time constraints:

(1) Delegation to Audit, Finance and Administration Committee (Added Item 12.4)

(2) Update on Presentation to All Advisory Committee Meeting (Added Item 12.5).

CARRIED

(h) ADJOURNMENT (Item 14)

(McNeil/Semkow)

That there being no further business, the Advisory
Committee for Persons with Disabilities be adjourned at 6:05
p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

P. Kilburn, Vice-Chair
J. Kemp, Acting Chair
Advisory Committee for
Persons with Disabilities

Tamara Bates
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk

6.2(a)

Housing Working Group Meeting Notes

Sept. 21st, 2021

Virtual WebEx Meeting

10:00AM – 12:00PM

Those in attendance: James Kemp, Robert Semkow, Lance Dingman, Tom Manzuk

Also in attendance: Taline Morris

Those absent: Jayne Cardno, Sophie Geffros, Paula Kilburn

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approval of September agenda: Agenda was approved
3. Approval of August 17th meeting notes: Meeting notes were approved.
4. Unlocking the AODA: We read through the rest of the report. We learned a lot about how the AODA affects housing without ever mentioning housing. The Chair will compile a list of things to review, but we will have to invite CityHousing to a future meeting in order to Audit their AODA policies. The report also explains how the Human Rights Code protects disability in housing.
5. Other business: There was no other business
6. Adjournment.

6.3 (a)

Outreach Working Group Meeting Notes

Aug 17th, 2021

Virtual WebEx Meeting

4:00PM – 6:00PM

Those in Attendance: Aznive Mallet, James Kemp, Tom Manzuk, Patty Cameron, Anthony Frisina, Jayne Cardno

Also in Attendance: Taline Morris, Lawrence Rivers, Manuel Do Carmo

Those Absent: Paula Kilburn

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Approval of Agenda: Agenda was approved
4. Approval of July 17th Meeting Notes: Meeting Notes were approved.
5. Discussion with C&DC Ortho-Mobility Solutions' Manuel Do Carmo and Lawrence Rivers: We had a productive discussion with Lawrence Rivers and Manuel Do Carmo regarding the Wheelchair/scooter rescue program. They were very positive about the program and already seem to be working closely with DARTS to achieve some of the goals of this program. The following is a brief transcript from the Q&A.

Is wheelchair/scooter rescue something your company can perform?

I am already the preferred person to assist DARTS with breakdowns.

What are some issues that have caused problems in trying to assist people in the field?

DARTS is not allowed to transfer someone out of a device and cannot transfer someone without their device. They are also not allowed to push the person unpowered. There are union and liability issues according to DARTS.

Do you know what needs to be repaired before you head out into the field/can you bring replacement parts or loaner equipment?

Not often unless I get a specific error code on a readout. I ask the person to give me as much information as I can and can easily diagnose things like tire problems over the phone.

What percentage of repairs do you perform in the field as opposed to back at the shop?

I can do 80% in the field and 20% back at the shop.

What would you suggest to help make this program a reality?

I would suggest looping Accessible Taxis into the conversation. They may be able to come up with a fare forgiveness or loaner program on an emergency basis, but they might help us get around liability issues with DARTS. Safe transport is a major issue in my experience.

Aznive made mention that she thinks the best thing for the program may be an emergency repair fund managed by the City.

We will try to set up a discussion with C&DC and DARTS with the possible addition from someone from BlueLine.

6. CityLab/Community Engagement Database Project: Not much updated for this month, we are still awaiting a meeting with Community Engagement when School starts up again. Discussed adding research projects to the collaboration.
7. Pamphlet Distribution: Now that the pamphlets are approved and printed we need to sort out distribution and priority of dissemination. Patty raised issue with some of the flaws from the first printing. James reported that they will be addressed by next print run. Community centres will get a large batch, followed by libraries, followed by community agencies, followed by Tourism Hamilton, followed by HSR/DARTS, followed by Recreation Centres.
8. Motion to print IDPWD Calendar: James reported that he is still awaiting quotes from printers. Aznive had some questions about sizing and that is directly related to cost. City Printers are the only response so far.
9. IDPW Day: We had a broad ranging discussion regarding things that we wanted to do for the Day but didn't come to a consensus regarding what and how. Topics discussed included: Banner cost and liability, dynamic symbol of access painting, parking space awareness, public media event in City Hall, Full page ad in Spectator, Possible Theme for the event suggested was disability and the pandemic, in particular, what the pandemic has taught us about the progress made so far and how far we have yet to go.
10. Adjournment.

6.3 (b)

Outreach Working Group Meeting Notes

September 21st, 2021

Virtual WebEx Meeting

4:00PM – 6:00PM

Those in attendance: Patty Cameron, Anthony Frisina, James Kemp, Tom Manzuk

Also in attendance: Taline Morris

Those absent: Jayne Cardno, Paula Kilburn, Aznive Mallett

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Approval of agenda: The agenda was approved, Patty had issue with the fact that the Vice-chair didn't put down the CityLab project or planning for IDPWD day, but as he had no new information and didn't expect certain members at this meeting, he didn't add them. It was no reflection on their importance.
3. Approval of Aug 17th Meeting Notes: The Vice-Chair apologized but the transcript of the C&DC meeting took a long time, the notes will be ready by next meeting.
4. Transportation Roundtable: With Paula away for a while, we will need to find someone to take over her duties in this manner. Tom will reach out to Shahan and see what still needs to be done in this quarter.
5. IDPWD Calender Distribution: We began discussing who to put on the distribution list for the Calendar. To begin, it will be the Committee members, Council members, Heads of Departments.

Editors at the Spectator. The Vice-chair has asked for people to compile lists so we can narrow down who else should get one.

6. Pamphlet project update: The Vice-Chair gave us an update about the pamphlet, Accessible language has been provided to the City for addition to the Web accessible version. The City printers have explained the problems of the first printing and steps are being taken to rectify them.
7. Other business: We discussed a number of related and unrelated topics, mostly around the upcoming IDPWD and celebrating it in some fashion, Patty suggested a table serving hot chocolate and pamphlets. We also discussed a Group Photo in front of City Hall. CityLab data basing project was also discussed.
8. Adjournment.

6.4 (a)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES Transportation Working Group

Tuesday, 26 October 2021, 4 – 6 pm
Virtual via WebEx

Attendance: Shahan Aaron (chair), Anthony Frisina, James Kemp, Kim Nolan, Mark McNeil, Paula Kilburn, Tim Murphy, Tom Manzuk

ATS: Michelle Martin, Jay Adams

City Staff: Jessica Bowen

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Welcome, Introductions and Land Acknowledgement

Received

2. Review 28 September 2021 Meeting Notes

Received

3. Discussion Items

a. Michelle Martin and Jay Adams, ATS updates

- Clean draft of the ATS application
 - Introduction to eligibility
 - Unconditional, Conditional, Seasonal, Trip-by-trip, temporary eligibility
 - ATS programs and services: What's DARTS? Taxi Scrip Program?

- Accessible entrance to accessible entrance - Needs clearer language
 - Vulnerable adults and/or living in long term care are automatically eligible
 - TWG Suggestion: Make sure the form is screen reader friendly and that the website is accessible
 - How to apply and description
 - Pages 1 – 5 by applicant and 6 – 8 by regulated healthcare professional
 - Gender neutral, home address or Long Term Care
 - 3 emergency contacts
 - Authoring a representative – optional
 - Description of power chair allowed on board
 - Functional abilities section to be revised at a later date
-
- Clean draft of ATS late Cancels policy (accounting for the most recent feedback from TWG)
Deferred to November 2021

 - Clean draft of updated bundle buggy policy
Deferred to November 2021

 - Upcoming plans for our annual AODA Accessibility Event
Deferred to November 2021

 - Transit ridership recovery marketing campaign
Deferred to November 2021

 - Fare incentives beginning 1 Nov 2021
 - Get rider back to transit
 - 3 fair incentives

1. Child fare 6 – 12: free with presto – 18-month pilot
2. Presto full payment, loyalty program. Starting with 11 trips, 12th onwards free. Lower that to 8, 9th onwards free. Multimodal with Hamilton. Mon – Sun. Until Dec 31 2022.
3. HSR myRide Waterdown free service 5 am - 10 am. Special promotion. Doesn't apply to DARTS

- Travel Log study
Deferred to November 2021
- Grey Cup coming to Hamilton 12 Dec 2021
Deferred to November 2021

b. Dillion Report

- Rework language to include less scary words like 'reassessment'
- The 'reassessment' actually refers to updating client information, such as emergency contact, are they alive, are they aware that they can take DARTS.
- Timeline of application of recommendations not yet determined
- Better messaging
- Taxi scrip users are scared of being kicked of the service
- Active riders are ones who has 1 ride in 12 months

c. Post Roundtable debrief

- More feed back
- Working on google form for feedback

d. Review AODA Compliance

Deferred to November 2021

4. Agenda Items for next meeting
 - a. Michelle Martin and Jay Adams, ATS updates
 - Clean draft of updated bundle buggy policy
 - Clean draft of ATS late Cancels policy (accounting for the most recent feedback from TWG)
 - Upcoming plans for our annual AODA Accessibility Event
 - Transit ridership recovery marketing campaign
 - Travel Log study
 - Grey Cup coming to Hamilton 12 Dec 2021
 - b. Review roundtable feedback
 - c. Review AODA compliance

5. Adjournment by Paula at 6 pm

6.5 (a)

Strategic Planning Working Group Meeting Notes

Oct. 27th, 2021

Virtual WebEx Meeting

2:00PM – 4:00PM

Those in attendance: Mark McNeil, Tom Manzuk, Paula Kilburn, James Kemp, Elizabeth Jayne Cardno

Also in attendance: Taline Morris

Those absent: Patty Cameron, Aznive Mallett

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Agenda: Agenda was approved
3. Dillon Report Discussion: We discussed the upcoming AAFC presentation from HSR based on the Dillon Report recommendations and how we want to proceed. We have decided on a multi-pronged approach so we can be prepared not matter how HSR decides to proceed. We understand that at least a partial integration of conventional transit and paratransit services is inevitable, but we must counsel patience and a slow multi-year rollout as we try and make the conventional as accessible as possible. The conventional service is not prepared for the increased numbers and workload and we must make that clear. We must also be prepared for HSR to agree to reassess, but decide they aren't ready to downshift clients. We would like HSR to start counting how many pass-bys occur daily, how many

scooters, power chairs, walkers, white canes board etc.... In order to get a clearer picture of how many people with disabilities use conventional transit. We need to point out the difficulty in some of the proposals in the report, for example: Integrated trips; while it looks like it would be successful on paper, there are too many variables for it to be a valid option. DARTS cannot guarantee that they will be on time, and HSR cannot guarantee that there will be an available space for them, just to name two issues. Another unknown variable is Taxi Scrips and how they will address grandfathered clients.

4. On-Street Patio Program: We discussed whether this working group should oversee this project or if we should just leave it in BEWG only. We decided that it is fine where it is for the moment and doesn't require oversight.
5. Advisory Committee Collaboration: We had a brief discussion on what Committees were interested and what they were interested in. Housing and Homelessness would like to speak with the Chair of HWG at a full HHAC meeting in the New Year to discuss combining forces and what that may look like. James will prepare a delegation motion for next ACPD. Senior Advisory Committee would like to discuss cooperating over transportation issues and would also like to talk about databasing. LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee would like to discuss databasing. James will try and set up a meeting with the three groups in the future.
6. Ride Share/Taxi Incentive Program: James has had a motion for this on his OBL for a little while but is still waiting to have a conversation with Taxi management with regards to how many accessible taxis are in operation per day. By-

Law/Licensing will only tell us that there are 43 accessible taxi licenses. We discussed the ride share programs being required to pay a fairer share or they will have to invest in accessible transport.

7. CityLab/Community Engagement Database Project: We discussed the future of this project and have decided that the initial purpose, a fully accessible and searchable database, has been coopted into more of a research project. We have decided to separate the database issue from this project and will take another approach. This project will now be referred to as the CityLab/Community Engagement research project. We are hoping to have a proposal before us in the next month or so.
8. Other Business: During our transit discussion, Elizabeth brought up the issue of integrated transit stops, for example, ensuring LRT/Express stops have space for DARTS or Taxi pick up/drop off, bike racks, accessible seating, soon to be E-Scooter stations etc... Tom made a suggestion of installing emergency charging stations for power scooters and power chairs on bus shelters.
9. Adjournment



2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Poll Locations & Planning for Accessibility

Our Last Conversation:

- Share information about potential 2022 Alternative Voting Methods (Vote by Mail)
- Group feedback and advice for 2022
- Discussion on planning for accessibility using lived-experience and updated criteria
- Enhance customer service training and resources to assist election workers providing accommodations

Our Conversation Today:

- Review draft Poll Location selection criteria / Provide Feedback
- Discuss enhanced communications
- Share Engage Hamilton opportunity

Previous Criteria and Approach (2018):

- AODA compliant facilities; prioritize Municipal or School locations
- Aligned with Elections Canada, Elections Ontario
- Endeavour to use familiar locations, as much as possible
- HSR access wherever possible
- DARTS access and Front-of-the-Line service
- Curbside Voting
- Training resources for Election Workers on available processes for accommodations

Updated Poll Location Criteria and Approach (2022):

- Meet 2018 Standards with enhancements
- Enhanced wayfinding where needed (e.g. signage, customer service staff)
- Enhanced description of Poll Location in Assessment Criteria
- Consultative Election planning / Community Outreach
- Enhanced Communication and Sharing of Poll information in advance
- Plan for Public Health guidance

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



- Visit any Municipal Service Centre or any branch of the Hamilton Public Library to receive and return a printed survey
- Complete a fillable PDF version and return by email to elections@hamilton.ca
- Answer the survey to help establish a Voter Experience benchmark
- Suggest a Poll Location for consideration

Election Communication & Outreach:

Communication and notices of key dates in the Municipal Election are commonly shared through:

- Local Newspapers
- Social Media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook)
- Local news networks (Media Releases)

What else could we do to enhance communication?

Where else could communications be shared to ensure information barriers are removed?



Hamilton

THANK YOU

12.3

Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (ACPD) Presenters List as of October 1, 2021

The following is a listing of invited presenters for future Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meetings:

- (a) **Invitee:** Donna Skelly, MPP Flamborough-Glanbrook
Issue: Listening to Ontarians with Disabilities: The Third Review of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*
Date Action Initiated: March 12, 2019, Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities Report 19-002, Item (f)(v)
Status: Ongoing - Invitation sent via email on August 23, 2021 (see Item 4 of Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities Report 21-006 for reference).

- (b) **Invitee:** David Lepofsky
Issue: Discuss current activities of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance and the progress being made towards a fully accessible Ontario by 2025
Date Action Initiated: September 14, 2021, Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities Report 21-009, Item 5
Status: Scheduled to attend the November 9, 2021 Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting.

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities: November 9, 2021

MOVED BY J. KEMP

SECONDED BY.....

**Delegation to Audit, Finance and Administration Committee -
Accessible Transportation Services**

WHEREAS, at an upcoming meeting of the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee, Accessible Transportation Services Staff will present their recommendations about the Consultant Report to Accessible Transportation Services funded by Provincial Audit and Accountability Fund (PW21055) (City Wide) and the Eligibility Review Audit; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities have concerns about the impact on the disabled related to changes recommended by Accessible Transportation Services Staff;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That **(Member(s) name(s) to be determined by Committee)** be authorized to delegate at a meeting of the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee on behalf of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities to consult respecting accessibility issues related to Accessible Transportation Services and the Eligibility Review Audit.

ACPD All Advisory Committee Meeting Speech

Good afternoon members of Hamilton Advisory Committees, My name is James Kemp and I am here today representing the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

In brief summation, our committee differs from all other advisory committees in that we wear two hats: We are a sub-committee of Council, mandated by the province, to advise Council regarding the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of its accessibility plan in accordance with the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). We are also an advisory committee with regards to all matters pertaining to persons with disabilities and advise Council accordingly. While the provincially mandated review of the AODA is the most essential part of our duties, for the purposes of this meeting I will concentrate on our advisory role.

Our current organization consists of four primary working groups, Built Environment, Transportation, Housing and Outreach with a few ad-hoc working groups that are activated as needed.

Built Environment focuses on things like sidewalks, bus stops, urban braille, public spaces, snow removal and capital projects to name just a few. To give you an example: We are currently working with the City to create an accessible washroom list and make it available online.

Transportation focuses on Public Transit and ensuring that the disabled can travel with safety, convenience and independence on multiple services; HSR, DARTS, ATS and Accessible Taxis. We are currently preparing to host a roundtable regarding Public Transit and ways to move forward post-pandemic.

Housing has recently increased its mandate with approval of Council and is gathering information on a number of disability/accessibility related housing issues that need to be addressed. For example:

12.5

Hospital to Housing/LTC transition, RCFs, CityHousing accessibility policies, housing application streamlining, housing guide update, Universal accessibility design etc... When we understand where we are and how we got here, we will better understand what recommendations to present to Council moving forward in order to improve housing for all.

Outreach is responsible for communicating with private agencies and the general public. It became apparent that a large number of citizens of Hamilton weren't aware of our committee and its purpose. To address this problem, Outreach has recently begun a campaign to inform the public about our committee and how they might raise issues and concerns with us. I will return to this later in more detail.

The ACPD has had to address a number of issues this term that have significantly affected our effectiveness to represent our demographic to the best of our ability. First and foremost, we are predominantly disabled. We suffer from health and/or developmental issues that impair our ability to work or think. A number of members suffer from vision loss impairing their ability to read maps and see presentations for example. Medical issues tend to make focus and concentration difficult. At the beginning of this term, Council reduced our membership to be more in line with fellow advisory committees, but we quickly discovered that it was more difficult to achieve quorum with reduced numbers. We asked Council to address this issue and they raised our number to eighteen; we have achieved quorum since then.

Our Committee was just starting to get some momentum going when the pandemic struck. Suddenly we had no ability to advise Council at the time our counsel was needed most. The disabled were affected particularly hard during this time. Decisions were made regarding the disabled without the input of anyone with a disability. The changes were also not transmitted to the public in accessible fashion. I am not here to assign blame or embarrass anyone and that is the limit to which I will speak on that, except to say that the pandemic highlighted just how far we have to go before we can truly call ourselves an accessible society.

12.5

Another issue that our committee is trying to address is the need for a searchable database. We have accumulated almost two decades worth of motions, projects, reports, presentations, etc.... and need some way of collecting it in one place, accessible by any member, at any time, with any device. We have looked into setting up an expanded Google Drive or Dropbox account, but that is a very labour intensive project and requires abilities beyond our group's collective skill set. We are currently in early discussions with CityLAB and Community Engagement to see if they are able to help us. I would imagine that database access is an issue for other committees as well.

Despite the difficulties of the past year and only being able to meet virtually, we have had some success as I will highlight.

Commercial rental E-Scooters went before Public Works in May. We raised a number of safety concerns and made a number of recommendations to make them safer. Staff listened to our concerns and made a number of changes in order to improve safety and equity of access.

As I alluded to earlier, the Outreach Working Group made a special effort to connect to the general public. It began by creating a secondary logo in accordance with the Advisory Committee Procedural Handbook. The logo is based on the symbol for Universal Accessibility, a human representation with arms and legs akimbo and our initials being juggled in its hands. When it was approved by Council, we moved on to creating a pamphlet that was eye catching but contained simplified language giving a basic explanation as to our purpose and how to contact us. The pamphlet was approved and is ready for distribution.

Outreach Working Group was beginning to plan a major event for International Day for Persons with Disabilities before the pandemic sidelined everything. In an effort to celebrate IDPWD on December 3rd without a public event, we developed a disability awareness calendar for limited distribution and posting on our webpage. I can say with complete certainty that it is the most comprehensive disability

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awareness calendar on the internet. The web version will eventually be linked to individual web pages, but that is a future project. We are hoping to hold a major public event next year.

If I had more time, I would catalogue our committee's many contributions over the past decades. I would also give you a thorough description of our current Outstanding Business List but I would need another five minute time slot to cover everything. I hope this has given you a decent overview of our committee and I am at your disposal if anyone has follow up questions. If there isn't time to answer now, I am sure that the clerk's office can connect us.

Thank you for your time,

James Kemp

Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities