



Hamilton

Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Minutes

4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Room 192/193 City Hall

71 Main Street West

Present: A. Mallett (Chair), T. Nolan (Vice-Chair)
T. Wallis, K. Nolan, R. Semkow, M. Smithson,
R. Thompson, B. Lane, R. Hirji-Khalfan,
T. Murphy, D. Maraj, D. Sanche, R. Cameron, P.
Cameron

Absent with Regrets: Councillor B. Morelli – City Business
P. Kilburn

Also Present: J. Lee, M. Carter, J. Hayat Customer Service, Access
and Equity
D. Brodati, J. Vennis, Social Housing and Homelessness
N. Westoll, Councillor Morelli's Office
Andy Grozelle, Legislative Assistant, Clerks Office

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Chair Mallett

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised that there was an added item 6.4 on the agenda respecting the Pedestrian Mobility Master Plan.

Members of the Committee introduced several items of New Business wish they wished to bring forward at the appropriate time.

(B. Lane/ M. Smithson)

That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) MINUTES (Item 3)

(i) August 9, 2011

(K.Nolan/R. Thompson)

That the Minutes of August 9, 2011 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

(d) PRESENTATIONS (Item 4)

(i) Housing & Homelessness Action Plan (Item 4.2)

Dave Brodati and Jennie Vengris addressed the Committee. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- Discussed the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan.
- Discussed the Action Plan and the consultations they would like to do with the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities
- Discussed how they have worked with a collaborative organization to form a planning advisory group
- The intent is for the process to be a City of Hamilton Plan however in its intent it will be community owned
- Discussed the Provinces mandated requirement to make ten year plans on Housing and Homelessness
- Indicated that they were out in advance of this
- Discussed that the plan should be a strategic plan however one that is action oriented
- Discussed the community engagement strategy that they are undertaken and that talking to Advisory Committees such as ACPD is part of that process
- Hope to use this time for ACPD to bring forward any issues that they see should be addressed
- Staff indicated that they are looking for

Committee members introduced the following items of concern

- Tim Nolan thanked staff for coming to ask the Committee about these issues
- Discussed the work with the Housing Help Centre in the past on creating the Accessible Housing Guide

- Indicated that he would like to see work done on addressing issues of accessibilities and disabilities within the Housing and Homelessness
- Discussed the need to create more Accessible Housing, both for those that require it long-term and transient residents such as university students
- There are restrictions on ODSP that limit movement and betterment in situation
- Because of the correlation of disabilities and other issues such as poverty it is important to understand that issues are interconnected
- City staff asked about the Accessible Housing Guide created by the committee
- M. Smithson asked about that Accessible Housing needs to be in an Accessible area and it needs to be close to transit
- M. Smithson indicated that they need to install visual fire alarm and put them in place at the time of construction to save costs
- Indicated that if two storey buildings are being considered for renovation in the future they should place two closets one over top of the other
- P. Cameron discussed that often Accessible units are made to suit the size of one person and do not account for larger two person beds
- T. Murphy indicated that he has concerns around the size and height of shelves, width of doorways etc
- R. Hirji-Khalfan indicated that there she would like to see more thought put towards constructing accessible residents for families
- D. Maraj indicated that there should be non-slip floors and more room given in bathrooms
- R. Cameron indicated that there is often a problem with landlords evicting those with accessibility issues and there often isn't the swift response from the City to assist these individuals quickly find
- B. Lane indicated that the tendency of Hamilton is to ghettoize people, place them in the downtown area. Indicated that the

excuse is that there are lots of services in downtown however this doesn't integrate people into society or remove barriers

- Discussed an issue in Dundas on Governance Road where a sidewalk ends quickly. He used this as an example that to address Accessible Housing we need to address infrastructure deficiencies around the City of Hamilton
- B. Lane discussed that there is a lot of prejudice around those with mental disabilities and that keeping people with mental health issues in downtown Hamilton rather than welcoming them in areas such as Flamborough, Dundas, and Waterdown is not a positive way to integrate these individuals or address issues of prejudice
- D. Sanche indicated the locations for seniors residents are often isolated and do not really allow for independence and a higher quality of life
- Indicated that design aspects of housing are a very important aspect to consider in accessibility
- T. Wallis asked how many architects actually have disabilities
- Indicated that wheelchair accessible hotel rooms are a good example of when accessible design simply doesn't meet the needs of those requiring accessible accommodations.
- R. Cameron indicated that at the conference he and Mary Smithson attended in the spring there were all sorts of plans on the AODA website that has a lot of architect work for accessible houses
- K. Nolan indicated that keys are often very difficult for people with disabilities and touch pads are preferable as well as door openers
- K. Nolan indicated that anytime she calls for rides she gets one quickly because she lives close to the Downtown area and it is important to live close to where services are provided.
- indicated that often times people with a disability take longer in the washroom, having a speaker system installed to the front door is a good idea
- Chair Mallett indicated that in her work she often comes across people with a new disability, people who are impacted by family disruptions and people who are taking up hospital beds, there needs to be more accessible housing

- T. Nolan disability doesn't equal accessible as there are many invisible disabilities that do not need accessible housing but do need housing. It is important to make this distinction
- M. Smithson indicated that when patio doors are installed the track needs to be smooth for wheelchairs.
- Indicated that there should be a charging area for wheelchairs and scooters
- A lot of apartment buildings are upset with the dirt and grime and a lot of operators want to have these mobility devices stored in a locked storage room however that creates issues
- P. Cameron indicated that there are not a lot of one floor buildings for accessible
- Staff asked if the Committee members would like them to return for further consultation in the future. Committee members were in general agreement with this approach.

(B.Lane/D. Sanche)

That the presentation respecting Housing & Homelessness Action Plan, be received. **CARRIED**

(e) Discussion Items (Item 6)

(i) Sub-committee Terms of Reference (Item 6.1)

- P. Cameron indicated that last term the Sub-Committees met and discussed their terms of reference
- The Committee Clerk indicated that it is appropriate for the ACPD to decide what the terms of reference
- Staff indicated that there could be changes brought forward as recommendations of Sub-Committee Reports
- There was some discussion on the Terms of Reference
- R. Cameron indicated that City Housing is missing for the Built Environment Terms of Reference

(R. Cameron/T. Nolan)

That sub-section (2) of the Built Environment Sub-committee Terms of Reference be amended through the addition of ' and City Housing Guidelines' to read as follows:

- (2) To provide advice to City staff with input with respect to the built form related to persons with disabilities, including the application of the City

of Hamilton Barrier Free Design Guidelines and City Housing Guidelines. **CARRIED**

(B. Lane/K. Nolan)

That the Terms of Reference for the Transportation Sub-committee, Built Environment Sub-committee and the Integrated Standard General Sub-committee, be approved as amended. **CARRIED**

(B. Lane/T.Wallis)

That the appointments to the following Sub-committees be approved.

(i) Integrated Standard Sub-Committee

K. Nolan, M. Smithson, P. Killburn T. Wallis, R. Hirji-Khalfan,
B. Thompson, D. Sanche

(ii) Transportation Sub-Committee

A. Mallett, T. Murphy, B. Semkow, T. Wallis, T. Nolan, K. Nolan,
P. Kilburn
(one member from the Senior Advisory Committee)

(iii) Built Environment Subcommittee

P. Cameron, B. Lane, T. Wallis, T. Nolan, R. Cameron

CARRIED

(i) Corporate Services, Capital Projects 2011 (Item 6.2)

Jane Lee provided an update to Committee members. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- Discussed the Built Environment project for the Records Storage and discussed the City Managers office project for telephone and online

(R. Cameron/T. Wallis)

That the 2011 Corporate Services Capital Project respecting be forwarded to the Built Environment Sub-committee for consideration.

CARRIED

(ii) Terms of Reference Discussion (Item 6.3)

- B. Lane discussed the idea of having ACPD take on a large scope of advocacy and education in the community
- R. Cameron discussed that there is a barrier with this committee in hearing what people from the outside have to say
- Indicated that they hear a lot of complaints about issues such as school boards which aren't dealt with by the City but they want to get the idea of what is going on in the community to Council
- There needs to be a move to get the real stories of people to Council
- There is the need for the committee to be more representative of the community
- Chair Mallett indicated that Councillors often do get complaints regarding disabilities however they often don't get filtered down to the Sub-committee
- K. Nolan indicated that they could get a website or a blog site where people could complain about issues
- M. Smithson indicated that age is a big issue and it needs to be addressed along with disabilities
- D. Sanche asked if they could invite more committees to attend
- R. Cameron indicated that the best way would be to go to committee to make a presentation
- There was some discussion on the visibility of the Advisory Committee on the website
- P. Cameron indicated that they would like to have a comment portion on the website for individuals to make comments
- D. Maraj asked about the involvement of the Committee with the media
- T. Nolan indicated that if you encourage feedback from the broader community you will get anything and everything
- Indicated that the amount of workload that the City staff would have to do is beyond what could be accomplished

- R. Cameron discussed the difficulties in getting media attention for the Committees
- P. Cameron asked about the Access and Equity and how they function with complaints
- City staff indicated that any AODA or Human Rights complaint that comes forward requires a response from City staff. Indicated that the follow-up is an electronic system because there is so much work required
- D. Maraj indicated that complaints and concerns about this
- T. Nolan asked if there could be a report on the complaints on the monthly basis
- Staff indicated that a monthly report would be a huge undertaking however they could come back at a future meeting with options on what level of complaint report can go.
- City staff indicated that there is a difference between being open as a forum for those with disabilities and there is a difference between that and hearing complaints
- Discussed the feedback process further detail
- R. Thompson indicated that a lot of what has been discussed are within the Terms of Reference themselves

(R. Cameron/K. Nolan)

That the discussion respecting the Advisory Committees Terms of Reference be referred to a future meeting of the Committee.

CARRIED

Chair Mallett indicated that a time limit should be set on the discussion, proposing, 20 minutes. Committee members were in general agreement with this time limit.

(iv) Pedestrian Mobility Master Plan (Added Item 6.4)

- M. Smithson indicated that she attended the Public Information Meeting however they would still like feedback on the online form.
- Indicated there is a huge issue with snow clearing because if snow falls again within 24 hours it essentially resets the clearing schedule

- Non-medical scooters being are using the sidewalks and could be a danger to pedestrians
- City staff indicated that they have asked this group to attend an upcoming ACPD meeting

(f) NEW BUSINESS (Item 7)

(i) Removal of Item 'F' from Outstanding Business List (Staff Report PW11053 attached for information purposes only) (Item 7.1)

The Committee Clerk indicated that attached for information purposes only was the approved policy on HSR/DARTS video surveillance as recommended to the General Issues Committee by ACPD.

(ii) Orientation update (Added Item 7.2)

Jane Lee indicated that there is a new Orientation Document and provided it to members for their review.

(iii) Spectator Article - Boy denied wheelchair access on HSR (Published August 30, 2011) (Added Item 7.3)

(Semkow/R. Cameron)

That the issues outlined in the article entitled 'Boy denied wheelchair access on HSR' be referred to the Transportation Sub-committee for consideration.

CARRIED

(iv) Strollers on HSR buses (Added Item 7.4)

M. Smithson indicated that HSR buses are sometimes very full and it would be helpful if strollers were broken down to create more room. M. Smithson indicated that she has corresponded with City staff on this issue who indicated that such a initiative was tried in the City of Ottawa and failed for a number of reasons. Staff in attendance provided further information, indicating that sometimes children or care givers have accessibility issues and a policy requiring the folding of strollers on HSR would conflict with those using them for accessibility related reasons.

M. Smithson indicated that her issue was moreso with strollers being placed in pathways making it difficult to navigate on crowded buses.

(M. Smithson/B. Lane)

That the issue of strollers on HSR buses be referred to Transportation Sub-committee for further consideration. **CARRIED**

(v) Accessible Devices Available Signage (Added Item 7.5)

B. Lane indicated that he was very impressed with the signs that he has seen outside of City Hall Departments describing the accessible services and devices provided. He indicated he would like more details on the level of implementation of these signs.

(B.Lane/R. Cameron)

That staff be directed to provide further details to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities respecting the Accessible devices available signage. **CARRIED**

(vi) In Service AODA (Added Item 7.6)

(B.Lane/R. Cameron)

That a special educational workshop be held on the In Service AODA for the information of Committee members

(vii) Community Recreation needs Assessment (Added Item 7.7)

There was some discussion on the Community Recreation needs Assessment study. Committee members expressed their desire for further consultations with staff respecting this item.

(g) ADJOURNMENT (Item 8)

(T. Thompson/D.Sanche)

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Aznive Mallett, Chair
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Andy Grozelle
Legislative Assistant
September 13, 2011