

Appendix “B”: Community Safety Working Group Meeting Notes from September – November 2019

September 3rd:

Administrative notes:

- Working group to meet 6pm on the first Tuesday of the month at Hamilton Public Library Central Branch
- Concerns within the working group regarding communication with each other. Members present willing to explore different methods of communication (texting, Facebook, google drive etc.) in addition to email to resolve any potential concerns

Committee Scope:

- Community Safety
 - Community to the disability community
 - Safety being the ability to be free, independent and participate fully fearing or experiencing any kind of harm
- What types of safety concerns did members flag
 - Transit: when scooters or power chairs die it can be difficult or impossible to load them onto the HSR or DARTS, instances where seatbelts are not properly secured when using transit or secured at all, hostility from other passengers
 - Many of these instances fall under existing policies or working groups but could be discussed as part of a larger conversation
 - Interacting with police: reports of detention in hot car with windows up

https://raisethehammer.org/article/3685/hamilton_failing_to_confront_rising_right-wing_extremism),

unnecessary use of force, crisis response all considerations that uniquely impact people with disabilities safety particularly racialized people with disabilities

- Communication differences only exacerbate concerns for d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing folks as well as non verbal communicators
- Overdose deaths in institutions like Barton Jail (provincially run) but also in the broader community
- HWDSB Kids Need Help reports site concerns of ableism and racism within school board policies, what potential impacts exist off school groups and in the community with this age group
- Winter snow removal and ice concerns
- Construction resulting in inaccessible routes (Locke St reconstruction in 2018)
- Presence of Benches and places to sit and/or lie down while out in the community
 - Hostile infrastructure such as benches with bars in the middle often further limit the usability of these benches and seating areas
- Concerns regarding sexual violence
- Biases and perceptions of dangerousness from city staff and officials that further ableism

Workplan:

- September: Continue to explore effective communication practices with working group members. Continue to explore barriers and safety concerns narrowing list. Reach out to other community members and groups to build partnerships and explore issues from an intersectional lens.

- October: Prepare for and plan a community feedback forum and/or survey to hear from community members regarding their experiences, concerns, and solutions.
- November: Host outreach activities and explore trends
- December: Report writing and presentation.

October:

- Community partners for the community forum were discussed and included: Disability Justice Network of Ontario, Other equity based advisory committees, AODA alliance, The Space, Hamilton Health Coalition, ODSP Action Committee, Hamilton ACORN, SACHA.
- Discussion of holding the forum in either the Central Branch of the Hamilton Public Library or within council Chambers, preference for the library was discussed

November:

- The Working Group reviewed the conversations and directions discussed at the past two meetings
- Concerns were discussed regarding too much reliance on external partners within the city and the need to build more ground work within the working group and ACPD more broadly behind specific conversations.
- Concerns were discussed regarding attendance and the broader capacity of the working group with 2-3 members in attendance at every meeting.
- It was decided to produce a summary/transition report of the work of the pilot thus far and suggest next steps for the working group itself.