

## Strategic Planning Working Group Meeting Notes

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Virtual Teams Meeting

2:00PM – 4:00PM

**Those in Attendance:** Tim Nolan, Kim Nolan, Paula Kilburn, James Kemp, Mark McNeil, Hargun Kaur

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of June 7<sup>th</sup> Agenda: Agenda was approved
3. Staff Support Discussion: Chair began the discussion on staff support by asking the group if the ACPD ever put forth a direct motion asking for staff support at the working group level. Tim and Paula responded that we had asked specifically for support and it was denied. Tim gave us some background on how staff support worked before and explained that it wasn't the clerk's office that provided the support, but staff from supporting departments; i.e.,: HSR staff helping at TWG, Housing Services helping at HWG, etc. It was mentioned that we aren't even allowed to hire a student to take notes for us. Frustration was

expressed on the inability to convey our needs accurately or with any sort of impact.

Chair then asked if hitting this issue head on hasn't worked, is there a way of coming at this from the side. Tim suggested inviting the new City Clerk when they have settled in a little. It was also suggested that we ask to speak about a variety of issues. Accessibility of the Municipal elections, upholding the pillars of IDEA and improving the accessibility of the City Website was also suggested as possible topics of discussion with the new Head Clerk. Chair asked if it would be beneficial to ask for a report on what staff support would cost. The consensus of the discussion ended up that we will wait until the next SPWG meeting late Q2/Early Q3 to discuss with hopefully the Head Clerk.

4. Working Group Project Allocation Review: No one raised any issues with the current project allocation.

5. Other Business: We discussed to current state of urban braille in the City of Hamilton. Is it only in the BIAs or is it spreading out? Chair mentioned the new Main St. conversion would be all urban braille up to the delta. We then discussed the efficacy of doing the work piecemeal and both Tim and Paula were adamant that it needed to be done as a whole. That

adding in the occasional feature is not helping anyone and it needs consistency.

Tim discussed AHA and his group delegating to ACPD about the Disability History Month being held in September highlighting the history of accessibility progress. Tim also outlined the plans for an Accessibility Film Festival to be held at the Westdale Theatre in the same month. He mentioned that he has a number of students working with him and they wish to present at the next ACPD meeting and explain all of this in detail. Tim also suggested that the ACPD could endorse the programs. Chair will check with staff if this is allowable and respond.

We then discussed the accessibility issues of television and film and the benefits and reasons for providing ASL over captioning.

We reviewed the contents of the heat kits in detail before the presentation at the Kickoff on Monday.

## 6. Adjournment