

Strategic Planning Working Group Meeting Notes

April 29th, 2025

Virtual Teams Meeting

1:00PM – 2:30PM

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of April 29th Agenda: Agenda was approved

3. Volunteer Advisory Committee/Community

Liaison Group Conversion Discussion: Chair began the discussion by asking Tim and Paula what it was like working with staff when the committee was connected to Access and Equity. Tim and Paula gave us an overview of how we were supported differently before, not just with notetaking and meeting support but also being informed of work underway before it was finalized and put on the agenda of Council. Tim explained how there were a few staff members in key positions that were committed to the work of the

committee and understood how best to get that work done. Chair explained that in reading the VAC/CLG report, he recognized that the ACPD has become largely disconnected from any staff department overseeing accessibility. While we are a Sub-Committee of Council and not subject to the changeover per se, we are in the report and will have our relationships reviewed in some way. Chair highlighted the fact that other groups have their own staff departments supporting them; SAC has Age Friendly City, Cycling has Transportation, Climate Change has Climate Change, etc.

4. Accessibility of PowerPoint Presentations at Council/Committee Meetings, Captioning, ASL Interpretation: Chair wanted to discuss this issue as public presentations are still largely inaccessible to many citizens of Hamilton and in the interest of transparency, would like to make recommendations towards this improving them. Tim and Paula again gave us a brief history of work done to improve this in the past. Chair explained that HR is giving training sessions on accessible PowerPoint presentations and we are trying to be added. That if we see how staff are being trained, we can better recommend ways to improve accessibility. We tell members of staff that they need to describe their slides for those that

cannot see them, to which staff agree, and then continue to give the presentation on a visual basis. We will continue to try and improve this so everyone can follow along regardless. We discussed the poor captioning available on YouTube, but that is a technical issue and out of our control. We then discussed ASL interpretation and Tim raised some valid issues with ASLing everything and how it should be more targeted. The City should at least ASL any public presentations for example the Mayor's Levy as it is recorded and broadcast. Tim suggested that the agendas on Escribe be annotated that accessible formats are available upon request for any materials. This seems to be an appropriate compromise.

5. Wheelchair/Powerchair/Scooter Breakdown

Discussion: Chair added this to the agenda as it is something we have been working on for years to no clear outcome. When we had Paramedics and Police attend last year, we discussed their ability to move PMDs in a medical emergency using the police's paddy wagons which are fully accessible. We reviewed the history of the project and the difficulties in creating a rescue program. Tim pointed out that it is actually two different programs: one to rescue anyone with a technical breakdown, which has complexities of transporting the mobility device given its broken state

to where it can be repaired as well as the person home and: two to retrieve functional mobility devices and transport them to where the patient is being taken to the hospital or to their home depending on their level of need. Along with talking with DARTS, ATS, Taxi Brokers, Mobility Device repair companies like CDC Orthomobility and Motion, By-Law, Police and Paramedics, Tim suggested we also investigate Tow Truck Companies and Special Supports to pay for them. We will continue to explore this issue at SPWG for now.

6. Other Business: There was no other business.

7. Adjournment