



ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MINUTES ACPD 25-003

4:00 p.m.

March 18, 2025

Room 264, 2nd Floor Hamilton City Hall (Hybrid)
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

Present: Councillor M. Tadeson (virtually), J. Kemp (Chair), H. Kaur (virtually), L. Dingman, L. Janosi (virtually), M. McNeil (virtually), C. Hernould (virtually), L. Johanson, J. Maurice and T. Nolan (virtually)

Absent with

Regrets: P. Kilburn (Vice Chair), H. Bonenfant, K. Nolan

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair J. Kemp called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

The Legislative Coordinator read the Land Acknowledgement.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(Dingman/Hernould)

That the agenda for the March 18, 2025, Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting, be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 February 11, 2025

(Janosi/Dingman)

That the minutes of the February 11, 2025, Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities, be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 Tom Cooper, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, respecting a potential partnership with the Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities to develop outreach and education material to inform about the upcoming Canada Disability Benefit

Tom Cooper, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, addressed Committee respecting a

potential partnership with the Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities to develop outreach and education material to inform about the upcoming Canada Disability Benefit.

6.2 Brad Evoy, Disability Justice Network of Ontario, respecting a Request for Endorsement of Community Recommendations for a New Disability-Centred Fare Program

Brad Evoy, Disability Justice Network of Ontario, addressed Committee respecting a Request for Endorsement of Community Recommendations for a New Disability-Centred Fare Program.

6.3 Tim Nolan, Accessibility Hamilton Alliance, respecting Transit Discussion

Tim Nolan, Accessibility Hamilton Alliance, respecting addressed Committee respecting Transit.

6.4 Brad Evoy, Disability Justice Network of Ontario, respecting Item 9.2, Consultation with Staff to Review Policy that Affects Unhoused Persons with Disabilities and Tour Shelter Facilities to Provide Recommendations to Make Them a Safer and More Inviting Space for All

Brad Evoy, Disability Justice Network of Ontario, addressed Committee respecting Item 9.2, Consultation with Staff to Review Policy that

Affects Unhoused Persons with Disabilities and
Tour Shelter Facilities to Provide
Recommendations to Make Them a Safer and
More Inviting Space for All.

**6.5 Karl Andrus respecting Changing to the
Existing Fare Program for a more Disability
Justice Focus – WITHDRAWN**

Karl Andrus withdrew their delegation respecting
Changing to the Existing Fare Program for a more
Disability Justice Focus.

(a) (Dingman/McNeil)

That the Delegation from Tim Nolan, Accessibility
Hamilton Alliance, respecting Transit Discussion
(Item 6.3), be received.

CARRIED

(b) (Maurice/Hernould)

That the following Delegations be received:

6.1 Tom Cooper, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty
Reduction, respecting a potential partnership
with the Accessibility Committee for persons
with Disabilities to develop outreach and
education material to inform about the
upcoming Canada Disability Benefit;

6.2 Brad Evoy, Disability Justice Network of
Ontario, respecting a Request for
Endorsement of Community

Recommendations for a New Disability-Centred Fare Program; and

- 6.4 Brad Evoy, Disability Justice Network of Ontario, respecting Item 9.2, Consultation with Staff to Review Policy that Affects Unhoused Persons with Disabilities and Tour Shelter Facilities to Provide Recommendations to Make Them a Safer and More Inviting Space for All.

CARRIED

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 Accessibility for Entertainment in the City (no copy) - WITHDRAWN

7.2 2023 Annual Accessibility Report - WITHDRAWN

**7.3 PW25009
Accessible Transportation Services
Performance Report – REVISED**

Michelle Martin, Manager of Accessible Transportation Services, addressed Committee respecting Memorandum PW25009, Accessible Transportation Services Performance Report.

(Janosi/Hernould)

That Memorandum PW25009, respecting
Accessible Transportation Services Performance
Report, be received.

CARRIED

J. Kemp relinquished the Chair to C. Hernould in order to provide the Built Environment Working Group Update (Item 7.4), the Housing Working Group Update (Item 7.5) and the Outreach Working Group Update (Item 7.6).

7.4 Built Environment Working Group Update

- (a) Built Environment Working Group Meeting
Notes - March 4, 2025 - REVISED

7.5 Housing Working Group Update

- (a) Housing Working Group Meeting Notes –
March 4, 2025

7.6 Outreach Working Group Update

- (a) J. Kemp provided a verbal update.

7.7 Strategic Planning Working Group Update

No update.

7.8 Transportation Working Group Update

No update.

7.9 Open Spaces and Parklands Working Group Update

No update.

(McNeil/Hernould)

That the following Items for Information, be received:

7.4 Built Environment Working Group Update

7.4(a) Built Environment Working Group Meeting
Notes – March 4, 2025 – REVISED

7.5 Housing Working Group Update

7.5(a) Housing Working Group Meeting Notes –
March 4, 2025

7.6 Outreach Working Group Update

CARRIED

J. Kemp assumed the Chair.

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no Items for Consideration.

9. MOTIONS

J. Kemp relinquished the Chair to C. Hernould to introduce the following Motions:

9.1 Further Investigation of Light Rail Transit (LRT) Systems in Neighbouring Municipalities by Members of the Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities

(Kemp/Dingman)

WHEREAS, the Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities (ACPD) has concerns about the accessibility of Hamilton's Light Rail Transit project and would like to tour Metrolinx's most current accessibility features on the Finch Light Rail Transit Project in Toronto;

WHEREAS, members of ACPD have visited the Kitchener Waterloo Grand River ION and raised many concerns about its accessibility for all disabilities and would like to compare the two projects to confirm that Metrolinx is learning from past projects and is incorporating better accessibility;

WHEREAS, this will be a joint trip between the Transportation Working Group and the Built Environment Working Group; and

WHEREAS, this will allow the Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities to provide more current and accurate recommendations to the Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee and Light Rail Transit Project planners.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities approve members to travel to review and identify accessibility barriers of Light Rail Transit (LRT) Systems in neighbouring municipalities like Toronto, and make recommendations respecting barrier removal and prevention in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the Ontario Human Rights Code;
- (b) That the transportation costs be funded from the Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities 2025 approved budget for conferences and related travel expenses, Account Number 300030, to an upset limit of \$1,000; and
- (c) That up to seven members of the Accessibility Committee for Persons Disabilities be permitted to travel to review the Finch Light Rail Transit Project in Toronto, including but not limited to the following individuals:
 - (i) James Kemp
 - (ii) Jake Maurice
 - (iii) Mark McNeil
 - (iv) Hargun Kaur

CARRIED

9.2 Consultation with Staff to Review Policy that Affects Unhoused Persons with Disabilities and Tour Shelter Facilities to Provide Recommendations to Make Them a Safer and More Inviting Space for All

(i) (Kemp/McNeil)

WHEREAS, there is housing crisis and persons with disabilities are disproportionately represented among the unhoused population of the City of Hamilton and that these persons represent a wide variety of different types of disabilities;

WHEREAS, the current shelter system is considered to be low-barrier access, this is not to be confused with fully accessible. Shelter spaces are accessible to visit, but that does not mean they are accessible to reside there for any amount of time.

WHEREAS, there is no ability to accommodate on an individual basis nor is there an opportunity to offer isolated space even if it is essential for the individual's safety and those around them;

WHEREAS, the definition of safe accommodation can vary depending on a person's needs and disabilities and we must do what we can to ensure that shelters are

able to provide safe spaces above and beyond protection from the elements;

WHEREAS, there is not an available accessibility plan for the Barton-Tiffany micro shelter site and the Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities would like to review the site and make recommendations to make it a more complete and accommodating space for persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the encampment protocol has been discontinued and by-law officers and police will now be forcing relocations of anyone still living rough and in violation of current by-laws, we must find ways of making shelters better so that persons with disabilities will choose to use them over living in tents and encampments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities approves the Housing Working Group's request to work with the Housing Services Division and the Housing Secretariat in order to understand the shelter system as it currently operates so we may better offer recommendations to improve their accessibility for persons with disabilities; and

- (b) That the Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities approves the Housing Working Group's request to tour shelter facilities as well as the micro cabin site on the Barton-Tiffany lands in order that we may better understand the challenges in operating a shelter system as well as offer suggestions for change.

(ii) **(T. Nolan/McNeil)**

That the motion ***be amended*** by adding a new sub-section (c), as follows:

- (c) ***That the Disability Justice Network of Ontario be invited to participate in the Housing Working Group's tours of shelter facilities, including those on the Barton-Tiffany lands.***

Amendment CARRIED

(iii) Main Motion, ***As Amended***, to read as follows:

WHEREAS, there is housing crisis and persons with disabilities are disproportionately represented among the unhoused population of the City of Hamilton and that these persons represent a wide variety of different types of disabilities;

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to be confused with fully accessible. Shelter spaces are accessible to visit, but that does not mean they are accessible to reside there for any amount of time. There is no ability to accommodate on an individual basis nor is there an opportunity to offer isolated space even if it is essential for the individual's safety and those around them;

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- (c) ***That the Disability Justice Network of Ontario be invited to participate in the Housing Working Group's tours of shelter facilities, including those on the Barton-Tiffany lands.***

MAIN MOTION, As Amended, CARRIED

J. Kemp assumed the Chair.

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were no Notice of Motions.

11. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS

There were no Items for General Information / Other Business.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Accessibility Committee for Disabilities was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie McIntosh
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk

James Kemp
Chair, Accessibility
Committee for Persons with
Disabilities