

ACPD's Built Environment Working Group Meeting Notes

June 3rd, 2025

Virtual Teams Meeting

4:00PM – 6:00PM

Members in Attendance: Paula Kilburn, Hargun Kaur, Cara Hernould, James Kemp

Also in Attendance: Jessica Bowen, Justin Joseph

Members Absent: Lance Dingman, Levi Janosi

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of June 3rd Agenda: Agenda was approved.

3. Accessibility of Entertainment Venues in

Downtown Hamilton: Justin Joseph came and spoke to us regarding the Convention Centre renovation. He explained how the entertainment facilities have been leased from the City on an extended lease and while they together comprise a consortium, each group is responsible for their own facility. Justin's group is

looking after the Convention Centre only. We will have to contact the other companies individually. Justin began by giving us an overview of the renovations. The facility is being designed as a bare bones approach (or perhaps an open concept) with each renter being responsible for their own signage and other amenities. Justin went through some of the accessibility upgrades they are working on, like accessible countertops at concession stations or sensory rooms to assist people when needed. We discussed the need for appropriate wayfinding and colour contrasting; again, this is supposed to be done by the tenants for each event. We discussed tactile surfacing and Justin agreed a textured mat is preferable to a button plate. Elevator system will be untouched as they believe it is still AODA compliant. Washrooms will now have no outer door much like stadium facilities. Justin cannot confirm that appropriate hearing loops are installed at the facility. We discussed support person admission and Justin explained that it was arranged by the ticketing agents, not the facility management, but agreed that we should have a choice to pay depending on the circumstance as he has had that issue when taking his son to events. We have agreed to meet again in February in order to tour the facilities as it nears completion.

Before Justin left, he asked to speak to us about an issue that he has had a problem with recently. Justin explained further about how his son has disabilities and they are having issues when playing in playgrounds. Justin asked if there could be some sort of signage explaining what all the accessible equipment was designed to do and who it was meant for. He gave us an example of a parent using the accessible saucer swing with their child that was not in need of specialized equipment. Justin explained that his son would like to use the equipment as he does have need of the swing; the parent responded rudely and refused to cede or even share the equipment. Justin explained that he suggested signage to City Staff and they seemed reluctant to declare a particular amenity for accessible needs only, everybody should have access regardless of need, much like an autodoor. Chair suggested that an education program might serve us better here, especially if we aim the campaign at children. They will be better at informing their parents what each amenity is for and who should be using it simply by setting an example. Jessica agreed that her children have done much the same with her and that it is probably the best approach. We agreed to add this to the BEWG OBL and maybe approach the HWDSB or the HWCDSB to discuss the aforementioned

education campaign as well as explore the possibility of a sign explaining the different amenities and their purpose without judgement on who should use them.

4. ACPD/HFD/Always Connected Collaboration on Emergency Plans and Training Regarding

Persons with Disabilities: Camila explained how her company just worked with the Mississauga Fire Department to create an emergency plan that included people with Autism. It was presented at a symposium recently and Hamilton was in attendance. Afterwards a member of the HFD approached Camila about doing much the same in Hamilton and her company and the City are discussing how that would work. We have been requested to participate by both parties in an advisory capacity as well as to assist with education when the project concludes. Camila will give us more details when/if they become available.

5. Other Business: We discussed the Capital Build Projects list with Jessica and explained that it has been roughly a year since we reviewed and capital build project and haven't received a list of upcoming projects to choose from. Jessica was informed that we had in the winter, but the staff member who came at that time didn't review them with us, simply told us

they were upcoming projects. There seems to be a miscommunication between departments here that we hope will be resolved soon.

6. Adjournment.