



Hamilton

Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

REPORT 11-005

4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Room 192/193 City Hall

71 Main Street West

Present: Councillor B. Morelli
A. Mallett (Chair), T. Nolan (Vice-Chair)
T. Wallis, K. Nolan, R. Semkow, M. Smithson,
R. Thompson, R. Hirji-Khalfan, T. Murphy, D. Maraj,
R. Cameron

**Absent with
Regrets:** P. Cameron, D. Sanche, B. Lane

Also Present: J. Lee, M. Carter, J. Hayat, M. Duwai-Sowa Customer
Service, Access and Equity
G. Goguen Hamilton Police Service
Andy Grozelle, Legislative Assistant, Clerks Office

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PRESENTS REPORT 11-005 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

- 1. Resignation of Debbie Sanche (Item 6.1)**
 - (a) That the Resignation of Debbie Sanche from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be received.
 - (b) That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities request the Selection Committee appoint a member to fill the vacancy left by the resignation.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

- (i) Added as item 4.1(i) is a handout respecting an upcoming meeting on Accessible Taxi cabs
- (ii) Added as item 7.3, 2011 Accessibility Plan

The agenda was approved as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) MINUTES (Item 3)

(i) September 13, 2011

The Minutes of September 13, 2011 were approved as presented.

(d) PRESENTATIONS (Item 4)

(i) Accessible Taxi Update (Item 4.1)

Vince Ormond, Manager, Licensing and Permits addressed the Committee. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- Provided an overview on the past history of this issue.
- Discussed the Motion from ACPD which requested 100% accessible taxis and that this item was referred back to staff and for further work rather than being endorsed
- Discussed the upcoming public meeting on October 18, 2011 respecting Accessible taxis

Committee members asked several questions. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- Committee members asked about the details of what occurred around the Planning Committee meeting where the recommendations previously made by ACPD were considered

- Committee members asked that DARTS be involved in the consultations around Accessible taxis
- There were questions around how many accessible taxis there exist in the City of Hamilton today staff indicated that there are currently eight unlicensed accessible taxi cabs
- Councillor Morelli indicated that it is a very fast growing system and Council is trying to move the issue forward within the funding available requesting that committee members attend the public meeting
- Committee members discussed the cost of the upgrades to make an accessible taxi there was an indication that estimated cost of \$40,000 is out of line as that is the additional cost of a new accessible vehicle whereas an old vehicle can be upgraded for around \$10,000
- Committee members discussed whether DARTS could become involved in the taxi business to provide the service which is needed
- Committee members discussed whether there could be a By-law passed to focus on taxi companies with larger fleets and require a certain percentage be accessible

The presentation respecting Accessible Taxis, was received.

Accessible Taxi Public Meeting (Item 4.1(i))

That the advertisement respecting the Public Meeting on Accessible Taxi Cabs was received.

(i) City Assistive Devices Demonstration (Item 4.2)

Jafar Hayat and May-Marie Duwai-Sowa of Access and Equity provided a demonstration of the accessibility devices available to the City of Hamilton. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- Demonstrated how the accessible devices work, hearing assist, magnification devices, text to speech, text to text (similar to an instant text message device)

- Discussed the availability of devices and the programs set up to share these devices amongst City departments
- Indicated that these devices are used throughout the City and are readily available to those that require them

- Committee members asked several questions. Highlights included but were not limited to the following
- Discussed the text to speech converter and indicated that it should be related that it reads accessible Pdf's and not Pdf's in general similarly there are issues with text to speech for excel
- Committee members suggested the need to raise awareness on this issue and share information with both the City and the private business

The staff presentation respecting the City Assistive Devices was approved.

(e) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 5)

(i) Integrated Standards Sub-committee Report – September 26, 2011 (Item 5.1)

The Integrated Standards Sub-committee Report of the September 26, 2011 was received.

(ii) Transportation Sub-Committee Report – September 27, 2011 (Item 5.2)

T. Nolan provided an update to the Committee members. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- The Sub-committee received a report on a number of the AODA regulated components respecting Transportation
- There are some more contentious items that will require some more discussion moving forward

Committee members asked several questions highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- Committee members asked if those boarding buses from the back were required to pay for HSR service, the indication was that those boarding buses from the front do have to pay; however those accessing from the back do not.

General Issues Committee – November 14, 2011

The Transportation Sub-committee Report of the September 27, 2011 was received.

(iii) Pedestrian Mobility Master Plan (Item 5.3)

Staff provided an update indicating that they have invited those working on the Pedestrian Mobility Master Plan to attend the Committee and

There was some discussion on the fact that this group working on the Pedestrian Mobility Master Plan not attending Committee to discuss issues. Committee members suggested that this is an issue that should be brought to ACPD.

The email respecting the Pedestrian Mobility Master Plan was received.

(f) DISCUSSION ITEMS (ITEM 6)

(i) Resignation of Debbie Sanche (Item 6.1)

Committee members suggested a preference for a younger member to be appointed to the Committee and requested this be relayed to the Selection Committee

(ii) Terms of Reference Discussion (Item 6.2)

This item was tabled to a future meeting and will be added to the Outstanding Business List.

(g) OTHER BUSINESS (Item 7)

(i) Volunteer Orientation Session Update letter (Item 7.1)

The Volunteer Orientation Session Update letter was received.

(ii) Volunteer Declaration Form (Item 7.2)

The Committee Clerk indicated that he had attached a Volunteer Declaration form to the agenda and asked that all members signed the document.

(iii) 2011 Accessibility Plan (Added Item 7.3)

Maxine Carter, Coordinator of Access & Equity, provided an overview of the 2011 Draft Accessibility Plan. Indicating that it will be an item on the next agenda and asking Committee members to review the document in advance of the November meeting.

(h) ADJOURNMENT (Item 8)

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Aznive Mallett, Chair
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Andy Grozelle
Legislative Assistant
October 11, 2011