



Hamilton

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
REPORT 11-002**

4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Room 192 City Hall

71 Main Street West

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- Present:** T. Nolan (Chair)
T. Wallis, K. Nolan, R. Semkow, R. Cameron,
M. Smithson, P. Cameron, T. Manzuk, S. Derkach, B.
Lane, M. Thomas
- Absent with Regrets:** Councillor B. Morelli – City Business
A. Mallett – Bereavement
F. Chesney, B. Helwig, D. Burkett
- Also Present:** V. Ormond, Manager, Licensing and Permits
Andy Grozelle, Legislative Assistant, Clerks Office

**THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PRESENTS
REPORT 11-002 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

- 1. Request to send a letter to the Minister of Community and Social Services expressing the need for the City of Hamilton to provide diligent consideration of the work and recommendations of the Advisory Committee. (Item 6.1)**

That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be authorized to send a letter to the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services, expressing the need for the City of Hamilton to provide diligent consideration for the work and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and address the issues raised in the meeting of the Chair of the Advisory Committee with the Mayor and the City Manager.

2. AODA Alliance update responding to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Public Transit Sectors Efforts to weaken the integrated Standard (Item 7.1)

That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be authorized to send a letter to the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social services and the AODA Alliance be copied, respecting the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Public Transit sectors efforts to weaken the integrated standard and to express that any delay or dilution of the integrated standard is unacceptable and that the AODA Alliance be copied.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Chair Nolan.

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised of the following change to the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Accessible Taxi Update – Vince Ormond (no copy)

On a Motion, the agenda was approved as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) MINUTES (Item 3)

Minutes of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting held on February 8, 2011 (Item 3.1)

The minutes of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting held on February 8, 2011 were approved as presented.

(d) **PRESENTATIONS (Item 4)**

Accessible Taxi Update (Added Item 4.1)

Vince Ormond, Manager, Licensing and Permits provided a verbal update to the committee on Accessible Taxis. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- Staff have moved forward with the recommendation of ACPD to not issue any more taxi licences at this time
- Indicated that one problem encountered at the taxi working group was deciding what level of accessibility needs to be achieved
- Staff indicated that they are looking for further clarification from the Committee to determine if fully accessible taxis means that all taxis are wheel chair accessible or if that could mean a wide variety of different types of taxis

Brian Lane indicated that with those with a mental condition may need accessible transportation. He indicated however that in the case of Alzheimer's, an individual may need to be walked to a door after being dropped off so they do not need a wheel chair accessibility but may need additional service in another respect

Mary Smithson indicated that all taxis don't need to be fully accessible however need to consider other things like having storage space for two walkers.

Roger Cameron indicated that an underlying issue is that there shouldn't be a prolonged wait time for people who need a wheelchair or walker storage.

Kim Nolan indicated that disabilities go beyond the physical in nature suggesting that possibly there could be a ratio of wheel chair taxis worked out based on what is needed in the community

Pat Cameron indicated that she had a problem with the cost of Accessible Taxis and the lack of licensing

Chair Nolan thanked staff because this is the furthest that the Committee has reached in terms Accessible Taxi licensing.

M. Thomas indicated that there is the need for more accessible taxis as well as a greater level of education. Taxi companies should keep a database of individuals in relation to what their disability is and the level or type of service required.

Staff indicated that they have received concerns from the older individuals who did not necessarily want all taxis to be vans as they may be difficult to get into.

Chair Nolan suggested that a new working group be struck to deal with this issue.

The Committee Clerk advised that there was an issue with striking a new working group, pointing that with the ongoing Selection Process for ACPD there was a chance that members could be placed on the working group and may not be on ACPD next term.

M. Smithson suggested that this Item could be sent on to the Customer Service Sub-committee.

Committee members asked if there was anybody sitting on the current working group being run by staff. Staff indicated that A. Mallett currently sat on the working group. Some Committee members expressed interest in requesting to sit on the already existing working group on Accessible Taxis.

On a Motion, the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities requested that Marlene Thomas, Pat Cameron and Tim Nolan be added to the Accessible Taxi Group Work plan.

The presentation by staff respecting Accessible Taxis was received.

(e) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 6)

(i) Verbal update, Meeting with Mayor (Chair Nolan) (Item 6.1)

Chair Nolan provided an update to Committee members on his meeting with the Mayor and City Manager. Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

- Indicated that in February he heard that wrap around advertising was being done on DART buses and this along with the recent installation of video cameras in city buses led him to contact Councillor Morelli and request an audience with the Mayor
- Highlighted that the issue was the lack of consultation with ACPD on these matters, not necessarily the matters themselves
- Indicated that he met with the Mayor, his Chief of Staff, the City Manager and the Director of Access and Equity
- Chair Nolan indicated that he ran into the Director of Access and Equity just before the meeting and invited her to attend
- Indicated that they discussed the internal processes of the City
- Discussed how the Advisory Committee should be consulted on everything that has a relation to Accessibility

- Indicated that he would like to see ACPD added to the 'triple bottom line' used in staff reports to make a 'quadruple bottom line'
- Indicated that he would like to see ACPD consultation on all matters
- Indicated that the City Manager committed to come to the ACPD committee when the new membership is appointed to address the concerns raised

M. Thomas suggested that the Mayor also be invited to attend with the City Manager to hear what the Committee has to say.

K. Nolan suggested that the Committee isn't being taken seriously and should possibly write to the AODA Directorate.

Committee members indicated other areas where they felt the City had not reacted to the desires of the Committee.

The Committee Clerk clarified that some of the issues raised by the Committee were discussed at the sub-committee level however had not been brought before ACPD for consideration. The Committee Clerk clarified that staff are not required to respond in such cases. The Committee Clerk also indicated that staff are not required to respond unless the standing committee approves the recommendation of ACPD.

Committee members indicated that there were cases when they felt that individual staff members had provided contradictory or conflicting information which deterred them from bringing recommendations forward.

Chair Nolan suggested that the City appears to be ignoring the Advisory Committee's work and recommendations in favour of waiting until legislated to take action through the AODA.

There was some discussion by Committee members about this and the need to take a proactive approach to issues as well as focus on what is required under human rights law not just the AODA.

For further disposition on this Item refer to Item 1.

The update provided by Chair Nolan was received.

- (ii) **Review of Outstanding Business List (referred from February meeting) (Item 6.2)**
 - (i) **Memorandum**
 - (ii) **Council Motion April, 12, 2006**
 - (iii) **Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities Outstanding Business List**

The Committee Clerk advised that there was a previous motion passed by Council that requires all advisory committees to maintain an Outstanding Business List. The Committee Clerk indicated that the Outstanding Business list as presented went back over two years and included all matters approved by Standing Committee that still required a response. The Committee Clerk added that this list would be used to help keep Committee members aware of the status of issues sent onto the General Issues Committee on an ongoing basis.

The Outstanding Business List was adopted as presented.

- (iii) **Actioning Accessibility Through Customer Service Forum (no copy) (Item 6.3)**

The Committee Clerk indicated that there was a question raised on the Committee's ability to send members to conferences. The Committee Clerk indicated that when the ACPD was moved under the Legislative Services portfolio their volunteer budget of \$3500 was transferred. Inquiries with Finance by staff have indicated that this money can be accessed by the Committee to send members to conferences if that is the desire of ACPD.

On a Motion, Mary Smithson, Roger Cameron and Kim Nolan were appointed to officially represent the Advisory Committee at the Actioning Accessibility Through Customer Service Forum in Burlington and that funding out of Account # 57516 300100 was approved for the purposes of transportation.

- (iv) **Results of the Hamilton Police Services discussion with ACPD (referred from January meeting) (Item 6.4)**

Item 6.4, Results of the Hamilton Police Services discussion with ACPD was referred to a future meeting of the Committee.

(v) Summary of Initiatives Project for the Advisory Committee (Draft copy distributed by staff at January meeting) (Item 6.5)

Item 6.5, Summary of Initiatives Project for the Advisory Committee was referred to a future meeting of the Committee.

(vi) Disability and Accessibility Resources and Information booklet (Copies distributed by staff at January meeting) (Item 6.6)

Item 6.6, Disability and Accessibility Resources and Information booklet was referred to a future meeting of the Committee.

(f) NEW BUSINESS (Item 7)

M. Smithson introduced the following item of new business

(i) The AODA Alliance update responding to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Public Transit Sectors Efforts to weaken the integrated Standard (Item 7.1)

For disposition on this Item refer to Item 2.

R. Cameron introduced the following item of new business

(ii) Snow Clearing at Schools (Item 7.2)

R. Cameron indicated that he had an issue with snow clearing at a public school. He indicated that there was also an issue for a snow clearing on the City sidewalks outside of the school.

The Committee Clerk suggested that this item be left to when the new membership is formed, indicating that they will be having a discussion about the Committee's Terms of Reference, mandate and role within the City.

Chair Nolan indicated that reviewing the Terms of Reference would be a good idea.

Chair Nolan suggested that the new Committee membership could look at expanding the scope of work in the Committee's Terms of Reference to go beyond advising the City and take on a greater role on provincial and advocacy issues.

P. Cameron indicated that she recently attended the March of Dimes Disability Awareness Fair and although Access and Equity staff were in attendance she would have liked to have seen ACPD represented separately by having the Committee at the event.

M. Thomas indicated she would like the Committee to do a greater amount of outreach and advocacy work. M. Thomas suggested that the group should not just meet at City Hall but move around the community and should meet and work with advocacy groups.

(g) ADJOURNMENT (Item 8)

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Nolan, Chair
Advisory Committee for
Persons with Disabilities

Andy Grozelle
Legislative Assistant
April 12, 2011