



Making Way

For Ontarians with Disabilities

REGION OF PEEL

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

MINUTES

AAC-2009-5

The Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee met on May 26, 2009 at 1:08 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Region of Peel Administrative Headquarters, Suite A, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton.

Members Present: H. Bajwa; G. Barnes; W. Goursky; S. Hames; J. Hardman; S. McFadden, J. Spry, M. Tymkow

Members Absent: N. Husain; E. Kolb, due to other municipal business; R. Paterak, due to other municipal business

Also Present: J. Payne, Deputy Clerk and Acting Director of Clerk's; C. Reid, Director of Transition; Monique Hynes, Acting Director, Corporate Finance; J. Daly, Acting Manager, Regulatory Compliance; M. Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist; H. West, Legislative Specialist; V. Montesdeoca, Committee Clerk

William Goursky, Chair, presided.

1. CALL TO ORDER

* See text for arrivals

♦ See text for departures

William Goursky, Chair of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION AAC-14-2009:

That the minutes of the April 21, 2009 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION AAC-15-2009:

That the agenda for the May 26, 2009 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be amended to include a communication item from the Peel Poverty Action Group regarding a meeting to discuss the Ontario Disability Support Program, to be dealt with under Communication Items - Item 4d;

And further, that the agenda for the May 26, 2009 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

See also Communication Items – Item 4d

4. COMMUNICATION ITEMS

- a. **Cindy Gorlewski, Chair, Newmarket Accessibility Advisory Committee**, Letter dated March 19, 2009, Providing a Sample of the Accessible Stall Signage Currently Used in Town of Newmarket Facilities and Buildings

Received

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- b. **Business Takes Action**, April 2009 Newsletter

Received

- c. **SpecialOlympics.org**, Article titled Biden Declares Special Needs Advocacy a "Civil Rights Movement" During Visit to World Games

Received

Additional Item – Item 4d

- d. **Peel Poverty Action Group**, Flyer Inviting all Concerned to a meeting on June 3, 2009, to Discuss the Ontario Disability Support Program

Received

See also Approval of Agenda

William Goursky requested anyone attending the ODSP meeting on June 3, 2009 to please provide feedback to the June 23, 2009 AAC meeting.

5. PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Jeff Payne, Deputy Clerk and Acting Director of Clerk's**, Presentation Regarding Additional Non-Elected Members to the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee

Received

Jeff Payne, Deputy Clerk and Acting Director of Clerk's Division presented an overview of the current make-up of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) in response to the Committee's request to enlarge its membership. He stated that the Region of Peel AAC consists of eleven members being comparable to the area municipalities' Accessibility Advisory Committees however the Region has a higher number of elected representatives in its

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composition. Jeff Payne noted that the selection process to increase the number of non-elected members would take approximately three months, taking into consideration preparation of notices, advertising, screening, interviewing applicants and reporting to Council for final approval. A new appointment would sit on the Committee for one year until the end of the term of Council, 2010. Because of financial cost and the short duration of the appointment, Jeff Payne suggested that the Committee not proceed with a recruiting process to extend the non elected membership to the ACC until the next Council term.

Regional Councillor Sue McFadden suggested that Municipal and Regional websites and Councillor Newsletters communicate the intent to expand the non-elected membership to start generating interest for the next term of Council.

Glenn Barnes suggested advertising these types of volunteer positions in Workopolis or Charity Village, a site dedicated to serving non-profit organizations. This type of advertisement might cost less than advertising through the local newspapers. Jeff Payne clarified that following the municipal elections, Public Notice is a requirement when considering new appointments to Committees of Council.

Councillor Sandra Hames commented that the City of Brampton also advertises in local ethnic newspapers, and suggested this as an option. She cautioned the Committee not to restrict the size of membership as there may be well qualified individuals that the Committee could benefit from having.

Jan Spry reminded the Committee members that apartment buildings do not receive local area newspapers and noted the use of advertising through the internet as a preference.

Further discussion occurred among the members regarding the type of representation or skill set lacking in the Region of Peel AAC. It was suggested that recruitment take place for:

- persons with mental health disabilities
- persons with speech impediments
- referrals from the United Way of Peel

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Jeff Payne undertook to provide a draft copy of the letter to be sent to the various organizations of interest by the Chair of the AAC.

- b. **William Goursky, Chair, Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee**, Providing Information on the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Program

Withdrawn

William Goursky advised that the objective to include accessibility requirements in projects seeking LEED Certification will no longer be a topic for discussion since the Region does not directly support the LEED program. The LEED Program is a third-party certification program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

6. REPORTS

- a. **Monthly Activity Report - April 2009 (Oral)**
Update Provided by Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, Region of Peel

Received

- b. **Monthly Activity Report - May 2009 (Oral)**
Update Provided by Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, Region of Peel

Received

Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist provided an update on the activities carried out by the Accessibility Planning Program during the last two months. She noted that the 2009 Peel Children Water Festival was a great success with close to 500 people visiting the accessibility booth during Family Fun Day.

Meenu Sikand informed of upcoming events and activities as follows:

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- AAC Forum – June 1, 2009, organized by the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario to assist AAC members to develop skills to become more effective members of Committees
- Region of Peel National Access Awareness Week – May 31 to June 6
- Region of Peel Accessibility Workplan – to outline the process and schedule of activities in preparation for the 2009 Accessibility Plan, due to the Province in September

Meenu Sikand also informed the Committee that as a result of a press release on the Universal Accessibility Standards, Richard Ngun, Project Manager, Development and Construction, and herself had been invited by Ministry of Children and Youth Services to talk with Ministry staff regarding the Accessibility Program at the Region of Peel.

William Goursky requested that Meenu Sikand provide an update of each steering committee meeting or workshops as they evolve in order to keep the members informed of the various initiatives of the Accessibility Program. Meenu Sikand responded that she will provide a summary of the meetings as they become available.

c. **Employment Accessibility Standards Development Committee Update (Oral) - Nil**

d. **Accessible Transportation Standards Development Committee (Oral)**

Update Provided by Glenn Barnes, Member, Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee

Received

Glenn Barnes indicated that a reply from the Ministry is still pending. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 23, 2009
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
5th floor Boardroom
Regional Administrative Headquarters
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A
Brampton, Ontario

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.