



Making Way

For Ontarians with Disabilities

REGION OF PEEL

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

MINUTES

AAC-2009-8

The Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee met on October 20, 2009 at 1:04 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Region of Peel Administrative Headquarters, Suite A, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton.

Members Present: H. Bajwa; W. Goursky; S. Hames; N. Husain; E. Kolb*; J. Spry; M. Tymkow

Members Absent: G. Barnes, due to illness; J. Hardman, due to vacation; S. McFadden, due to other municipal business; R. Paterak, due to other municipal business;

Also Present: D. Bingham, Acting Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services; J. Payne, Acting Director and Deputy Regional Clerk; 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

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William Goursky, Chair of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION AAC-23-2009:

That the minutes of the September 22, 2009 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC-2009-7) meeting, be approved.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION AAC-24-2009:

That the agenda for the October 20, 2009 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be amended to defer Presentations - Item 5b to the November 24, 2009 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting;

And further, that the agenda for the October 20, 2009 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be amended to include a presentation by Anita Stellinga, Director, Community Investment, United Way of Peel Region, regarding the Community Investment Strategy, to be dealt with under Presentations – Item 5e;

And further, that the agenda for the October 20, 2009 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be amended to include an additional item regarding the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)* Consultation with Charles Beer, to be dealt with under Other Business – Item 7a;

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And further, that the agenda for the October 20, 2009 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

See also Presentations – Items 5b, 5e and Other Business – Item 7a

William Goursky acknowledged the presence of Arvind Dutt Abdali, Deputy Commandant of Information Technology with the Ministry of Home Affairs in India. William Goursky provided a brief biography of Mr. Arvind Dutt Abdali, stating that he provided leadership to gain employment rights for employees who have become disabled while working for the Indian Armed Forces.

4. COMMUNICATION ITEMS - Nil

Regional Chair Emil Kolb arrived at 1:10 p.m.

5. PRESENTATIONS

Additional Item – Item 5e was dealt with

- e. **Anita Stellinga, Director, Community Investment, United Way of Peel Region**, Presenting the Community Investment Strategy

Received

See also Approval of Agenda

Anita Stellinga, Director, Community Investment, United Way of Peel Region provided an overview of the Community Investment Strategy. She provided details of the work carried out by United Way, community needs and issues and how the strategy will support residents in the Region of Peel.

The Investment Strategy was developed through a collaborative effort by the Region of Peel and United Way to identify key priorities in the community. The review was carried out through a community

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consultation process which included focus groups, personal interviews and on-line surveys. Community feedback obtained from the investment review include:

- Endorsing existing funding priorities;
- Determining a different approach in addressing funding community priorities;
- Encouraging more focus on the “building capacity” for individuals, families and neighbourhoods; and
- Encouraging the Region of Peel and United Way to continue to display and support collaboration across the community and other agencies.

In the area of persons with disabilities, some of the outcomes contained in the investment strategy are:

- Reviewing services to increase the quality of life for persons with disabilities;
- Increasing skills of caregivers and family members to appropriately support a person with a disability;
- Increasing access to services and strengthening support networks;
- Increase community awareness and sensitivity to disability issues;
- Increasing the participation of persons with disabilities within the community; and
- Reducing poverty for persons with disabilities.

Anita Stellinga noted that the AAC is a valuable resource and she will be seeking feedback from the Committee on future issues regarding persons with disabilities.

Jan Spry, Committee Member inquired if there are actions within the strategy to ensure persons with disabilities remain independent in the community.

Anita Stellinga responded that the strategy is in the preliminary stage of development and that there may be areas that require improvement. The assistance of the AAC will be very helpful in this respect.

Naz Husain, Vice-Chair of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee thanked Anita Stellinga for a very informative presentation and inquired how the Committee can assist in this initiative.

Anita Stellinga responded that she would report back to the AAC to share preliminary findings and obtain feedback.

William Goursky noted the advantages of having community agencies present to the AAC and reiterated the positive outcomes that can be achieved when agencies work in a collaborative manner.

- a. **Edward Wong, Manager, Real Property Asset Management, Region of Peel and Gillian Haley, Architect, Goldsmith Borgal & Company Ltd.**, Providing Additional Information and Proposed Changes to the Peel Heritage Complex Renovation Project, City of Brampton, Ward 3

Received

William Goursky advised that members of the Accessibility Planning Program had visited the Peel Heritage Complex as was requested at the September 22, 2009 AAC meeting.

Edward Wong, Manager, Real Property Asset Management and Gillian Haley, Architect, Goldsmith Borgal & Company Ltd., provided an update on revisions made to the Peel Heritage Complex renovation plans, based on AAC feedback including:

- Increased number of barrier-free parking spots;
- Installation of single barrier free main entrances in the courtyard and parking lot;
- Increased number of barrier-free washrooms;
- Elevator access to upper floors;
- Addition of platform lift in staff area; and
- Widening of existing ramp and extension of ramp landing.

Councillor Sandra Hames thanked the presenters for addressing the concerns raised by the AAC.

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Naz Husain commended the presenters for providing a very descriptive presentation.

- b. **Michael Wright, Chair, Peel Advisory Working Group on Older Adults' Housing (PAWGOAH)**, Presenting an Update on the Initiatives Undertaken by PAWGOAH

Deferred to the November 24, 2009 AAC meeting

See also Approval of Agenda

- c. **David Hodkin, Public Affairs Associate, Employee and Business Services, Region of Peel**, Presenting the Accessibility Advisory Committee Communication Strategy

Deferred to the November 24, 2009 AAC meeting

- d. **Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, Region of Peel**, Providing an Update on the Activities for the 2009 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)

Received

Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist provided details regarding the 2009 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) event, a full day symposium to be held on December 2, 2009 at the Grand Embassy Convention Centre in Brampton. The objective of the event is to celebrate and share knowledge with the community about accessibility initiatives.

The day will be divided into two segments, with the first half focused on celebrating the accomplishments of persons with disabilities within the Region of Peel and the community. The theme for the celebration will be "Positive Images of Disabilities". Karlene Nation, CTV Diversity Producer has accepted an invitation to act as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. The confirmed keynote speaker is Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services, who will speak about the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) and the implementation of the accessibility standards. The

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Accessibility Recognition Awards will be presented during the morning session.

The second half of the day will include a keynote speaker followed by a roundtable discussion.

Meenu Sikand indicated that each Committee member will be provided with 10 post cards to promote the event. She raised concern regarding the lack of attendance from the hearing impaired community in past years and requested assistance from the Committee to ensure that Sign Language Interpreters are well utilized.

Meenu Sikand requested the participation of all AAC members for this event and encouraged members to visit the website at <http://www.peelregion.ca/corpserv/makingway/idpd09/> for more information.

Meenu Sikand stated that TransHelp will be providing free shuttle service to the event. The Committee expressed gratitude to Mark Castro, Acting Supervisor, Administration & Support Services, TransHelp and the TransHelp team for their assistance and combined support.

Councillor Sandra Hames requested clarification on the criteria for nominations for the Accessibility Recognition Awards. Meenu Sikand explained that nominations are open to all Region of Peel employees who have undertaken initiatives to enhance accessibility with the organization.

William Goursky suggested that other municipalities be invited to the symposium. Meenu Sikand noted that invitations will be extended to other municipalities within the GTA.

The Committee recalled IDPD events held in previous years and commended Meenu Sikand for her organizational leadership. The Committee offered its continued support and thanked Meenu for her hard work.

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- e. **Anita Stellinga, Director, Community Investment, United Way of Peel Region**, Presenting the Community Investment Strategy (10 minutes)

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting

6. REPORTS

- a. **Monthly Activity Report – July/August/September 2009 (Oral)**
Update by Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist,
Region of Peel

This item was dealt with earlier under Presentations – Item 5d

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

This item was dealt with earlier under Presentations – Item 5d

- c. **Employment Accessibility Standards Development Committee Update (Oral)**
Update by Naz Husain, Vice-Chair, Region of Peel
Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

Received

Naz Husain noted that the Employment Accessibility Standard has been finalized and has been provided to the Minister of Community and Social Services for review. Naz Husain anticipates the standard will be released in 2010.

- d. **Accessible Transportation Standards Development Committee (Oral)**
Update by Glenn Barnes, Member, Region of Peel
Accessibility Advisory Committee

Deferred to the November 24, 2009 AAC meeting

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Additional Item – Item 7a:

- a. ***Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)***
Consultation with Charles Beer

Received

See also Approval of Agenda

William Goursky reminded members of the on-line public consultation session with Charles Beer scheduled for October 22, 2009 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Charles Beer is the person appointed by the Province of Ontario to conduct an independent review of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*. William Goursky expressed concern that attendance at the public forums has decreased and encouraged members to participate in the consultations.

Jan Spry inquired as to the status of the video being created by the Accessible Transportation Coordination Office. Mark Castro, Acting Supervisor, Administration & Support Services, TransHelp responded that the Accessible Transportation Coordination Office has merged with TransHelp and undertook to review the matter.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2009, at 1:00 p.m., Council Chamber, 5th floor, Regional Administrative Headquarters, Suite A, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton, Ontario.

Please forward regrets to Veronica Montesdeoca, Legislative Technical Coordinator, (905) 791-7800, ext. 4384 or at veronica.montesdeoca@peelregion.ca.

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Arvind Dutt Abdali thanked the Committee for allowing him to observe the meeting proceedings. He spoke to his experience dealing with accessibility issues in his homeland of India. Arvin Dutt Abdali noted that he is eager to understand how programs and services are implemented in the Region of Peel and stated that he would appreciate any suggestions from the Committee.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.