



REGION OF PEEL

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

MINUTES

AAC-2011-3

The Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee met on March 29, 2011 at 1:15 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

Members Present:

G. Barnes; R. Chopra; W. Goursky; N. Husain;

N. lannicca; R. lyer; E. Kolb*; R. Paterak;

P. Tourko; M. Tymkow

Members Absent:

M. Parker, due to illness; H. Bajwa, due to

illness

Also Present:

Region of Peel: N. Trim, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services; A. Macintyre, Acting Regional Clerk and Director of Clerk's; B. Taylor, Manager, Business Administration; M. Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist; H. West, Legislative Specialist; V. Montesdeoca, Committee

Clerk

^{*} See text for arrivals

See text for departures

William Goursky, Chair, presided.

1. CALL TO ORDER

William Goursky, Chair of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

William Goursky advised Committee members that Jeff Payne, Manager of Regulatory Compliance is ill. He expressed the Committee's well wishes for a prompt recuperation.

William Goursky informed the Committee of the Region's recent achievement in obtaining the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification for the Chapelview project. LEED certification distinguishes building projects that demonstrate high performance standards in environmental responsibility and energy efficiency. William Goursky congratulated Regional staff and Martinway Contracting Ltd. for the recognition.

William Goursky encouraged members to read the article titled, "Disability Rights: A Call to Arms!" authored by Meenu Sikand and featured in the latest edition of Abilities Magazine, which outlines the Regional celebration of International Day for Persons with Disabilities event that took place on December 13, 2010.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION AAC-4-2011:

That the agenda for the March 29, 2011 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

3. COMMUNICATION ITEMS

a. **Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, Region of Peel,** Memo dated February 7, 2011, Regarding Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Member Participation on Proposed Subcommittees for the 2010 – 2014 Term

RECOMMENDATION AAC-5-2011:

That William Goursky, Naz Husain, Pavlo Tourko and Glenn Barnes, be appointed to serve on the Site Plan and Facility Audit Subcommittee, for a term ending November 30, 2014, or until their successors are appointed;

And further, that William Goursky, Naz Husain, Raj Chopra and Ram Iyer, be appointed to serve on the Education and Awareness Subcommittee, for a term ending November 30, 2014, or until their successors are appointed;

And further, that William Goursky, Naz Husain and Maria Parker, be appointed to serve on the AODA Standards and Accessibility Planning Subcommittee, for a term ending November 30, 2014, or until their successors are appointed.

William Goursky encouraged members to actively volunteer for the three proposed subcommittees. Questions raised by Committee members included frequency of meetings and time commitment for each subcommittee. William Goursky indicated that approximately three projects will be coming forward for review by the Site Plan and Facility Audit Subcommittee; the Education and Awareness Subcommittee will be tasked with planning and providing guidance for two events. He stated there is difficulty in determining the scope of involvement in the AODA Standards and Accessibility Planning Subcommittee as the upcoming Provincial direction and regulation is not known at this time. Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist noted that subcommittee meetings would be scheduled prior to the regular monthly AAC meeting.

A discussion arose regarding the extent of authority delegated to the Site Plan and Facility Audit Subcommittee. Committee members expressed concern in delegating approval authority to such a small group, as well as, the lack of opportunity for public input. At the same time, the Committee recognized the need to expedite the site plan audit process. Staff was requested to review the practice followed by the local area municipalities and provide clarification regarding the extent of authority that could be delegated to the Site Plan and Facility Audit Subcommittee.

b. Coalition of Ontario Accessibility Advisory Committees, Article dated March 15, 2011, titled "761-Unit Second Phase of Mason Homes Subdivision OK'd"

Received

c. **Access Ontario,** Invitation to "Actioning Accessibility Through Customer Service" Information Sessions

<u>Received</u>

William Goursky requested members to give consideration to attending the Access Ontario information session in Toronto on June 16, 2011 and to contact Meenu Sikand to coordinate registration and travel logistics. Meenu Sikand noted the benefits of attending the forum designed to assist Accessibility Advisory Committee members to then develop skills and capabilities.

E. Kolb arrived at 1:45 p.m.

4. PRESENTATIONS

a. **Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, Region of Peel,** Providing Information Regarding the 2011 Peel Children's Water Festival and Seeking Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) Participation for the 2011 Event

Received

Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist provided and overview of the 2011 Peel Children's Water Festival (PCWF). She advised that Laura Lane, is the new Acting Coordinator for the 2011 Festival. Through the use of interactive activity centres, the PCWF provides an environmental education experience to over 70,000 Peel elementary school students by giving them an opportunity to learn about water and its importance to our environment and ecosystems. The event runs from May 25 to June 1, 2011 and includes a Family Fun Day on Saturday, May 28, 2011 at Heart Lake Conservation Area in Brampton. Meenu Sikand noted that the Accessibility Advisory Committee ensures that the event is inclusive and accessible to all and requested Committee members assist with the site audit, script review, as well as participation on Family Fun Day.

Meenu Sikand noted that a continuous challenge with the event is the lack of participation from high school students with disabilities. Naz Husain, Committee Vice-Chair recommended contacting special education teachers, councillors and the organizers of the co-op programs in schools. Meenu Sikand commented that various organizations have been contacted such as Peel school boards, school principals and ErinoakKids Centre for Treatment and Development. She indicated that AAC participation during school days may create awareness and inspire interest. A PCWF Accessibility Plan was established in 2010 and will be implemented as part of the 2011 festival.

William Goursky encouraged AAC members to get involved. Interested volunteers are to contact Meenu Sikand. Naz Husain and William Goursky volunteered to participate on Family Fun Day.

b. **Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, Region of Peel,** Seeking AAC Input Regarding Planning and Organizing of 2011 National Access Awareness Week and International Day for Persons with Disabilities Celebrations

<u>Received</u>

Meenu Sikand requested Committee direction for the following upcoming events:

- Connections 2011 Resource Fair for Persons with Disabilities -April 19, 2011.
- National Access Awareness Week May 29 to June 5, 2011.
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities to be determined.

William Goursky provided an overview of the Fair and noted the importance of AAC presence at the fair as it provides an opportunity to promote the Committee and accessibility. Glenn Barnes, Committee Member volunteered to participate at the fair for a portion of the time.

For the benefit of new Committee members, William Goursky indicated that the National Access Awareness event is usually aimed at internal staff, while International Day of Persons with Disabilities is a more public event.

A group discussion occurred regarding the direction and theme for the two events. Raj Chopra, Committee Member suggested investigating what other provinces are doing to learn what is taking place across the country in the area of accessibility.

The Committee concurred that the Education and Awareness Subcommittee together with staff would be the best forum to discuss planning of the events and will report back to the AAC with recommendations.

Naz Husain requested that an e-mail be circulated noting the dates and times of upcoming events.

c. Kirsten Barnes, Strategic Planning Specialist, Region of Peel, Providing Information on the Community Partners Engagement Forum as it Relates to Homelessness

Received

Kirsten Barnes, Strategic Planning Specialist provided a brief history of homelessness in the Region of Peel. Highlights of the presentation included: emerging trends in the Region of Peel; the strategic planning model and a review of the Staff and Community Partners Engagement Forum, which engaged staff and community in a dialogue about the future. Kirsten Barnes asked members to consider how the emerging trends could be addressed from an accessibility perspective. As next steps, Kirsten

Barnes indicated further community consultations were being planned to validate priorities in order to develop a homelessness strategy. She inquired if Committee members would be interested in participating in the consultation process and welcomed ideas and suggestions.

A group discussion unfolded regarding what would be the best approach in moving forward. Suggestions included inviting other agencies with expertise such as mental health to take part in the dialogue. Kirsten Barnes commented that other agencies were involved in the Forum. A recommendation was made to include other Accessibility Advisory Committees in the discussion however, such a meeting would be difficult to coordinate. The Committee requested Kirsten Barnes to e-mail a questionnaire relating to the Homelessness Strategy for AAC input and meet following the April 26th AAC meeting to review and plan the next steps.

5. REPORTS

- a. Region of Peel Accessibility Planning Program Update Nil
- b. Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Member Updates Nil

6. OTHER BUSINESS

<u> Additional Item – Item 6a:</u>

a. AAC Minutes

Received

Naz Husain inquired why the minutes were no longer included in the monthly meeting agenda. William Goursky responded that the minutes go to Regional Council for approval. He requested that hard copies of the minutes be included as part of the agenda for information. Glenn Barnes noted the importance of providing a timely review of the electronic minutes when circulated to members of the AAC. Councillor Paterak suggested that any

last minute changes could be e-mailed to one of the political representatives on the Committee who would bring it forward during the Regional Council meeting.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2011, 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, Committee Clerk, (905) 791-7800 ext 4384 or at veronica.montesdeoca@peelregion.ca.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.