



Making Way
For Ontarians with Disabilities

REGION OF PEEL

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

MINUTES

AAC-2011-5

The Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee met on May 31, 2011 at 1:02 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

Members Present: G. Barnes[♦]; R. Chopra; W. Goursky; S. Hames; N. Husain; R. Iyer; M. Parker; P. Tourko*

Members Absent: H. Bajwa, due to illness; N. Iannicca, due to a personal matter; E. Kolb, due to other municipal business; R. Paterak, due to other municipal business; M. Tymkow

Also Present: **Region of Peel:** B. Taylor, Manager, Business Administration; A. Macintyre, Acting Regional Clerk and Director of Clerk's; M. Sikand, Accessibility Planning 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 1:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION AAC-7-2011:

That the agenda for the May 31, 2011 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

Pavlo Tourko, Committee Member, arrived at 1:05 p.m.

Items Related to Reports – Item 6 b)-i was dealt with.

6. REPORTS

b. **Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Member Updates**

i. **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Response to Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation (IAR) under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (Oral)**

Discussion led by William Goursky, Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair and Glenn Barnes, Committee Member

Received

William Goursky provided some background information regarding a resolution put forward by the City of Sarnia opposing the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) response to the proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation (IAR).

Glenn Barnes, Committee Member, advised that AMO's response to the proposed regulation gives the impression that the Association is speaking on behalf of all Ontario municipalities when recommending a delay in the implementation of the Standards until a further cost analysis has been conducted. Glenn Barnes stated that a thorough review of the Standards by AAC members and Regional staff has taken place and that the Region of Peel is very supportive of moving forward with the standards, a message that differs from the one being conveyed by AMO. Glenn Barnes suggested submitting a letter similar to the one provided by the City of Sarnia.

Councillor Sandra Hames provided clarification regarding AMO's response to the proposed regulation. She commented that AMO represents all the municipalities in Ontario, the majority of which are small in population. Councillor Hames noted that AMO is concerned about municipalities that lack the funding and knowledge to move forward with the implementation of the Standards by the proposed January 2012 deadline. She stated that the Region of Peel, as well as most of its neighbouring municipalities, are in a favourable position to move forward, however, smaller municipalities may struggle. Councillor Hames noted that these concerns have been brought to the attention of the Provincial government however, there has not been any response. She further noted that any delay on behalf of the Provincial Government would not affect the work being carried out by the Region of Peel, which is already moving forward with the implementation.

An extensive discussion took place regarding the negative impacts to smaller municipalities and the lack of assistance from the Province in addressing the needs of all Ontario municipalities. Committee members agreed that a message should be conveyed to the Provincial government requesting that the regulation not be delayed and that consideration be given regarding timelines and financial assistance to municipalities with scarce resources. The following recommendation was considered and supported by the Committee:

RECOMMENDATION AAC-8-2011:

That Glenn Barnes, Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Member, be requested to draft a letter expressing the concerns of the Committee regarding the implementation of

the Integrated Accessibility Regulation (IAR) and the lack of assistance to municipalities with scarce resources;

And further, that the draft letter be placed on the June 21, 2011 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting agenda, for review and consideration.

Glenn Barnes departed at 1:28 p.m. due to a personal matter.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. **Minutes of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC-2011-4) meeting held on April 26, 2011**

Received

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. **Caledon Enterprise.com**, Letter to the Editor dated March 24, 2011, titled "Respect the Purpose of Accessible Parking Spots"

Received

- b. **thestar.com**, Article dated May 7, 2011, titled "Legislation will Enforce Disability-Friendly Service"

Received

William Goursky suggested that a letter be sent to the author of the article congratulating her on a well written item and for highlighting the accessible customer service legislation that will affect all business as of January 2012. He noted that there has been very little communication, especially in the private sector, regarding the new regulation.

Naz Husain, Committee Vice-Chair, commented that there is a lack of awareness by organizations in the public sector regarding the compliance deadline and its implications to customer service delivery. She stated that more communication in this respect is required.

STAFF DIRECTION AAC-2011-5-01:

That staff prepare a letter congratulating the author of "Legislation will Enforce Disability-Friendly Service" from thestar.com for an article well written and for drawing attention to the accessible customer service legislation taking effect January 2012.

RECESS

Committee recessed at 1:34 p.m.

Committee reconvened at 1:46 p.m.

Members Present: R. Chopra; W. Goursky; S. Hames; N. Husain;
R. Iyer; M. Parker; P. Tourko

Members Absent: H. Bajwa, due to illness; G. Barnes, due to a personal matter; N. Iannicca, due to a personal matter; E. Kolb, due to other municipal business; R. Paterak, due to other municipal business; M. Tymkow

Items Related to Reports – Item 6 a)-i was dealt with.

6. REPORTS

a. Region of Peel Accessibility Planning Program Updates

i. Status of Upcoming Events (Oral)

Update by Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, Region of Peel

Received

William Goursky congratulated Meenu Sikand for being recognized with the 2011 Humanitarian Award from the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC). ICCC is a non-profit organization that promotes the business, professional and general well-being of Indian Canadian people.

Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist noted that the recognition is mainly due to the collective work put forward by the Region of Peel and the AAC. She invited everyone present to attend the awards ceremony gala event to be held on June 11, 2011 at the Metro Toronto Convention Center.

Meenu Sikand provided an update of the various events the Accessibility Planning Program has participated in thus far. She thanked all members who assisted with the Peel Children's Water Festival held on May 28, 2011 and noted that the inclement weather contributed to a low attendance turnout this year.

Meenu Sikand further congratulated everyone for a successful National Access Awareness Day and reiterated the importance of raising awareness regarding mental health. She thanked David Szwarc, Region of Peel Chief Administrative Officer for his letter in which he speaks of his mother's struggle with depression and commended him for sharing his experience with mental illness. Meenu Sikand thanked the Committee members for their passionate work in the area of accessibility and in working to remove the stigma associated with mental illness.

5. PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Julie Pehar, RBA Specialist, Equity Vision Consulting and Andre Lyn, Researcher and Analyst, Social Planning Council of Peel, Providing an Overview of the United Way Community Investment Strategy**

Received

A copy of the presentation is available from the office of the Regional Clerk.

Julie Pehar, RBA Specialist, Equity Vision Consulting, provided a brief history of the joint Region of Peel and United Way of Peel Region Community Investment Strategy, which began in 2007 as a result of

extensive community consultation in which the two organizations determined that key priority areas within the Region of Peel required special attention. Three priority areas were identified as follows:

- Resilient people,
- Strong families, and
- Vibrant neighbourhoods and communities.

Julie Pehar invited the Committee to participate in an open discussion and requested assistance in determining the role the Committee may play in establishing actionable items moving forward.

Julie Pehar informed that the immediate focus is related to population accountability by determining a collective way of bringing the Region together at a systems level. She commented that measurement is an essential part of the process and highlighted the struggle of obtaining accurate data for measurement and analysis related to the disability population.

Andre Lyn, Researcher and Analyst, Social Planning Council of Peel, requested assistance in determining indicators that should be measured to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and suggestions as to where to obtain reputable data that can be used to determine the needs of people with disabilities.

A group discussion unfolded regarding the benefits of qualitative data versus quantitative data. Members commented that numbers are important, however, may not paint an accurate picture of the real struggles of people with disabilities. Andre Lyn agreed on the benefits of a qualitative analysis, and stated that quantitative information is required to understand the trends. The Committee offered various suggestions of where to obtain additional information as well as potential areas of focus.

Naz Husain inquired what will be done with the information once it is collected.

Julie Pehar responded that the data will be used to make recommendations to better align services and coordinate efforts so that agencies are not working in silos and will try to address any overlap in services. She advised that the strategy is a long term initiative with the ultimate goal of making a positive change to the quality of life for everyone in Peel and thanked the

Committee for the valuable input. William Goursky recommended inviting members of the AAC to future public consultation sessions.

6. REPORTS

a. Region of Peel Accessibility Planning Program Updates

i. Status of Upcoming Events (Oral)

Update by Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, Region of Peel

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

b. Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Member Updates

i. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Response to Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation (IAR) under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (Oral)

Discussion by William Goursky, Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair and Glenn Barnes, Committee Member

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS - Nil

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 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.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.