



**REGION OF PEEL**

**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)**

**MINUTES**

**AAC-2011-6**

The Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee met on June 21, 2011 at 1:03 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. Iannicca<sup>†</sup>; E. Kolb<sup>\*†</sup>; Paterak; P. Tourko; M. Tymkow

**Members Absent:** H. Bajwa, due to illness; S. Hames, due to other municipal business; R. Iyer; M. Parker

**Also Present:** **Region of Peel:** N. Trim, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services; C. Reid, Regional Clerk and Director of Clerk's; V. Ghandour, Acting Manager, Regulatory Compliance; M. Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist; H. West, Legislative Specialist; V. Montesdeoca, Committee Clerk

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\* 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 1:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### RECOMMENDATION AAC-9-2011:

That the agenda for the June 21, 2011 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be amended to include a communication item from the Government of Ontario titled, "Ontario Introduces New Photo ID Card", to be dealt with under Communications – Item 4e;

And further, that the agenda for the June 21, 2011 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

See also Communications – Item 4e

William Goursky noted that the meeting would adjourn at 2:30 p.m. to accommodate a tour of the underground parking facilities. Councillor Paterak thanked staff for expediting the parking permits for members of the Committee that drive.

## 3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. **Minutes of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC-2011-5) meeting held on May 31, 2011**

Received

E. Kolb arrived at 1:11 p.m.

## 4. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. **The Brantford Expositor**, Article titled, "Politicians Adopt Disabilities to Learn about Life's Obstacles

Received

William Goursky requested that Regional Council consider a similar session as the one undertaken by the Brantford Accessibility Advisory Committee whereby the Mayor and Councillors were given an opportunity to experience what it is like to live with a disability. He commented that the initiative was an excellent way to help raise awareness about accessibility and the hurdles that persons with disability face every day.

Naz Husain, Committee Vice-Chair suggested that the session could include an education component regarding the new Integrated Accessibility Standards.

To avoid political publicity, Councillor Iannicca emphasized that the focus of the session should be on education and awareness.

Councillor Paterak suggested that participation not be restricted to Councillors but should also include senior management.

Glenn Barnes, Committee Member questioned the effectiveness of such initiatives. He recommended focusing on Regional programs and noted that the session would be an opportunity for the Region of Peel to highlight its successes and to seek input to improve programs and services.

STAFF DIRECTION AAC-2011-6-01:

That the Education and Awareness Subcommittee be explore options for an educational session similar to the one undertaken at the City of Brantford, which will involve Regional Councillors and senior management;

And further, the Education and Awareness Subcommittee report back the options to a future AAC meeting for consideration.

- b. *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation – Ontario Regulation 191/11

Received

See also Item 4c and Items Related to Reports – Items 6a-i and 6b-i

- c. **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance (AODA Alliance)**, E-mail dated June 3, 2011, Providing a Comprehensive Summary of the Integrated Accessibility Regulation (IAR)

Received

See also Item 4b and Items Related to Reports – Items 6a-i and 6b-i

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

## **6. REPORTS**

- b. **Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Member Updates**
  - i. **Proposed Letter regarding the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Response to the Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation (IAR) under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (Oral)**  
Discussion led by Glenn Barnes, Committee Member

Received

See also Items Related to Communications – Items 4b and 4c and Item 6a-i

In response to a recommendation put forward at the May 31, 2011 AAC meeting, Glenn Barnes, Committee Member advised that the letter to the Provincial government expressing concerns regarding the delay of the Integrated Accessibility Regulation (IAR) and its effects on municipalities was no longer required. He noted that the regulation is now in effect and the Region of Peel is moving forward with implementation.

Various Committee Members requested an overview of the final regulation. Carol Reid, Regional Clerk and Director of Clerk's, noted that staff will need to undertake a detailed review of the regulation and its impact on the Region of Peel. Once the review has been conducted, staff will report back to the Committee in the fall and provide a comprehensive summary.

A discussion unfolded regarding the next steps in the implementation process including the upcoming deadline for businesses from the private sector to comply with the 2012 deadline of the Customer Service Standard. William Goursky informed the Committee that the Provincial government is relying on Accessibility Advisory Committees to assist with engaging businesses and offer support for compliance. The Committee agreed on the urgency to strategize and explore how assistance will be provided to the business sector, taking into consideration existing resources and the fast approaching deadline.

STAFF DIRECTION AAC-2011-6-02:

That staff schedule a two hour meeting with the Education and Awareness Subcommittee to explore options for ways to assist businesses from the public sector to comply with the Customer Service Standard by 2012;

And further, that the Education and Awareness Subcommittee report back the options to a future AAC meeting.

- d. **United Nations Enable**, Bulletin regarding the Theme for the December 3, 2011 International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Received

Carol Reid, Regional Clerk and Director of Clerk's advised members that discussions are underway for the next International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). The date is yet to be determined but will likely take place in late November or early December 2011. Building on the success of the National Access Awareness Week event, the proposed theme for IDPD will expand on creating awareness regarding mental illness.

Additional Item – Item 4e:

- e. **The Government of Ontario**, Newsroom Bulletin dated June 9, 2010, titled “Ontario Introduces New Photo ID Card”

Received

See also Approval of Agenda

5. **PRESENTATIONS - Nil**

6. **REPORTS**

- a. **Region of Peel Accessibility Planning Program Updates**
- i. **Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation (IAR) Update (Oral)**  
Update by Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, Region of Peel

Received

See also Items Related to Communications – Items 4b and 4c and Item 6b-i

- ii. **Introduction of the Acting Manager for Regulatory Compliance and Update on the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Strategy/Visioning Sessions (Oral)**  
Update by Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, Region of Peel

Received

Meenu Sikand introduced Victoria Ghandour, Acting Manager of Regulatory Compliance, who will be overseeing and supporting the Accessibility Program in Jeff Payne’s absence.

Victoria Ghandour provided an update regarding the AAC visioning session and strategic planning exercise. She indicated that facilitators both internal and external are being explored to lead the sessions.

**Additional Item:**

**Transportation to Attend Conferences and Workshops**

Received

William Goursky inquired if any funds have been allocated for group transportation to accessibility conferences or workshops and cited interest of the upcoming Annual Opening Doors and Minds Workshop in La Salle, Ontario.

Carol Reid, responded that preparation is underway for the upcoming budget process and indicated the request will be taken into consideration.

Councillor Iannicca departed at 2:05 p.m.

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

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

Discussion led by Glenn Barnes, Committee Member

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Additional Item:**

**a. Accessibility in Rural versus Urban Communities**

Received

Maureen Tymkow, Committee member requested an update regarding a suggestion put forward at the April 25, 2011 AAC meeting regarding the possibility of holding an information session to discuss the differences of accessibility in rural communities versus urban communities.

Various suggestions were put forward by members of the Committee such as: a theme for consideration for the next National Access Awareness Week event, a topic for discussion at a future Joint AAC meeting hosted by the Town of Caledon or as part of an AAC Forum hosted by the Region of Peel in the Town of Caledon.

Councillor Paterak recommended the Caledon Town Hall as an accessible venue to hold the Joint AAC meeting, but cautioned holding a large event such as the AAC Forum due to the lack of infrastructure and accessible accommodation in Caledon.

Maureen Tymkow was requested to contact the Accessibility Coordinator at the Town of Caledon to explore the possibility of hosting a Joint AAC meeting, which would include Regional AACs.

E. Kolb departed at 2:15 p.m.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, August 30, 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](mailto:veronica.montesdeoca@peelregion.ca).

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.