



Making Way
For Ontarians with Disabilities

REGION OF PEEL

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

MINUTES

AAC-2011-7

The Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee met on August 30, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

Members Present: R. Chopra; W. Goursky; S. Hames; N. Iannicca; R. Paterak; P. Tourko*; M. Tymkow

Members Absent: H. Bajwa; G. Barnes; N. Husain; R. Iyer; E. Kolb, due to vacation; 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

* See text for arrivals

♦ See text for departures

William Goursky, Chair, presided.

1. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum of voting members was not present, and in accordance with section III-4(g) of the Region of Peel Procedural By-law 57-2006, as amended, the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) received information.

William Goursky, Committee Chair, noted that upon arrival of one additional member, quorum would be achieved and at that time the Committee would formally approve the agenda.

Communication Items – Items 4a to 4d were dealt with.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance (AODA Alliance)**, E-mail dated July 19, 2011, Providing a Copy of a Letter sent to Ontario's Three Major Political Parties Asking for Election Commitments Regarding Disability Accessibility
- b. **thestar.com**, Article dated August 1, 2011, titled "Global Voices: Why Do We Ignore Those with Disabilities When Making Development Decisions?"
- c. **peoplefirst4aoda.com**, Article dated August 4, 2011, titled "AODA: Why Do I Have to Notify the Public When There is a Disruption of Services?"
- d. **Mississauga Board of Trade (MBOT) Magazine, Volume Six, Issue 4, August 2011 (Page 8)**, Article titled "New Government Requirement for Employers"

Pavlo Tourko, Committee Member, arrived at 1:02 p.m.

A quorum of voting members was achieved.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**RECOMMENDATION AAC-10-2011:**

That the agenda for the August 30, 2011 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be amended to include an item from Maureen Tymkow, AAC Member, regarding the Town of Caledon AAC Meeting and Dinner Invitation, to be dealt with under Reports – Item 6d-ii as Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Member Updates;

And further, that the agenda for the August 30, 2011 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

See also Reports – Item 6d-ii

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. **Minutes of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC-2011-6) meeting held on June 21, 2011**

Received

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance (AODA Alliance), E-mail dated July 19, 2011, Providing a Copy of a Letter sent to Ontario's Three Major Political Parties Asking for Election Commitments Regarding Disability Accessibility**

Received

- b. **thestar.com**, Article dated August 1, 2011, titled "Global Voices: Why Do We Ignore Those with Disabilities When Making Development Decisions?"

Received

- c. **peoplefirst4aoda.com**, Article dated August 4, 2011, titled "AODA: Why Do I Have to Notify the Public When There is a Disruption of Services?"

Received

See also Item 4d

- d. **Mississauga Board of Trade (MBOT) Magazine, Volume Six, Issue 4, August 2011 (Page 8)**, Article titled "New Government Requirement for Employers"

Received

See also Item 4c

5. PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Joel Rieder, President, Reinders + Rieder Ltd. and Ashwani Sinha, Capital Project Manager, Real Property Asset Management, Region of Peel**, Providing a Review of the Wilkinson Shelter Renovation Project located at 15 Wilkinson Road - City of Brampton, Ward 8

RECOMMENDATION AAC-11-2011:

That the site plan for the Wilkinson Shelter Renovation Project located at 15 Wilkinson Road - City of Brampton, Ward 8, be amended to include:

- Fully accessible outdoor open shelters, including the addition of curb cuts;

- Automatic door openers in the accessible entrance; and
- An automatic door opener in the barrier free washroom.

And further, that the City of Brampton, Planning, Design and Development Department be notified of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee decision to support the site plan for the Wilkinson Shelter Renovation Project located at 15 Wilkinson Road - City of Brampton, Ward 8, as amended.

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

Ashwani Sinha, Capital Project Manager, Real Property Asset Management, provided an overview of the proposed renovations for the Wilkinson Shelter. He noted that the renovations are in response to a review conducted by Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) to address a number of security and safety issues.

Joel Rieder, President, Reinders + Rieder Ltd., provided details of the proposed updates and pointed out that most of the changes will affect the exterior of the building, including an increase to the number of accessible parking spaces. He noted that accessibility considerations were not part of the project scope for the building's interior as the proposed changes were minimal and shelter users did not manifest mobility issues.

William Goursky inquired how many persons with disabilities have occupied the services of the shelter since its inception and indicated this information would be useful in determining the accessibility needs of the shelter's interior. Joel Rieder responded that he did not have this information as it was not part of the project scope.

Maureen Tymkow, Committee Member stated that there are many homeless people with disabilities and that the information regarding the shelter's history would be useful in determining accessibility needs.

A discussion unfolded regarding the requirement for additional accessibility features in the facility which included:

- Ensuring the existing barrier free washroom has a turning radius to accommodate a scooter;
- Automatic door opener in the barrier free washroom; and
- At least one dormitory be fully accessible.

Councillor Paterak requested a follow up with a brief history on the clientele of the shelter and noted that the site needs to be fully accessible not only for shelter users, but also staff members with disabilities. Joel Rieder suggested adding a contingency for financing the accessibility upgrades.

STAFF DIRECTION AAC-2011-7-01:

That staff from the Residential Property Management Division report back to a future AAC meeting with additional information on the Wilkinson Shelter facility, including information regarding the number of clients with disabilities as well as the accessibility features of the building's interior.

- b. Nancy Diane Barry, Program Lead and Carling Barry, Peer Program Assistant, Centre for Independent Living in Toronto (CILT), Providing Information regarding Programs Offered by CILT and the Diner's Club Guide for Peel Residents**

Received

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

Nancy Diane Barry, Program Lead, Centre for Independent Living in Toronto (CILT), provided an overview of the organization. CILT is a Toronto based independent living centre controlled by persons with disabilities that assists people with disabilities. She reviewed the CILT Diner's Club initiative - a guide to accessible and affordable restaurants for consumers with disabilities. This program has been running successfully in Toronto and is now available to Region of Peel residents. CILT also provides women's workshops for self improvement which includes topics such as: self esteem, body image, assertiveness, and other topics.

Nancy Diane Barry requested support and direction from Committee members regarding advertising and recruitment to promote the work

undertaken by CILT, as well as, suggestions for accessible locations to hold the workshops.

Councillor Hames requested more information regarding the CILT Diner's Club directory for Peel. Nancy Diane Barry responded that the directory is being compiled and should be available within the next three to four months.

Councillor Paterak inquired how many restaurants are included in the Toronto CILT Diner's Club directory. Nancy Diane Barry responded that more than three hundred restaurants were included in the guide. Councillor Paterak noted that the guide served as an excellent resource and suggested that it be presented to Toronto Tourism to promote accessible tourism.

Maureen Tymkow inquired if CILT would be servicing the Caledon region. Nancy Diane Barry responded that this is dependant on the services of TransHelp. Maureen Tymkow clarified that TransHelp services the Caledon area and indicated that Bolton has a few accessible facilities that can be used for the workshops.

Raj Chopra, Committee Member, thanked Nancy Diane Barry for a very informative presentation and suggested that a similar presentation be provided to the City of Mississauga AAC.

William Goursky recommended Communication Services at the Region of Peel for suggestions regarding advertising.

- c. **Natasha Langlois and Michelle Goland, Communications Officers, Elections Ontario, Providing Information on Elections Ontario and Elections Ontario's Accessibility Initiatives**

Received

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

Michelle Goland, Communications Officer, Elections Ontario provided an update on the upcoming Provincial election scheduled for October 6, 2011. She stated that Elections Ontario is committed to putting the needs of

voters first to ensure a fully inclusive election process.

Natasha Langlois, Communications Officer, Elections Ontario described the new and existing accessibility features for the election. She stated that there are two forces driving the accessibility changes at Elections Ontario: the rapidly growing aging population and the rapidly changing trend towards accessibility. Some of the notable changes in this year's Provincial election process include:

- More days and more ways to vote;
- Assistive devices at the polls including easy-grip pencils, magnifiers and Braille templates;
- Assistance at the Polls – a support person or elected official to assist in voting;
- Voting by mail;
- Assistive Voting Technology; and
- Home Visits – a request for a home visit to vote by Special ballot.

Michelle Goland and Natasha Langlois concluded their presentation by offering a demonstration of some of the equipment.

Maureen Tymkow suggested that the contact number for Elections Ontario call centre be advertised using only numerical digits since the use of letters can be a hindrance to those with visual disabilities.

William Goursky inquired into the use of phone-in votes. Natasha Langlois stated that research is currently underway to examine its feasibility and viability. The study is scheduled for completion by 2013.

6. REPORTS

- a. **Education and Awareness Working Group – International Day of Persons with Disabilities Update (Oral)**
Update by Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, Region of Peel

Received

Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist provided an update on the next International Day for Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) Event. Members of the IDPD Planning Committee have met to discuss and develop the objectives and focus of this year's event. Meenu Sikand presented an overview of the draft IDPD strategy to seek comments and feedback from the Committee. The event date is scheduled for Wednesday, November 23, 2011 at the Embassy Grand in Brampton. This year the event will be a breakfast networking session targeting the business community to bring awareness regarding the requirements of the Accessible Customer Service Standards that will be in effect on January 1, 2012 for the private sector. The event will focus on the positive economic benefits to businesses in the Region of Peel by implementing the standards effectively. Event partners include the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario and business organizations in Peel.

William Goursky suggested that individuals from the business community be invited to sit on the IDPD planning working group to ensure that the needs of the business community are incorporated into this year's event delivery.

Item 6c was dealt with.

- c. **Region of Peel Accessibility Planning Program Updates (Oral)**

Received

Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist provided an update on the work undertaken by the program which includes planning for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) event, as well, as planning for the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA)* implementation strategy. She advised that she received feedback from the three local municipalities regarding the roles of subcommittees/working groups and will be sharing the information with the Committee.

- b. **Visioning Exercise and Facilitators (Oral)**
Update by Victoria Ghandour, Acting Manager, Regulatory Compliance, Region of Peel

Received

Victoria Ghandour, Acting Manager, Regulatory Compliance, provided an update on the status of the visioning exercise. She stated that Karyn Stock-MacDonald, an independent consultant is being considered to facilitate the exercise. Victoria Ghandour provided a brief summary of Karyn Stock-MacDonald's work experience and requested the Committee's approval to move forward with retaining a facilitator.

RECOMMENDATION AAC-12-2011:

That staff be authorized to move forward with the retention of a facilitator and meeting planning for the visioning exercise.

c. Region of Peel Accessibility Planning Program Updates (Oral)

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

d. Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Member Updates

Additional Item – Item 6d-ii was dealt with.

ii. Town of Caledon AAC Meeting and Dinner Invitation (Oral)

Invitation by Maureen Tymkow, Committee Member

Received

See also Approval of Agenda

On behalf of the Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee, Maureen Tymkow, Committee Member and Caledon AAC Chair invited all Region of Peel AAC members to attend the October 27, 2011 Caledon AAC meeting. A dinner will be held to promote networking and share experiences by members of the two committees. Region of Peel AAC committee members were encouraged to contact Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist to confirm their attendance and receive transportation information.

i. **Social Assistance Review (Oral)**

Update and Open Discussion by William Goursky,
Committee Chair

Received

William Goursky noted it was brought to his attention that a social assistance review was underway and expressed his disappointment that the AAC was not initially invited to take part in the consultation.

William Goursky commented on the need to evaluate the Committee within the structure of the organization and to improve communication. Due to time constraints the matter is to be placed on the next AAC meeting agenda for further discussion.

ii. **Town of Caledon AAC Meeting and Dinner Invitation**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 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 2:57 p.m.