



Making Way
For Ontarians with Disabilities

REGION OF PEEL

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

MINUTES

AAC-2011-8

The Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee met on September 20, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

Members Present: H. Bajwa*; R. Chopra; W. Goursky; N. Husain; E. Kolb*[♦]; M. Parker*; R. Paterak; M. Tymkow

Members Absent: G. Barnes; S. Hames, due to other municipal business; N. Iannicca, due to other municipal business; R. Iyer; P. Tourko

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

* See text for arrivals

♦ See text for departures

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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 two additional members, quorum would be achieved and at that time the Committee would formally approve the agenda.

Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, provided an overview of the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce's (ICCC) efforts in communicating and raising awareness among the Indo-Canadian community regarding the importance and benefits of providing Accessible Customer Service. She presented five short videos produced as part of the ICCC communication strategy that provide information on the requirements of *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act* (AODA) Standards, effective January 1, 2012, in multiple languages.

M. Parker, Committee Member, arrived at 1:07 p.m.

H. Bajwa, Committee Member, arrived at 1:08 p.m.

A quorum of voting members was achieved.

William Goursky, Chair of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION AAC-13-2011:

That the agenda for the September 20, 2011 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be amended to include an update on the Visioning Planning Exercise, to be dealt with under Reports – Item 6b-iv,

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Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Member Updates;

And further, that the agenda for the September 20, 2011 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

See also Reports – Item 6b-iv

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. **Minutes of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC-2011-7) meeting held on August 30, 2011**

Received

4. COMMUNICATIONS - Nil

5. PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Mark Head, Manager, Research and Analysis, Integrated Planning Division, Corporate Services; Eric Chan, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning Division, Public Works; Gail Anderson, Principal Planner and Archana Vyas, Planner, Integrated Planning Division, Corporate Services, Providing an Overview of Regional Official Plan Amendment 26**

Received

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

Gail Anderson, Principal Planner, Integrated Planning Division, Corporate Services, provided an overview of Regional Official Plan Amendment 26 (ROPA 26) as it relates to accessibility considerations. She provided some background and policy content and reviewed how these policies relate to persons with disabilities. Gail Anderson reviewed the various components

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of ROPA 26 and explained how each policy will be updated using an "accessibility lens". They include policies related to:

- Incentives for Intensification;
- Petroleum Resources;
- Natural Hazards (special policy areas);
- Human Made Hazards;
- Compatible Active Recreation; and
- Transportation

Gail Anderson requested that written comments and input on ROPA 26 be submitted by October 7, 2011. All input will be presented to Regional Council for consideration in the late fall of 2011.

Raj Chopra, Committee Member, inquired if there were any plans in place to monitor compliance by builders in addressing accessibility. Mark Head, Manager, Research and Analysis, Integrated Planning Division, responded that staff are considering performance measurement indicators that could be used, however, it will be further discussed with area municipal staff.

Councillor Paterak raised concern regarding the roundabout under construction at the intersection of Dixie Road and Old Base Line in Caledon. He stated that the narrow road and lack of sidewalk puts pedestrians and people with disabilities in a dangerous situation should they find themselves using the intersection. Councillor Paterak recommended that the accessibility features of the intersection be further investigated and suggested that staff review the practice at the City of Waterloo regarding roundabouts.

Maureen Tymkow, Committee Member suggested that the AAC should be consulted in projects such as Regional Official Plan amendments. She noted that she was not aware of the ROPA 26 Open House in Caledon and inquired on the turnout. Gail Anderson responded that the Open House was successful, and that a lot of good feedback was obtained. It was suggested that the Accessibility Planning Program staff be listed as a stakeholder to ensure that the AAC is informed of meeting dates.

6. REPORTS

a. Region of Peel Accessibility Planning Program Updates

i. International Day of Persons with Disabilities Update (Oral)

Update by Raj Chopra, Committee Member and Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, Region of Peel

Received

E. Kolb arrived at 1:40 p.m.

On behalf of the Education and Awareness Working Group, Raj Chopra, Committee Member, provided an update on the planning underway for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) event scheduled for November 23, 2011.

Raj Chopra noted that the venue will be the Embassy Grand located at the corner of The Gore Road and Queen Street in Brampton. She advised that the fourth meeting of the Working Group was attended by a representative from the Ministry of Community and Social Services and included discussions regarding presenters, outreach efforts and the event theme. The event will be a breakfast symposium targeted to mid size employers with up to 100 employees, to create awareness of the requirements of the Accessible Customer Service Standard. Outreach efforts being considered include the local Boards of Trade, the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC), and the Economic Development Officers from the area municipalities. Raj Chopra encouraged the participation of Committee members at the event.

Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, advised that Asha Luthra, former President of Indo-Canada Chambers of Commerce has been confirmed as a speaker for the event and suggested that a Regional Councillor could speak about their experience with accessibility and the benefits of compliance.

E. Kolb departed at 1:53 p.m.

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ii. **Long Range Transportation Plan Stakeholders Symposium Update (Oral)**

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

Received

Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, provided an update on the Long Range Transportation Plan Stakeholders Symposium that took place on September 9, 2011. She advised that the stakeholder consultation, which included diverse community participants, was held to obtain feedback regarding long range transportation planning. Meenu Sikand commended staff for a well planned and facilitated event. She noted that a report will be brought to Regional Council with the findings.

Councillor Paterak commented that the symposium venue was not accessible and recommended that a facility audit be carried out prior to booking future event venues. Meenu Sikand advised that an event checklist is in place and offered to forward it to the appropriate staff. She highlighted the lack of accessible venues for large events and reiterated the importance of an accessibility review during the planning and design phase.

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

i. **William Osler Health Services Update (Oral)**

Update by William Goursky, Committee Chair

Received

William Goursky, Committee Chair, advised of his membership on the Accessibility Advisory Committee at Brampton Civic Hospital - William Osler Health Centre, and informed of an upcoming site audit taking place at the hospital. He commented that the Brampton Civic Hospital AAC is composed mostly of staff members and requested that the Region of Peel AAC members, who have expertise in this area, assist with the audit. Harvinder Bajwa, Raj Chopra, Naz Husain, and Maria Parker volunteered to assist with the hospital site audit.

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- ii. **United Way of Peel Region Update (Oral)**
Update by William Goursky, Committee Chair

Received

William Goursky, Committee Chair, inquired if members were aware of any organizations who offer training or advice on implementing the Accessible Customer Service Standard.

Naz Husain, Committee Vice-Chair advised that she had attended training offered by Volunteer MBC, who for a small fee, offers the service to the non-profit sector.

Raj Chopra, Committee member, also informed of free training offered by the Provincial government by way of an on-line course which provides an introduction to the Accessible Customer Service legislation and undertook to forward the information to the members.

William Goursky also informed the Committee of a Mental Health Round Table session to be held in the spring of 2012 and requested that Committee members keep this event in mind as volunteers will be required.

Additional Item – 6b-iv was dealt with.

- iv. **Visioning Planning Exercise (Oral)**
Update by William Goursky, Committee Chair

Received

See also Approval of Agenda

William Goursky, Committee Chair, expressed his disappointment that only a few Committee members have confirmed their availability for the visioning exercise scheduled to take place in October. He noted the importance of the exercise in defining the goals and objectives of the Committee. A discussion unfolded regarding availability and time preferences. Suggestions included evening or weekends sessions.

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Naz Husain, Committee Vice-Chair reiterated that full Committee participation is critical.

iii. **AAC Role (Oral)**

Open Discussion Led by William Goursky,
Committee Chair

Received

Following up on the discussion initiated at the August 30, 2011 AAC meeting, William Goursky, Committee Chair, restated his concern regarding the lack of recognition of the AAC as a resource in consultations at the Region of Peel. He acknowledged the lack of resources to have a departmental staff member at each AAC meeting and highlighted the importance of addressing the matter moving into the visioning exercise.

Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, suggested that the departmental Commissioners or their designate could attend during departmental updates to the AAC.

Naz Husain, Committee Vice-Chair, commented that staff representing all Regional departments should be present at all AAC meetings since the Committee is there to assist them. She noted that the City of Mississauga AAC meetings always have representation from the various departments.

Maria Parker, Committee Member, noted that, as a new Committee member, she has sensed a disconnect between the Committee and Regional staff. She noted that the work carried out by the Committee will benefit everyone as the community ages. She questioned the progress being made by the Committee at the monthly meetings and suggested holding the meetings after 3:00 p.m. to encourage staff attendance.

Councillor Paterak noted that senior staff is very much interested in the work of the Committee, however, time considerations and workload priorities predispose staff participation. Councillor Paterak suggested an alternate strategy to designate a staff member from each department to become the "spokesperson" for accessibility issues within the department.

Raj Chopra, Committee Member, recommended discussing the issue of

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staff involvement as part of the visioning exercise. She pointed out the importance of defining the roles of all involved to move forward in determining the Committee's goals and objectives. Raj Chopra suggested establishing a strategic plan, accompanied with an operational plan, for presentation to senior management.

Maureen Tymkow commented that the Committee's role has become obscure and the work undertaken has become repetitive.

Carol Reid, Regional Clerk and Director of Clerk's, thanked the Committee members for their valuable input, which coincides with the objectives of the visioning exercise. The intent of the exercise is to establish an action plan for implementation.

Norma Trim, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services, reiterated the support of senior management in the area of accessibility and recognized the need to raise the profile of accessibility issues in the Region of Peel. She offered to relay the Committee's comments to the Executive Management Team.

iv. Visioning Planning Exercise (Oral)

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Additional Item – Item 7a:

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

Update by Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist

Received

Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Specialist, provided an update on the Town of Caledon AAC meeting and dinner invitation, indicating that only four responses have been received from Regional AAC Committee members. Members interested in attending the dinner meeting on October 27, 2011 were requested to contact Meenu Sikand.

Meenu Sikand advised of an invitation received from the Health Services Department to provide a presentation regarding accessibility at their staff training days. The days requested were October 19 and 20, 2011, at 8:45 a.m. William Goursky and Naz Husain offered to volunteer at the training sessions.

Meenu Sikand discussed enhancements being made to the doors located in the corridors that adjoin Suite A and Suite B, Regional Headquarters. Changes include:

- Doors to be opened from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.;
- Doors to be changed to glass panel doors for safety and accessibility;
- The positioning of the automatic door openers will be changed for easier reach; and,
- One automatic door opener will function to open the two doors.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 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 2:46 p.m.