

MA-16-1



Making Way
For Ontarians with Disabilities

REGION OF PEEL

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

MINUTES

AAC-2012-4

The Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee met on April 24, 2012 at 1:05 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

Members Present: R. Chopra; D. Farrace*; W. Goursky; N. Husain; E. Kolb; R. Paterak; M. Tymkow

Members Absent: H. Bajwa; G. Barnes; S. Hames, due to other municipal business; N. Iannicca, due to illness; 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; A. Adams, Manager, Regulatory Compliance; H. West, Legislative Specialist; M. Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist; V. Montesdeoca, Committee Clerk

* See text for arrivals

♦ See text for departures

MA-96-2

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 1:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION AAC-11-2012:

That the agenda for the April 24, 2012 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting include a communication item from the Caledon Enterprise titled, "More Roundabouts Coming to Caledon", to be dealt with under Communications – Item 4e;

And further, that the agenda for the April 24, 2012, Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

See also Communications – Item 4e

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. **Minutes of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC-2012-3) meeting held on March 24, 2012**

Received

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. **United Nations ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) Press Release No. G/16/2012, dated March 16, 2012**

Received

See also Reports – Item 6c-i

- b. **Caledon Citizen**, Article dated April 5, 2012, titled “Peel’s Accessibility Committee Weighs in on Roundabouts”

Received

William Goursky apologized for the language used in his comments quoted in the Caledon Citizen. He stated his frustration regarding how roundabouts may pose an added barrier for persons with disabilities.

Councillor Paterak pointed out that roundabouts greatly reduce “t-bone” type of collisions causing life threatening accidents and reducing the number of cases where persons become disabled as a result of such accidents.

- c. **builderonline.com**, Article dated April 5, 2012, titled “The Coming Senior Housing Crisis”

Received

- d. **thestar.com**, Article dated April 9, 2012, titled “Making Businesses Accessible to All has its Obstacles”

Received

Additional Item – Item 4e

- e. **Caledon Enterprise**, Article dated April 3, 2012, titled “More Roundabouts Coming to Caledon”

Received

See also Approval of Agenda

Dely Farrace, Committee Member, arrived at 1:20 p.m.

5. DELEGATIONS

- a. **Laura Cerullo, Project Manager, Health Facility Planning and Philip Hui, Project Manager, Real Property Asset Management, Region of Peel, Providing a Review of the Peel Regional Paramedic Services Satellite Station Located at 2 Snelcrest Drive – Town of Caledon, Ward 2**

Received

RECOMMENDATION AAC-12-2012:

That the update provided to the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on April 24, 2012 by Region of Peel Real Property Asset Management staff regarding the site plan for the Peel Regional Paramedic Services Satellite Station located at 2 Snelcrest Drive – Town of Caledon, Ward 2, be received;

And further, that notification of the support of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee for the subject site plan, be provided to the Town of Caledon, Development Approval & Planning Policy Department.

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

Laura Cerullo, Project Manager, Health Facility Planning provided an overview of the Peel Regional Paramedic Services Satellite Station located at 2 Snelcrest Drive in the Town of Caledon. The facility is co-located with the Town of Caledon Fire and Emergency Services and the satellite station will be used by Peel Paramedic staff.

Philip Hui, Project Manager, Real Property Asset Management, reviewed the accessibility features of the facility which includes:

- Walkways on both side of the accessible parking spots;
- Improvements to the accessible ramp;
- An additional accessible parking spot at the west side of parking lot;
- Automatic door operator at the north entrance;
- Barrier-free washroom to include an automatic door opener, tilted

mirrors with side grab bars, and censored faucets and water closets.

Carol Reid, Regional Clerk and Director of Clerk's, introduced Aretha Adams, Manager of Regulatory Compliance and welcomed her to her new role.

6. REPORTS

a. **Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Visioning Exercise Update**

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

Received

RECOMMENDATION AAC-13-2012:

That the report presented by the Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services dated February 29, 2012, titled "Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Visioning Exercise Update", be adopted.

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

Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist, provided an overview of the findings from the visioning exercise and reiterated staff's commitment to participation in the action plan moving forward. She stated that the priorities of the plan should align with Council priorities and accessibility legislation requirements.

Raj Chopra, Committee Member, thanked Meenu for her hard work in putting together the information and requested clarification interpreting Appendix III, a coloured spreadsheet which details the action plan. She suggested that a guideline be included to describe how to interpret the action plan and make the information within the spreadsheet, more user friendly.

William Goursky inquired which actions were to be undertaken by the Committee. Meenu Sikand outlined some of the key players for the different tasks and undertook to forward the information to Committee Members.

William Goursky commented that carrying out the action plan is very work intensive and inquired if more staff resources were being considered. Carol Reid responded that when the plan was established, consideration was given to ensure the tasks outlined were realistic and attainable. She stated that the work to be carried out will be in collaboration with departmental partners which aligns with the strategy framework to effect change in policies and procedures and incorporate accessibility into day to day activities.

William Goursky inquired what will be the reporting mechanism as the tasks are undertaken. Meenu Sikand advised that a quarterly report will be presented to the AAC to provide an update. Part of the reporting mechanism will include a presentation from departmental staff to inform the Committee of accessibility compliance within different areas of the organization.

Naz Husain, AAC Vice-Chair, commented that the role of the Committee has evolved and expressed confidence in staff to move forward with the action plan. She noted that there is a common understanding between the Committee and staff and that everyone is working together to meet the requirements under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA).

Raj Chopra pointed out that a quantitative component is missing from the action plan. She highlighted the importance of using figures to measure achievements and to determine the success of the plan. William Goursky noted that monitoring is very important as action items may need to be re-evaluated and suggested the use of the Results Based Accountability model.

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

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

Received

Meenu Sikand provided an overview of the tasks undertaken within the last month and committed to providing a written report for future meetings. National Access Awareness Week is scheduled for May 27 to June 2, 2012. Notice regarding the Accessibility Award Nominations has been made to all internal staff and the awards will be distributed during National Access Awareness Week. Meenu Sikand advised of the completion of the first section of the Accessibility e-book, created to provide staff training and

the tools to assist with organizing accessible meetings. The e-book will be launched during National Access Awareness Week. Meenu Sikand reviewed upcoming events which include:

- April 25, 2012 Connections Fair – Volunteers include: Glenn Barnes, William Goursky, Naz Husain, and Raj Chopra - all Committee members were invited to attend;
- May 22, 2012, following the AAC meeting - informal consultation with AAC and staff regarding roundabouts;
- May 22, 2012 – Accessible Transportation presentation regarding Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation;
- June 2012 – Presentations related to Emergency Procedure Plan and Public Safety Information Compliance and Workplace Emergency Response Information.

Meenu Sikand also informed Members that she will start developing the framework for the Accessibility Plan and will be seeking feedback from them in the near future.

c. Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Member Updates

Naz Husain stated that the City of Mississauga has a roundabout which is heavily used by pedestrians. She invited members of the Committee to do a site visit to determine if the roundabout poses any safety hazards.

i) ESCAP/Leonard Cheshire Disability Conference Update

Update by Naz Husain, AAC Vice-Chair

Received

See also Communications – Item 4a

Naz Husain provided an update regarding her participation in the ESCAP/Leonard Cheshire Disability Conference held in March at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. Common practices and experiences were shared and the event was very informative and educational. A lot was learned about the challenges faced by developing countries regarding accessibility, which include: stigma;

inadequate infrastructure; inadequate funding; and lack of knowledge around accessibility. Naz Husain noted that the United Nations needs assistance in implementing policies and procedures. She stated that the issues experienced in Canada, although very relevant, are very minor in comparison to those experienced in developing countries, where some are about 30 years behind. Naz Husain offered to share the link to the documentation provided at the conference.

7. OTHER BUSINESS – Nil

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2012, 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 2:45 p.m.