



Making Way
For Ontarians with Disabilities

REGION OF PEEL

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

MINUTES

AAC-2012-6

The Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee met on August 28, 2012 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; R. Paterak; M. Tymkow

Members Absent: G. Barnes; D. Farrace; S. Hames, due to a personal matter; N. Iannicca, due to other municipal business; E. Kolb, due to a personal matter; M. Parker

Also Present: **Region of Peel:** N. Trim, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services; K. Lockyer, Regional Clerk and Director of Clerk's; A. Adams, Manager, Regulatory Compliance; H. West, Legislative 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 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

William Goursky provided an update on staff changes and welcomed Kathryn Lockyer, Regional Clerk and Director of Clerks and Aretha Adams, Manager of Regulatory Compliance, to their new positions. He advised that Chris Bullock and Drew Goursky are no longer employed with the Region of Peel and thanked them for their contributions which were instrumental in the development of the Universal Design Standards.

William Goursky congratulated Meenu Sikand, Accessibility Planning Specialist and Harvinder Bajwa, Committee Member, for receiving The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. In addition, he congratulated Harvinder Bajwa for being recognized by Rick Hansen for her work on the Man in Motion tour.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION AAC-14-2012:

That the agenda for the August 28, 2012, Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. **Minutes of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC-2012-4) meeting held on April 24, 2012**

Received

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. **cbc.ca**, CBC News Article dated May 2, 2012, titled "Parents with Disabilities Want Support, Not Stigma"

Received

See also Items 4b and 4c

- b. **cbc.ca**, CBC News Article dated May 2, 2012, titled "Disabled Parents Treated Same as Others, Peel CAS Says"

Received

See also Items 4a and 4c

- c. **ctv.ca**, CTV News Article dated May 2, 2012, titled "Disabled Couple Fights for Right to Care for Newborn Son"

Received

See also Items 4a and 4b

- d. **Disability News Asia**, News Article dated May 21, 2012, titled "Chinese with Disabilities Enjoy E-commerce Boom"

Received

- e. **The Globe and Mail**, News Article dated May 27, 2012, titled "Canada's Demographic 'Golden Age' Coming to an End"

Received

- f. **ARCH Disability Law Centre**, News Article dated May 31, 2012, titled "Blind Canadians Applaud Decision of the Federal Court of Appeal Finding that Federal Government Breached Charter Rights"

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- g. **Region of Peel INcare (Inclusive Practices in Child Care) Newsletter**, Spring 2012, Issue 3

Received

- h. **Carol Reid, Regional Clerk and Director of Clerk's, Region of Peel**, Letter dated July 6, 2012, Regarding Region of Peel Official Plan Amendment 26 – Notice of Adoption

Received

5. DELEGATIONS

- a. **Keith Ward, Secretary, Jasinski Legacy Non-Profit Residences Inc.**, Presenting Accessibility Features and the Use of Regional Design Guidelines for the Villa Polonia Project, a Non-Profit Housing Project under Construction in Brampton

Received

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

Keith Ward, Secretary, Jasinski Legacy Non-Profit Residences Inc., provided an overview of a community-based housing initiative called The Residences of Villa Polonia. The project located at 30 and 40 Polonia Avenue in West Brampton consists of two buildings: a 105 unit seniors building; and a 120 unit building offering residences for singles and families. The project is the residential component of a landmark development for the Polish-Canadian community which includes St. Eugene de Mazonod Parish and a Polish Cultural Centre. The development of the project is led by the Jasinski Legacy Non Profit Residences Inc. (JL) in collaboration with the Region of Peel and is funded in partnership with the Federal, Provincial and Regional governments and JL. The agreement with the Region of Peel includes a 50 unit commitment for rent-g geared-to income occupants.

Keith Ward noted that a requirement of the project was to follow the Universal Design Standards (2010) and he highlighted some of the accessible features incorporated into the project. Sixty per cent of the senior's units are fully accessible. All the units have been designed with

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the infrastructure built in to accommodate further accessibility modifications, should the need arise. Occupancy is expected to begin in the spring of 2013.

Naz Husain, Committee Vice-Chair, inquired if the units were being sold as condominiums. Keith Ward responded that the units were intended for rental use and noted that the mixed income component of the project fits the needs of the community.

Councillor Paterak inquired if any consideration has been given to including a roll-in shower or therapeutic washroom for general use. Keith Ward responded that future consideration could be given as there are public rooms that could be retrofitted, should the need arise.

William Goursky noted how impressed he was with the project and congratulated Keith Ward for his contributions.

- b. **Kassondra Stockman, Specialist, Emergency Management,**
Providing an Update on the Integrated Accessibility Standard
Regulation as it Relates to Emergency Management

Received

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

Kassondra Stockman, Specialist, Emergency Management, provided an overview of Ontario Regulation 191/11 that impacts the Peel Regional Emergency Program (PREP) as it relates to Information and Communication Standards. Areas of impact include public education, Region of Peel Emergency Plan and emergency response procedures. The deadline for compliance was January 1, 2012 and the Region has undertaken various initiatives to make emergency procedures, plans and public safety information more accessible. Such initiatives include:

- Emergency Preparedness Website;
- A Personal and Family Emergency Preparedness Guide; and
- Other printed materials provided in various formats.

Kassondra Stockman expressed the desire to collaborate with the AAC Committee to further the work.

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Naz Husain inquired if the Region's call answering system provides a format in which further information may be obtained noting that some residents still prefer the use of a phone to obtain information. Kassondra Stockman responded that she would look into the issue and confirmed that staff from Emergency Preparedness are available to address any inquiries and calls.

Raj Chopra, Committee Member, inquired if feedback had been obtained from community members with disabilities to test the functionality and accessibility of the site, noting that doing so would be good customer service. Kassondra Stockman indicated she would take the recommendation back to the Emergency Preparedness team.

Maureen Tymkow requested clarification as to what type of information is provided on the Emergency Preparedness website. Kassondra Stockman stated that the site provides information pertinent to natural disasters within the geographical area as well as information on how to be better prepared should an emergency occur. Maureen Tymkow inquired about a presentation provided to the Committee some time ago regarding emergency evacuation procedures for persons with disabilities and whether those suggestions had been implemented. Kassondra Stockman clarified that building evacuation plans fall under the jurisdiction of each facility and that the Emergency Preparedness department looks at emergencies at a regional level. William Goursky requested a follow up on the inquiry raised by Maureen Tymkow regarding such recommendations.

STAFF DIRECTION AAC-2012-6-01:

That staff from the Accessibility Planning Program follow up regarding the comments and suggestions made to improve evacuation procedures for persons with disabilities.

Harvinder Bajwa, Committee Member, inquired as to where to obtain more information regarding what to do during a power failure for persons using assistive devices that require electricity to operate, such as respiratory ventilators. Kassondra Stockman provided some options and the PREP team's contact information, who would provide further assistance to such queries.

6. REPORTS

- a. **Region of Peel Accessibility Planning Program Monthly Update (May)**

Received

- b. **Region of Peel Accessibility Planning Program Monthly Update (June)**

Received

- c. **Region of Peel Accessibility Planning Program Monthly Update (July/August) (Oral)**

Update by Aretha Adams, Manager, Regulatory Compliance, Region of Peel

Received

Aretha Adams, Manager, Regulatory Compliance, provided an update on the work undertaken thus far by the Accessibility Planning section. She noted that work is underway to prepare the multi-year Accessibility Plan, a requirement under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*. A draft of the Plan will be provided to Committee members for their review. The deadline for submission to the Provincial Government is January 1, 2013. As part of the update, Committee Members were informed that Accessibility Planning staff will be contacting new members to schedule a time to take photographs for inclusion in the Plan.

Raj Chopra inquired if the results from the Visioning Exercise were incorporated into the Plan. Aretha Adams responded that the Accessibility Plan is a separate legislated document which meets Provincial requirements regarding accessibility improvements within the organization.

- d. **Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee Member Updates**

Received

William Goursky advised that he, along with Raj Chopra and Meenu Sikand had attended two visioning exercise sessions for William Osler Health

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Services which will be implemented at the William Osler hospitals moving forward. He expressed concern regarding accessibility in hospitals and pointed out that through site audits, a lot of accessibility features were noted to be lacking. Raj Chopra stated that the information compiled from the meetings will assist in the preparation of an accessibility plan. William Goursky and Raj Chopra are members of the Brampton Civic Hospital - William Osler Health Centre Accessibility Advisory Committee and offered to provide further updates.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Additional Item:

a. Follow-up on Outstanding Items (Oral)

Received

William Goursky noted that the actions and outcomes of the visioning exercise require further clarification and will need to be revisited moving forward.

William Goursky expressed concern that the Roundabout Intersection discussions have been put on hold and suggested the issue be revisited in the near future.

Maureen Tymkow advised of an Accessibility Information Forum hosted by the Town of Caledon and the Town's Accessibility Advisory Committee and invited all Region of Peel AAC Members to attend the event on October 23, 2012. The forum will provide information on services and program for persons with disabilities. A flyer containing further information will be circulated in the near future.

Harvinder Bajwa spoke of her participation on the Canadian South Asians Supporting Independent Living (C-Sasil), an organization that promotes disability rights and independent living for the South Asian community.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 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 2:24 p.m.