



MINUTES

MISSISSAUGA ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

www.mississauga.ca

MONDAY, February 3, 2014 – 2:00 p.m.

PROGRAM ROOM 1, MISSISSAUGA VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

1275 Mississauga Valley Boulevard, Mississauga, Ontario, L5A 3R8

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rabia Khedr, Citizen Member (CHAIR)
Carol MacEachern, Citizen Member (VICE-CHAIR)
Councillor, Pat Saito, Ward 9
Carol-Ann Chafe, Citizen Member
Clement Lowe, Citizen Member
Melanie Taddeo, Citizen Member
Amy E. Wilkinson, Stakeholder Member
Janet Allison, Stakeholder Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councillor Katie Mahoney, Ward 8
Darrin Ballard, Stakeholder Member
Glenn Barnes, Citizen Member
Naz Husain, Citizen Member

NON-MEMBER PRESENT:

Councillor Ron Starr, Ward 6

STAFF PRESENT:

Gary Kent, Commissioner, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer
Lisa Boyce-Gonsalves, Community Child/Youth Consultant
Frank Buckley, Manager, Parks South District
Martina Chaloupka, Human Resources Consultant
Lawrence Franklin, Urban Designer
Vedad Hasanovic, Project Manager, Facilities and Property Management
Virginia Kalapaca, Project Manager, Park Development
Oksana Krupa, Co-Op Student, Facilities and Property Management
Julie Lavertu, Legislative Coordinator
Ann Lehman-Allison, Senior Communications Advisor
Angie Melo, Legislative Coordinator
Nigel Roberts, IT Manager, Digital Services and Mobility
Pamela Shanks, Corporate Policy Analyst
Diana Simpson, Accessibility Coordinator
Frank Spagnolo, Manager, Plan Examination Services
Alana Tyers, Transit Planner
Graham Walsh, Legal Counsel

CALL TO ORDER – 2:09 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Melanie Taddeo requested to discuss the Connect 4 Life launch in Other Business. Councillor Saito noted that she would provide an update regarding fees for support persons at the Meadowvale Theatre during Item 7.

Approved As Amended (C. MacEachern)

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST – Nil

DEPUTATIONS

- A. Leigh-Anne Marquis and Paula Della Bianca, Technical Analysts, Waste Program Planning, Region of Peel, with respect to the Bi-Weekly Garbage, Recycling and Organic Cart Collection Program.

Ms. Marquis presented a PowerPoint presentation dated February 3, 2014 entitled “Bi-Weekly Garbage, Recycling and Organic Cart Collection.” Ms. Marquis advised that there have been four bi-weekly garbage collection pilot programs throughout the Region of Peel since November 2011 and that Peel Regional Council unanimously approved the move to a bi-weekly cart-based collection in April 2013, noting that this program would begin in January 2016. Ms. Marquis noted that Region of Peel staff met with the Town of Caledon, City of Brampton, and the Region of Peel’s Accessibility Advisory Committees and have received various suggestions (e.g. embossing the waste and recycling carts, including bigger or swivel wheels and accessible handles on the carts, and placing accessible locks and latches on the cart lids) which have been taken into consideration and are included in the tender document. Ms. Marquis explained that another suggestion was to establish an assessment process for residents who require a walk-up service with the carts, noting that Peel Regional Council approved this service in the 2016 waste collection contract in September 2013.

Tracy Lafrense, a Ward 7 resident, noted that different handles on the carts would assist individuals with vision disabilities.

The Chair suggested that the Region consider making the embossed lettering identifiable for persons with vision disabilities, making the lettering and carts easily identifiable for persons with colour blindness, and differentiating the handles on the carts and the carts themselves in terms of shape, size, and colour so as to easily identify the different carts.

Frank Buckley, Manager, Parks South District discussed waste receptacles in parks and advised that he would share his contact information with Ms. Marquis.

The guiding principles on this initiative would be useful for the City's purposes in the future.

Diana Simpson, Accessibility Coordinator suggested that the Region consider incorporating cart latches and features that are accessible with closed fists.

Recommendation

AAC-0001-2014

That the PowerPoint presentation, dated February 3, 2014 and entitled Bi-Weekly Garbage, Recycling and Organic Cart Collection from Leigh-Anne Marquis and Paula Della Bianca, Technical Analysts, Waste Program Planning, Region of Peel, be received.

Received (C.-A. Chafe)

MATTERS CONSIDERED

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – November 18, 2013

Approved (M. Taddeo)

2. ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2005 (AODA)

(A) Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR)

Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing, was not in attendance so this matter was deferred to a future Mississauga Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Simpson noted that a Public Vehicle Advisory Committee meeting was scheduled for tomorrow to discuss taxi licences including accessible taxi licences and that some Committee members planned to attend for their information.

Recommendation

AAC-0002-2014

That the verbal update from Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing regarding accessible taxicabs be deferred to the next Mississauga Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

Deferred (C. Lowe)

3. City of Mississauga 2013 Annual Report of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

- a. Diana Simpson, Accessibility Coordinator, provided a verbal update on the achievements thus far and the next steps for 2014. Ms. Simpson acknowledged the IASR Staff Project Team, who have been nominated for a Corporate Awards For Excellence Award for all their hard work. Ms. Simpson discussed various highlights in the 2013 Annual Report, including:

- Driveway Windrow Snow Clearing Program is now a permanent program;
- Older Adult Advisory Panel is being created.
- Therapeutic recreation is now its own line of business – (website and therapeutic active life brochures available).
- The Snoezelen Recreation Swim Program is now open at Malton Pool;
- Next Step to Active Living Program received a three year Accreditation from the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehab Facilities (CARF). The Program has bypassed its 10th Anniversary.
- Accessible Document Training delivered by TekSource. The internal accessibility website is host to many useful documents to assist staff in creating accessible documents. We need to continue to promote this.
- IASR Training; Cross-functional Training Resource Team was formed to provide input into the development of the training and to assist in the delivery of the training.
- HR and Employee Health Services worked on implementation of the Employment Standard (policy amendment and recruitment process).
- Exceptional Accessible Customer Service Awards were given out at the National Access Awareness Event held in June 2013.
- Building projects include Holcim Waterfront Estate, Civic Centre (17 automatic door operators installed, Committee Room washroom upgrades) etc...; more to come in 2014.
- Design of Public Spaces Standard added to the IASR Implementation Plan. Accessible picnic tables added to 11 sites, before the compliance timelines; 29 playgrounds will be getting accessible features in the next couple of years. In 2013, 11 playgrounds were redeveloped with improved accessibility features or added accessibility features.
- Two more audible pedestrian signals have been installed at Eglinton Avenue at Albina Way/Forum Drive as well as at Hurontario Street at Matthews Gate.
- 49 additional achievements, this is an increase from last year's 34. Achievements that are above and beyond the projects listed in the Accessibility Plan, for example, Enabling Garden and MacEwan Terrace Garden official opening
- Museums Mississauga put together a document on how to create accessible exhibits.
- Summer pilot program regarding volunteer support persons for children's camp programs.
- 40 Years, 40 Sagas highlights the formation of the AAC in 2003. Exhibit is on display in the Great Hall at Civic Centre.
- MiWay Achievements.

Lisa Boyce-Gonsalves, Community Child/Youth Consultant discussed the origins and overall success of the summer pilot program that linked volunteer support persons with children with disabilities in the City's day camp programs.

Ms. Simpson encouraged Committee members and staff to visit the “40 Years, 40 Sagas” exhibit, noting that the Committee’s formation in 2003 is highlighted and that pictures of several Committee members are part of the display. This can also be viewed on the City’s website.

- b. Alana Tyers, Transit Planner, provided a verbal update outlining the improvements and changes in the MiWay 2013 Annual Accessibility Report. Ms. Tyers discussed several highlights: specifically, the annual sidewalk program will continue to see improvements in 2014 with an additional six kilometres of new sidewalk construction; MiWay’s new Accessible Services web page has been improved with more accessible formats, and external stop announcements will be made on all routes in 2014. Ms. Tyers further advised that a significant portion of the requirements set out within the IASR’s Transportation Standard are currently in effect and that compliance has already been achieved.

Tracy Lafrense, a Ward 7 resident, advised that announcements inside buses often do not work properly and expressed concern about bus drivers who insist that her husband pay a fare even though he is accompanying her as a person with a vision disability. Ms. Lafrense inquired as to why the City does not have an identification card for support workers to persons with disabilities like Brampton and Toronto so that there are fewer questions from bus drivers regarding fares.

The Chair discussed Ms. Lafrense’s concerns and requested clarification from staff regarding the fare policy for support persons who accompany persons with disabilities. For a CNIB card holder with a support person, one fee must be paid.

Ms. Tyers advised that staff did extensive research on identification cards for support workers to persons with disabilities, consulted with the Committee on this matter, and concluded that this would add hurdles to persons with disabilities (e.g. medical forms to complete, etc.). Ms. Tyers explained the current policy regarding bus fares for support workers who accompany a person with disabilities and noted the importance of training bus drivers on this issue. Ms. Tyers suggested that Ms. Lafrense contact the City’s Call Centre (3-1-1) or MiWay Customer Service at 905-615-INFO (4686) to report any issues regarding MiWay bus operators so that staff can follow up by providing more training or proceeding with disciplinary actions.

Allen Mcguire, a Ward 7 resident, advised that some bus drivers refused to share their names. Ms. Tyers advised that staff would follow up if transit users obtain the bus number, route, and approximate time.

Ms. Lafrense also advised she was having similar issues with respect to riding in taxicabs with her guide dog. As there was no staff present that deal with the taxi industry, the Chair advised that she would raise the issue with the taxi industry and thanked Ms. Lafrense and Mr. Mcguire for attending the meeting and sharing their concerns with the Committee.

Recommendation

AAC-0003-2014

1. That the City of Mississauga 2013 Annual Report of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (2012-2017 Initiatives), dated January 22, 2014 from Diana Simpson, Accessibility Coordinator, be received;
2. That the MiWay 2013 Annual Accessibility Report, dated December 2013 be received; and
3. That the Mississauga Accessibility Advisory Committee supports the "City of Mississauga 2013 Annual Report of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2012-2017 Initiatives" and "MiWay 2013 Annual Accessibility Report," as presented.

Approved (C.-A. Chafe)

4. Our Future Mississauga Progress Report

Diana Simpson, Accessibility Coordinator, provided an overview of the above-noted Report and requested that Committee members look back on accessibility-related initiatives and improvements throughout the City for inclusion (e.g. transit, the Accessibility Design Handbook, the creation of the Facility Accessibility Design Subcommittee) Councillor Saito stated that one of the biggest accomplishments was with improvements to transit Councillor Saito added that she has seen staff involved with the Committee embrace accessibility and take accessibility-related matters back to their departments for greater awareness.

Committee members discussed the City's accessibility initiatives and planning, the importance of the Accessibility Staff Working Group, the need to continue to promote and embrace accessibility language in the City, and the incorporation of accessibility into various projects like Inspiration Port Credit, Inspiration Lakeview, and the Downtown 21 Master Plan, among others. The Chair suggested that the City's Progress Report be shared with other municipalities throughout the province for their reference and information.

Recommendation

AAC-0004-2014

That the Memorandum, dated January 23, 2014 and entitled "Our Future Mississauga Progress Report from Diana Simpson, Accessibility Coordinator, be received.

Received (A. Wilkinson)

5. Accessibility Report Submitted to the Province

Diana Simpson, Accessibility Coordinator, discussed the above-noted Report, noting that legislation requires that the information be provided to the public for their information.

Recommendation

AAC-0005-2014

That the Memorandum, dated January 17, 2014 and entitled "Accessibility Report Submitted to the Province" from Diana Simpson, Accessibility Coordinator, be received.

Received (A. Wilkinson)

6. Abilities Awards Event

Diana Simpson, Accessibility Coordinator, advised that Melanie Taddeo, Carol-Ann Chafe, and she attended the Abilities Awards Event in Toronto in December 2013 and that Glenn Barnes won the Exceptional Volunteer with a Disability Award.

Ms. Simpson advised that she was approached by Jamie Castro, Founder/President of Abilities Ministries International and organizer of the Abilities Awards Event, regarding the City of Mississauga hosting the 2014 Abilities Awards Event for December 3, 2014. The organizers have reserved the Mississauga Convention Centre as the Living Arts Centre was not available

Ms. Chafe supports the idea of the City of Mississauga being host of this event. Apparently, the Lieutenant Governor David Onley advised he would attend the event in 2014. Councillor Saito suggested that we look at requesting tourism funding for this event; and Ms. Taddeo noted that this would be a great opportunity for organizations to collaborate.

Recommendation

AAC-0006-2014

That the Memorandum, dated January 23, 2014 and entitled "Abilities Awards Event," from Diana Simpson, Accessibility Coordinator, be received.

Received (M. Taddeo)

7. Pending Work Plan Items dated February 3, 2014

Councillor Saito advised that she would raise the issue of fees for support persons at tonight's Meadowvale Theatre Board meeting. Councillor Saito requested that Pamela Shanks, Corporate Policies Analyst, prepare a Corporate Report to Council for an amendment to the Fees and Charges By-law if the

Board approves this matter. Councillor Saito suggested that a clause be included in rental agreements that support persons not be charged fees when attending events with persons with disabilities, noting that it is not reasonable to expect volunteers at the Theatre to assist persons with disabilities and/or to locate their caregivers. Councillor Saito further noted that she would provide the Committee with an update at the next meeting. Amy Wilkinson discussed the matter, noting that persons with disabilities could face issues in the event of emergencies, such as a fire, if they did not have their caregivers on hand to assist them with the emergency situation.

Recommendation

AAC-0008-2014

That the Pending Work Plan Items chart for the Mississauga Accessibility Advisory Committee, dated February 3, 2014, be received.

Received (A. Wilkinson)

OTHER BUSINESS

Connect 4 Life Event

Melanie Taddeo invited Committee members and staff to attend the official launch of Connect 4 Life on February 27, 2014 from 6-9 p.m. at Mississauga's Civic Centre, 12th floor C Banquets. Ms. Taddeo advised that this event is by invitation only and that attendees must RSVP by February 20, 2014. Ms. Taddeo explained Connect 4 Life's purpose to empower individuals with disabilities to become more independent and contributing members of society. She further noted added that Connect 4 Life would be launching Voices 4 Ability, the first Internet-based Canadian radio station for and by persons with disabilities.

Meadowvale Community Centre

Councillor Saito advised that the Meadowvale Community Centre is scheduled to close for renovations on June 21, 2014 and that staff and herself are hosting an information and drop-in event at the Community Centre on February 26, 2014 where residents can view the final designs.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

Monday, February 24, 2013, 1:30 p.m.:

Facility Accessibility Design Subcommittee meeting, Committee Room A, Mississauga Civic Centre, 300 City Centre Drive, 2nd Floor.

Monday, April 7, 2014, 2 p.m.:

Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting, Program Room 1, Mississauga Valley Community Centre, 1275 Mississauga Valley Boulevard.

ADJOURNMENT – 3:25 p.m. (C. Lowe)

DRAFT