

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA  
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

**REPORT 6-2009**

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Minutes of a meeting of the Region of Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee (RNAAC), Ontarians with Disabilities Act held in the Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, August 18, 2009, commencing at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

**ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Jean Bennett, Krystine Donato, Geoff Eden, Councillor Cindy Forster, Ian Greaves, Brian Kon, Acting Chair, Diann Krieger, Mary Lou Whitty, Griz Witlib

Committee

Regrets: Jocelyne Gagne, Chair, Christine Keith, Anita MacKenzie, Carol Walker

Staff: Eric Flora, Steve Murphy, Catherine O'Leary, Penny Pitt

Staff regrets: Mary Eagles, Kim Koz, Judy Sobchak

Guests: Margaret Sanderson (Brock University), Renee McKinley (Interpreter)

In the absence of Jocelyne Gagne, Brian Kon assumed the position of Acting Chair. He welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Introductions were made around the table for the benefit of everyone in attendance.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

- 69. Moved by Councillor Forster  
Seconded by Jean Bennett**

**That Agenda 6-2009, being the agenda for the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of August 18, 2009, be approved with the addition of an update from Ian Greaves on the Human Rights Commission Survey and an update from Griz Witlib on Wainfleet Town Hall.**

**Carried.**

## ADOPTION OF MINUTES

70. **Moved by Jean Bennett**  
**Seconded by Councillor Cindy Forster**

**That Report 5-2009, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of July 7, 2009, be approved with the addition of Ian Greaves and Brian Kon to the “regrets” list.**

**Carried.**

## ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

71. Feed Back Opportunity for Built Environment Draft

On Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, committee members and staff received by email, a memorandum from Ellen Waxman, Assistant Deputy Minister which included documents regarding the Launch of the Initial Proposed Accessible Built Environment Standard for Public Review. Steve Murphy advised the committee to provide their comments to him regarding the Built Environment Standards before the next meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>. He will compile the comments and report back to the committee at that time.

Several questions and comments arose following a discussion regarding the Built Environment Standard.

- In the content of the document the use of the word “disability” needs to be corrected.
- Do the standards include curbs? Flat to the road similar to the Region’s application is preferred. For the visually impaired, texture is a good feature. Curbs need to be rounded because after freezing the melting breaks the edges.
- Is there a stipulation in the standards with regards to snow removal?
- The running slopes for ramps 1-12’ is outdated. The slope 1-12” is the steepest level for people with wheel chairs. Currently 1-15’ is being used but the optimum would be 1-20’ which requires a lot of room.

72. Update of Terms of Reference

Steve Murphy reviewed the changes to the Terms of Reference with the committee. He will meet with the Regional Clerk to discuss the budget and also check internally on the clause “conflict of interest” statement reporting back to the committee at the next meeting.

## AODA UPDATE

73. There were no updates to report at the present time. The Customer Service Training is on track with the Councillors’ training to be possibly as a presentation at a Council Meeting and/or Standing Committee meetings.

The possibility of using people with disabilities to assist with the training was discussed. The training schedule will be emailed to Diann Krieger, Ian Greaves, Mary Lou Whitty and Councillor Forster.

### **NIAGARA SPECIALIZED TRANSIT (NST) UPDATE**

74. With the NST report not available, a full report will be distributed at the next meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Transportation Strategy Steering Committee (TSSC) will be meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup> in Council Chambers at 1:00 p.m. with a presentation on the report on Inter Municipal Transit Work Plan by Angela Iannuzziello/ Dennis Fletcher ENTRA (GENIVAR) Consultants. All AAC and IMSTAC members were invited to attend.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

75. Council Chamber Renovations

A meeting was held on August 14<sup>th</sup> regarding Council Chamber renovations. Steve will contact the architect to obtain the status of the renovations.

76. Yellow Ramp Project

Steve Murphy provided a description of the project to the committee. Since he has a contact person, he will present the project to the City of Welland first and then to committee members from both Public and Catholic schools.

77. Survey from Human Rights Commission

Ian Greaves reported to the committee that compliance all across Ontario had begun regarding the announcing of all bus stops with resistance from some transit commissions. It was also reported that transit buses in Toronto were all fully automated to announce bus stops.

78. Wainfleet Town Hall Update

Griz Witlib informed the committee that she had attended two Official Plan meetings. The renovations to the second floor are almost complete. There is a possibility of an "Open House" being held. Copies of the letters that were sent to the municipalities reaffirming the use of the FADS designs in upcoming plans will be emailed to the committee members. Any responses received from municipalities will be discussed at the next meeting.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

79. Information Items AAC 92 – AAC104 – 2009 were reviewed and received.

92-2009	Welland Tribune Article – July 7/09 – Welland embraces age friendliness
93-2009	Ancaster News – July 7/09 – Field of dreams become a reality
94-2009	Lindsay Post – July 7/09 – Housing projects get boost
95-2009	Oshawa This Week – July 7/09 – Oshawa readies for new era of accessible customer service
96-2009	Barrie Examiner – July 16/09 – Government helping to build an age-friendly Ontario
97-2009	Midland Free Press – July 17/09 – Onley talks to Rotary
98-2009	Stirling EMC – July 17/09 – Perfect weather for the Jack Vance Golf Tournament
99-2009	St. Catharines Standard – July 17/09 – Make ferry wheelchair accessible
100-2009	Welland Tribune – July 24/09 – City working to better serve those with disabilities
101-2009	Welland Tribune – July 24/09 – Amphitheatre accessibility a concern
102-2009	Ottawa East – July 24/09 – Housing keeps families living downtown
103-2009	Cornwall Standard – August 10/09 – Fair receives Trillium funding for new stage
104-2009	Toronto Star – August 10,09 – Barrier busters

## ADJOURNMENT

80. Moved by Diann Krieger  
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That the Committee be adjourned at 2:15 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

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Jocelyne Gagne  
Chairperson

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Penny Pitt  
Administrative Assistant  
Council Support