

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

**REPORT 1-2008**

---

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, January 15, 2008, commencing at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

**ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Jocelyne Gagne, Chairperson; Jean Bennett, Tony DiPaola, Krystine Donato, Councillor Cindy Forster, Ian Greaves, Brian Kon, Diann Krieger, Carol Walker, Mary Lou Whitty, Griz Witlib,

Committee Regrets: Geoff Eden, Anita MacKenzie, Janet Genge

Staff: Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator; Steve Murphy, Community Services; Gord Low, Project Manager Buildings, Joe Gouthro, Manager Facilities Management, Janice Emeneau, Planning Department; Catherine O'Leary, Public Health, Al McKay, Public Health, Denise Papaiz, Communications, Penny Pitt, Corporate Services – Clerks

Staff regrets: Birgit Page, Human Resources; Eric Flora, Public Works; Eric Pilon, NST

Guests: Kerrie Grandfield, (ASL Interpreter), Marie Belliveau and Margaret Sanderson, Brock University

Jocelyne Gagne welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

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

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by Carol Walker  
Seconded by Diann Krieger

1. That Agenda 1-2008, being the agenda for the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of Tuesday, January 15, 2008, be approved.

Carried.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Jean Bennett  
Seconded by Ian Greaves

2. That Report 8-2007, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of November 6, 2007, be approved with Penny Pitt changing of the wording in Item 95, to read **no more than two weeks in advance**.

Carried.

## **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

2. Diana Lecinski reviewed the obligations of the Chairpersons and of the Committee members.

Diana Lecinski called for nominations for the position of Chairperson.

Carol Walker nominated Jocelyne Gagne for the position of Chairperson of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by Carol Walker  
Seconded by Jean Bennett

Jocelyne Gagne accepted the nomination for the position of Chairperson.

Diana Lecinski called for any further nominations. None were made.

That Jocelyne Gagne be declared as Chairperson of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2008.

Carried.

Diana Lecinski called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson.

Jocelyne Gagne nominated Carol Walker for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Moved by Jocelyne Gagne  
Seconded by Ian Greaves

Carol Walker accepted the nomination for the position of Vice-Chairperson.

Diana Lecinski called for any further nominations. None were made.

That Carol Walker be declared as Vice-Chairperson of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2008.

Carried.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

## **ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2007-2008 – UPDATE**

3. The Accessibility Plan for 2007-2008 was passed by Council at the end of September 2007. Steve Murphy commented that the Regional accessibility webpage will be updated with links and more updated information. An Accessibility Auditing tool of FADS for the Region's own facilities is being developed. He noted that the Region is a member of ONAP (Ontario Network of Accessible Professionals).

Joe Gouthro, Manager, Facilities Management, reported that his department is just completing an upgrade to the Campbell West fire alarm system that included the

installation of lowered pull stations and the newer style audible/visible alarm devices. In addition, they have added 4 auto-open doorways to make the interior hallways completely accessible. They will be meeting with the CORC group to discuss accessible improvements to council chambers and potential integration into a broader approach for renewal of that area. Lastly, they are working with Corporate Communications, Diana Lecinski (liaison for AAC), and a consultant to improve the way finding signage in the complex that will also look at the options for addressing the various challenges that visitors and staff alike face when working or visiting the site.

Catherine O'Leary stated, should the Welland office be relocated, steps would be taken to ensure the location would be barrier free. She encouraged everyone to contact her or Al McKay regarding any Public Health issues.

Mary Lou Whitty reported on a newspaper article regarding the Region looking for an Advisory Committee. Denise Papaiz, Communications Coordinator, produced a copy of the article and explained the Advisory Group was being formed to review the Region's development charges By-Law and related policies. Members of the public are welcome to apply if interested.

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

4. Diann Krieger informed the Committee that every municipal Clerk's Department has the NST application forms and there was nothing new to report at this time.

#### **AODA UPDATE**

5. Ian Greaves reported an organization called the AODA Coalition is advocating for 50% Standard Development Committee membership being persons with a disability.

Denise Papaiz informed the group that the Annual Report to the Community would be going out about March 31, 2008, to every household. It is to be included as a newspaper insertion although direct mail was used in the past, it was very costly. The Report will include an overview about the Niagara Specialized Transit Service.

Diana Lecinski advised that the Customer Service Standard Guide can be sent to the group by email.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

6. Jean Bennett stated that following a recent meeting in Toronto of Habitat for Humanity and Women's Build, the Toronto Chapter of Women's Build are planning to build 10 houses in the GTA. The Southern Ontario Chapter is interested in teaming up with the Niagara based Habitat for Humanity for a building project in the Niagara area of an accessible home. Jean also invited anyone who has time or knows some who is willing to volunteer to contact her. Further information can also be found on the website [www.womenbuild@torontohabitat.on.ca](mailto:www.womenbuild@torontohabitat.on.ca)
7. On Saturday, May 10, 2008, a Joint Accessibility Event is being held from 9 -3 p.m. Diana Lecinski noted that it will be by electronic invitation and there will be more information from the Welland Accessibility Advisory Committee forthcoming.

8. Jocelyne Gagne handed out a small supply of brochures titled "Accessible Campaign Information and Communication" and "Accessible All Candidates Meetings". Brochures are also available for downloading from the website:  
[www.mcass.gov.on.ca/mcass/english/pillars/accessibilityOntario/planning/election](http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/mcass/english/pillars/accessibilityOntario/planning/election)
9. Margaret Sanderson announced that the Film Festival at Brock University is showing "Shameless - The Art of Disability". Admission is free and parking is \$5. She also stated that an accessible map of the Brock University campus is being developed. Brock is also hosting a series of focus groups next Friday from 12 -1 and 1 – 2 p.m. Please let her know if anyone wishes to attend. Contact her at 905-688-5550 Ext. 5454 or [msanderson@brocku.ca](mailto:msanderson@brocku.ca)

Items for Information Summary

10. Information Items 1-2008 to 21-2008 were reviewed and received.

Carried

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no Other Business at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Krystine Donato and seconded by Mary Lou Whitty that the Committee be adjourned at 2 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, February 26, 2008.at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

---

Jocelyne Gagne  
Chairperson

---

Penny Pitt  
Administrative Assistant  
Council Support