

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

**REPORT 7-2008**

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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 Monday, September 23, 2008, commencing at 12:45 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

**ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Jocelyne Gagne, Chairperson; Jean Bennett, Krystine Donato, Geoff Eden, Ian Greaves, Diann Krieger, Anita MacKenzie, Carol Walker, Mary Lou Whitty

Committee

Regrets: Councillor Cindy Forester, Griz Witlib

Staff: Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator; Steve Murphy, Community Services; Gord Low, Janice Emeneau, Planning Department; Denise Papaiz, Corporate Communications, Penny Pitt, Corporate Services – Clerks

Staff regrets: Catherine O’Leary, Eric Flora

Carol Walker, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

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

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

52. Moved by Jean Bennett  
Seconded by Dianne Krieger

That Agenda 7-2008, being the agenda for the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of September 23, 2008, be approved.

Carried.

**APPROVAL OF 2009 MEETING SCHEDULE**

53. Moved by Mary Lou Whitty  
Seconded by Ian Greaves

That the 2009 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule be approved.

Carried.

## ADOPTION OF MINUTES

54. Moved by Geoff Eden  
Seconded by Anita MacKenzie

That Report 6-2008, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of August 12, 2008, be approved as distributed.

Carried.

## ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2008-2009 – UPDATE

55. The 2008-2009 Accessibility Plan presentation was viewed by the Public Health and Social Services Committee on September 16, 2008. Jocelyn Gagne thanked Griz and Mary Lou for the photographs of local related items for that were included in the presentation. AAC Committee members that attended the PHSSC meeting were also thanked. Jocelyn felt the presentation was well received and each Councillor, the Chairman and the media received copies of the power point presentation. The presentation will also be sent to AAC Committee members.

Steve Murphy apprised the committee that Report COM 49-2008 respecting Ontarians with Disabilities Act/Access for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, was received; and the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001, 2008-2009 Accessibility Plan was approved was at the Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting on September 16, 2008.

The next step will be to have the Accessibility Plan ratified at the Regional Council meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and to have the Councillor's cognizant of accessibility in their current budget planning.

## NIAGARA SPECIALIZED TRANSIT (NST) UPDATE

56. Eric Flora was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following update by email.
- Transportation staff has completed an NST ridership update report that is ready for R-IMSTAC (November meeting) review; this report provides ridership information to date.
  - The NST contract amendment (as it automatically renews for two years) is also ready for TSSC (going to September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting) and has been forwarded to the Canadian Red Cross for their lawyer's review. Other than that, nothing is new to report since the last RNAAC meeting.
  - Larry Ducharme is **NOT** coming to the September 30<sup>th</sup> TSSC, as originally noted (refer to August 12<sup>th</sup> RNAAC minutes). He was to have attended the November 12<sup>th</sup> TSSC instead. However, Larry has advised the Region that he cannot attend that meeting either. The timing, nature and extent of the timetable for the Transportation Standard Development Committee to forward the results of their deliberations to the Minister and the subsequent OPTA Resource Team workshop (tentative last week of November) makes it difficult for him to attend. This

information will also be provided to the TSSC next Tuesday (September 30th meeting).

- Eric Flora indicated that he may attend the OPTA Resource Team November workshop (date not yet confirmed), and it is his understanding that at that workshop there will be updates provided on the other remaining standards as well. Eric will report back to the RNAAC with that information afterwards.

Diana Lecenski, Steve Murphy and Nick Rosati received an email from Margaret Sanderson, Accessibility Coordinator for Brock University, in which she thanked staff for assisting in making Brock University a more accessible campus for persons with disabilities. The following announcement in the upcoming Brock University News Letter (October 8, 2008) will be made.

“Audible pedestrian signals (APS) have been installed at the Glenridge Avenue pedestrian crossing to East Academic. APS communicate to persons who are blind or visually impaired that they may safely cross the intersection through both sound (“beep”) and vibration.

Quieter cars, changes in intersection design and signals have made it increasingly more challenging for those who are blind or visually impaired to safely cross roadways. The system will assist students, faculty, staff, and guests to campus who are blind or visually impaired to safely cross.

It is important to note that pedestrians must depress the button located on the pole for five seconds to activate the vibration/audible “beep” of the APS.

The APS was installed as the result of a request made to Region of Niagara Traffic Operations by the University’s Office of the Accessibility Co-ordinator and endorsed by the Brock Barrier Free Working Group.”

### **AODA UPDATE**

57. Diann Krieger notified the committee that voting on 101 issues regarding the Transportation Standards would be taking place on October 31, 2008. Many of these issues pertained to financial hardships within the smaller communities. All comments from the public were reviewed and assessed by committee members and the decision was made that no further comments from the public would be necessary at this time.

Geoff Eden also reported that a clause by clause vote would be taken regarding Customer Service Standards. The final version will go to the Ministry of Community and Social Services who will circulate it for public comment in the first week of October.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Summary of Information Items**

Information Items AAC 16-2008 – AAC 132-2008 were reviewed and received.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Tour of Thorold City Hall**

58. On August 16, 2008, Jocelyn Gagne toured the Thorold City Hall and a nearby accessible playground. The City of Thorold is committed to breaking down barriers for people with disabilities. Community and Social Services Minister Meilleur was also in attendance.

Jocelyn informed the committee that the renovations were well done, bright with lots of windows; the reception desk was low and welcoming to persons with disabilities. Janice Emeneau commented while she was aware that the building itself was very accessible; the location would not be for a lot of people.

59. Steve Murphy regretfully apprised the committee of Tony DiPaolo's resignation as a committee member. In accordance with the Terms of Reference, a new suitable member will need to be chosen. An invitation would be extended to interested persons from the current applications and advertising will be done if needed. Steve will address this issue.
60. Denise Papaiz is planning to meet with Regional Staff (IT Solutions, Web Administration, and communications) to review the Information and Communications Standard and ask for feedback for commentary. She asked for a representative from the AAC to attend, and Geoff Eden volunteered.

61. This being Diana Lecinski last meeting, Steve Murphy presented her with a bouquet of fall flowers. On behalf of the committee he thanked her for the detailed level of expertise, talent and resources she brought to the committee table and wished her luck with her continued service as Accessibility Coordinator for the City of St. Catharines.

Denise Papaiz also thanked Diana and reiterated to the committee how they had initially met through Niagara Regional Housing. Diana had provided her insight and knowledge about the role of accessibility which was greatly appreciated by Denise.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

62. Moved by Jean Bennett  
Seconded by Diane Krieger

That the Committee be adjourned at 1:40 p.m. to meet again on November 4, 2008 .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