



Minutes

Accessibility Advisory Committee

May 27, 2019

5 p.m.

3rd floor committee room, City Hall
66 Charlotte Street Port Colborne

Attendees:

Committee

Bryan Ingram, Chair
Laura Slade
Alison Chambers
Robyn Garner
Cynthia Skinner
Andrea Mamo
Ron Bodner, Councillor
C. McIntosh (minutes)

Guests

Nancy Busch
Luke Rowe, Events Assistant

1. Call to order

B. Ingram called the meeting to order at approximately 5 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by L. Slade
Seconded by R. Garner

That the Agenda for the May 27, 2019 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of July 10, 2018 Minutes

Moved by L. Slade
Seconded by R. Bodner

That the Minutes for the July 10, 2018 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.
CARRIED.

4. Business Arising

None.

5. Update – Accessibility Successes in the City

C. McIntosh provided a list for the committee's review. Attached.

6. Committee input requested:

- Pop up patios
Discussion took place about the pop up patios with respect to the traffic (fumes/danger) on Clarence Street, decrease of parking spaces, and the functional accessibility of the patios (small space).
- Library washroom
The Library is removing the magazine reading area to include fully accessible (universal) washroom).

Discussion took place about the ease of transferring to a higher 19" rather than 17" toilet. C. McIntosh will communicate with Library staff/board. Discussion also took place about installation of an adult change table and consensus was supportive as it would be able to accommodate the greatest number of people and put forth the image of a caring and inclusive community. Committee members also asked that the height of braille be considered when constructing the washroom.

- Canal Days
Members provided input to Luke about last year's Canal Days concert and about how the venue's accessibility could be improved. Suggestions included:
 - creation of a barrier between the accessible designated area and the general public to ensure safety,
 - ensure accessible washroom(s) can be accessed within the designated area,
 - have security in the area,
 - requested a platform viewing area,
 - suggested more accessible parking spots and a drop-off zone (and advertise on website)
 - requested review of site prior to concert.

Luke advised that he would try to accommodate all requests and suggestions. Luke will forward the site plan.

C. McIntosh will find out capacity of the bandshell.

7. Committee priorities

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

8. New Business

Discussion took place about the lack of accessible parking near the H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park washroom.

Discussion also took place about lack of accessibility of Niagara Regional Police detachment building in Port Colborne.

Members were encouraged to submit letters to the staff liaison to be sent to encourage businesses and facility owners to become more accessible.

It was suggested that once the beach wheelchairs are delivered to the beach, members could visit the beach to work with the students so they know what it looks like for someone to transfer. It was suggested that someone from Community Living attend.

9. Next Meeting

Before Canal Days. Try to make 3rd week of June.

10. Adjournment

The business of the Accessibility Advisory Committee having been completed, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:17 p.m.

**Port Colborne Accessibility Advisory Committee
Summary of Progress to Remove Barriers in the City 2015-2019**

November 2015 – Report to Council 2015-193 proposing removal of one accessible parking stall in the City Hall parking lot due to the fact that only one is required. Recommendation was defeated by Council after input from the AAC.

January 2016 – Consultation with the AAC by Engineering staff with respect to the building of the new Operations Centre. The AAC had the opportunity to review the preliminary designs and provide input. The Operations Centre was designed in accordance with the FADS in public areas, where possible.

April 2016 - Hearing devices available in Council Chambers (signs installed).

June 2016 – AAC forwards beach mat idea to Community Services.

July 22, 2016 – Letter of support provided by the AAC for a grant by Community Living to install a portable lift system at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre pool.

December 2016 – Temporary closure of the accessible ramp on the outside of Roselawn Centre in order to re-build a safer ramp. (Note – the “temporary ramp” is still there as of May 2019 but the lifts installed in the interior of the building to allow movement between levels is finally working!)

January 2017 – Addition of an accessible on street parking stall in front of 164 Clarence Street, at the request of the owner and at the recommendation to Council by the AAC.

June 2017 – Marina parking lot. Some areas re-lined, expanding the width of parking stalls and increasing the number of accessible stalls.

July 2017 – Consultation by Engineering staff about the downtown CIP design.

September 2017- Request for an additional accessible on street parking stall in front of St. Patrick’s Elementary School received and approved by Council at the recommendation of the AAC.

October 2017 – Concern forwarded by AAC to Welland Transit with respect to report of a bus driver not lowering the ramp at the request of a passenger. Transit Manager said he would address.

2018 – Chairs with arms added to Council Chambers.

April 2018 – Museum complete log cabin. Accessible by ramp and input from AAC about the ramp.

July 2018 – AAC consulted about new concert venue for Canal Days at H.H. Knoll Lakewview Park.

Summer 2018 – Accessible beach chairs available at Nickel Beach.

November 2018 - Library renovations. Guidance on design provided by the Chair of the AAC who is also a Library Board member.

March 2019 – Consultation of the AAC by By-law staff with respect to pop-up patio design guidelines and applications (received – 3 so far).

April 2019 – Andrea Mamo provides a presentation to Senior City staff about legislation addressing disabilities, barriers, law vs. functionality, universal design, incorporating accessibility into the procurement of goods, services and facilities and consulting with the AAC.

April 2019 – Engineering staff consult the AAC with respect to a universal washroom to be installed at the Library.

May 2019 – Engineering and Parks and Recreation staff meet with respect to concerns about accessibility at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre Rink 2. Installation of designated seating area is planned during summer maintenance activities.

* This list is not complete and does not generally include items where accessibility was enforced through the building code.

Port Colborne Accessibility Advisory Committee Summary of Progress to Remove Barriers in the City 2008-2015

May 2008 - Additional parking for persons with disabilities – King Street (LR Wilson Archives)

November 2008 – City Council adopts Region of Niagara Facility Accessibility Design Standards, affecting all new municipal facility construction (above and beyond ON Building Code requirements).

February 2009 – New City website launched. Accessibility features built in.

February 2009 – Additional parking for persons with disabilities next to Melissa's Playground, H.H. Knoll Park, additional 2 stalls at Centennial Pool, repainting of stalls at arenas.

March 2009 – Additional parking for persons with disabilities Catharine St.

August 2009 – AAC reviews designs for Humberstone Hall upgrades and submits comments/concerns to architect.

December 2009 – Council approves policies in accordance with new Customer Service Standards

December 2009 – Training / re-training for all staff, Council, volunteers begins, and continues to present.

April 2010 – Additional parking for persons with disabilities – King St (Bridges, CNR lot)

May 2010 – Election polling stations re-considered in light of a barrier identification check list (approval by Council).

June 2010 – Upgrades including accessibility upgrades to Humberstone Hall complete.

August 2010 - New parking for persons with disabilities 230 Main Street (Subway).

August 2010 – AAC reviews designs for new Health and Wellness Centre, submits comments/concerns via CBO to Project Manager, MHPM.

September 2010 – August 2012 – Museum receives grant for accessibility upgrades to main Museum building. Upgrades include a new ramp and accessible front door, more spacious lobby and an accessible washroom.

December 2010 – Additional parking for persons with disabilities - 175 Main St West, 205-109 Main St West, 98 Main St. West in public parking lots.

Spring 2011 - Completion of Main Street Community Improvement Plan construction. These improvements included the creation of a more pedestrian friendly, walk-able environment through the relocation of on-street parking and an overall increase in public parking via three new municipal lots strategically placed throughout the project areas and the complete reconstruction and widening of pedestrian sidewalks. Street trees and planter boxes as well as amenities such as benches, bicycle racks and garbage bins were added to further promote the pedestrian feel to the street. Additionally, specific measures were taken to make the area more accessible for those with hearing and site deficiencies with the inclusion of special pavement markings and street crossing signals.

May 2011 - Accessible stalls created at Centennial Park washroom.

December 2011 – Museum receives donation from Ruth Henry and paves the pathway running from the east entrance to the west end of the Museum grounds.

April 2012 – Additional park benches installed at Reservoir and Humberstone Shoe parks to allow extra seating.

May 2012 – Roll-out of a new training program and re-training of begins of all summer students, volunteers and staff according to the Accessible Customer Service standards.

August 2012 – Upgrades to front foyer at City Hall. Provides larger accessible waiting area for transit passengers. The changes were made so as to maintain the large space in the vestibule. Repairs to the ramp are pending.

October 2012 – AAC is consulted with respect to the furniture for the Vale Health & Wellness Centre. The furniture purchased for the new community centre went above and beyond the accessible standard with 80% of chairs and tables purchased meeting the accessible standard which was set at 20%.

November 2012 – Substantial completion of the Vale Health & Wellness Centre, designed and built according to FADS standards.

January 2013 – Circulated “Did you know” referral to AccessON information by Chamber of Commerce to all Chamber members.

February 2013 – AAC members toured the Vale Health & Wellness Centre prior to its opening and provided to Council an Accessibility Checklist recommending improvements.

May 2013 – Accessible Parking added at St. Patrick’s School.

December 2013 – Update to Multi Year Accessibility Plan approved by Council.

December 2013 – Accessibility Report filed with the Ministry.

August 2014 – After consultation with Engineering staff, the AAC recommended and Council approved amending the City Standard for future sidewalk re-builds to include a sloping curb where an accessible parking space is to be located, particularly where the curb is 4” or more in height.

August 2014 – After AAC consultation with Engineering staff, an asphalt apron leading from the sidewalk into Lions Park was added to provide better transition from the sidewalk to the stone.

August 2014 – The AAC recommended and Council approved a report from the By-law Division, the addition of an accessible parking space outside of Boggios on Catharine Street.

August 2014 – The bench blocking the side-exit from the accessible parking space to the curb outside of Boggios was re-located, at the recommendation to staff by the AAC.

August 2014 – The municipal Elections Coordinator and the City Clerk met with the AAC with respect to the 2014 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan, Policies and Procedures Governing the Provision of Election Information and Services to Persons with Disabilities. A comprehensive report of the accessibility measures for the municipal election was provided by the Clerk to Council.

May 2015 - 95% of staff received refresher training on the provision of accessible customer service. Provision of this training to the over 300 City volunteers is on-going as orientation sessions are held. The training was uploaded to the City's website.

June 2015 - Harbourmaster building on West Street washrooms improved to accessible standards. Committee engaged by Engineering staff and a tour of the work being done was provided to the AAC Chair.

Other

- Museum embraces the provision of alternate formats for the provision of their information in the form of the provision of virtual tours and an “armchair” cemetery tour (upcoming)
- Accessibility improvements at the Vale Health & Wellness centre, including automated doors
- all sidewalk corners reported by Operations to have been cut
- train track upgrades – Main Street, King Street (near Museum)
- accessible transit – increased runs

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