



Burlington Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: June 13, 2024
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Hybrid meeting - virtual and Burlington Central Library, Holland Room
2331 New Street

1. Members Present:

Don Prescott, Garth Napier, David Owen, David Quezada, Deb Strum, Jill Randall, Pat Debly

2. Member Regrets:

Adam Spencer, Cheryl Hurst, Ken Harris, Brain Sylvester

3. Others Present:

Judi Lytle (Accessibility Specialist), Councillor Sharman, Karyn Poad (Supervisor, Community Initiatives), Rebecca Lau (Planner, Community Initiatives), Todd Evershed (Supervisor, Special Projects & Urban Design), Mark Johnson (Senior Planner, Special Projects), Suzanne Gillies (Clerk)

4. Land Acknowledgement:

The Land Acknowledgement was read.

5. Declarations of Interest:

None

6. Approval of Minutes:

6.1 Approve the minutes from the meeting held May 9, 2024

On motion the minutes from the meeting held May 9, 2024 were approved as presented.

7. Delegation(s):

None

8. Regular Items:

8.1 Accessible Parking Standards that are part of the recommended Community Planning Permit (CPP)

Karen and Rebecca provided a presentation (attached) and information regarding Accessible parking standards that are part of the recommended Community Planning Permit. Committee members asked the following questions:

(Q) Does the regulation give standards for length of accessible parking spots? (A) Will have to look that up.

(Q) How many type B spots will there be instead of type A? (A) The ratio is based on the AODA and is not changing.

(Q) Can a developer question the standards in the By-law since they are different from the AODA regulations? (A) The By-law is the law of the Municipality so it takes precedence.

(Q) Does this only apply to the areas around the go stations, the Major Transit Station Areas? (A) Yes, generally defined as a 500 - 800 meter walk from the go stations.

(Q) Can the Safe Streets Halton delegation to the Committee of the Whole meeting be circulated and reviewed by the committee? (A) Yes, the Clerk will circulate the material.

8.2 Accessible parking requirements in the Draft Zoning By-law Amendment

Todd and Mark provided a brief overview of the accessible parking requirements in the draft Zoning By-law amendment with respect to removing minimum parking standards for residential uses in areas of high frequency transit corridors including Fairview, Plains Road and Appleby Line. When drafting the by-law it came to staffs attention that there was a need to bring the City's parking standards as it relates to accessible parking standards into compliance with the AODA. Because of the area specific nature of the work, this was not an appropriate opportunity to do that. So today is an opportunity to present what did go to the Committee of the Whole meeting, how it will impact accessible parking, and to listen and gather feedback from the committee. At this time the draft by-law does not include a change city wide, but that will be considered in the future. Staff are anticipating that developers will respond to the market

and continue provide parking spaces, so there will still be the requirement to provide the percentage of accessible spaces.

Committee members asked the following questions:

(Q) A developer could come in with an application that does not include any residential parking. (A) Yes they could, there is no requirement for them to provide residential parking.

(Q) So does that mean in multi-use towers, one of the limited housing options for people living with disabilities, could potentially have no accessible parking spaces. (A) Staff are anticipating that the demand for parking will still exist. It is putting the onus on the market, we do not anticipate seeing no parking. Recent development applications are providing substantial residential parking even when within the MTSAs.

8.3 National AccessAbility Week debrief

Committee members provided the following updates on NAAW events:

- Readability was successful, Deb was happy to have volunteered. The Librarians were wonderful and very helpful. Suggested that if the committee does this again next year that it be scheduled during story time that usually sees up to 60 kids.
- Flag raising - a nice day and event, Don thanked all that were able to attend.

8.4 Food for Feedback - September 14, noon - 4 p.m.

The committee discussed participating in the Food for Feedback event on September 14. Respect the Space materials will be available as well as the 2023 Progress report.

ACTION: Suzanne to register the committee for the event.

8.5 Living Lab (Art Gallery) - Garth

Garth provided an update on the Living Lab activity at the Art Gallery of Burlington.

- The tentative date is August 15 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- the artist that the committee will be working with is Atanas Bozdarov
- Once Garth has confirmed the date Suzanne will send out a calendar invite

- Garth to inquire on if there is a limit to the amount of people that can participate

8.6 Pros and cons of date and timing of AODA Design of Public Spaces Standards (DOPS) release

Judi provided following information to the committee:

- the AODA Design Public Spaces proposal was released silently at 4pm on a Thursday just before a Cabinet shuffle and the House rising
- Comments are due by August 27, 2024, not allowing time to make official comment through committee and Council
- However, if the members of the committee provide comments as individuals it will provide more common comments, rather than just one
- Judi will be meeting with her Halton colleagues to discuss the proposed changes to see if there are any similarities to express Region wide, but again not official comments

Jill asked if Judi could provide comments on the outdoor play spaces language, Judi will provide comment once she has reviewed the document closely

8.7 Discussion of AODA Design of Public Spaces Standards proposed recommendations

Judi provided a summary of some of the proposed changes:

- one of the recommendations is that all accessible parking spaces be changed to type A with the intent that everyone has the same opportunity
- recommending to increase required accessible parking to 4%, currently it is 3%

Garth suggested going through the recommendations as a committee to identify which ones the committee would like to advocate for or work with the city on which ones should be adopted vs waiting for the Province to change the legislation. Recommendations seem to sit for a long time with the Minister prior to being approved, should the committee wait? Judi advised that the city generally takes the approach that the changes are coming so lets start implementing them.

Send comments and suggestions to Judi while you are reviewing the proposed changes.

8.8 Coordinator's report - Judi

Judi answered a question from the committee on the item regarding concerns with the hearing loops at the Seniors' Centre. Judi advised that after looking into the concern, the hearing loops were not turned on. Staff advised that they do not provide hearing loop equipment to renters, only city run programs. Judi is working with staff to follow up to address the issue. Jill will take the issue back to the Seniors' Advisory Committee for discussion.

8.9 Updates from committees:

a. Seniors' Advisory Committee - Jill

Jill provided the following updates to the committee:

- June is Seniors' Month, there will be a flag raising on June 25
- working on partnering with the Library and the McMaster Centre for Studies in Aging - focus group on how technology can improve the lives of adults living with dementia and their care partners so the Library is looking to develop a tech club in the fall that would support that work.

b. Inclusivity Advisory Committee - Don

Don provided the following updates to the committee:

- received a presentation from the Oakville Library which was interesting as Burlington has the same information

c. Integrated Transportation Advisory Committee - Pat

Pat provided the following updates to the committee:

- At the Transit Users Forum on May 4, ITAC handed out blank comment cards that asked 'What would make moving around the City easier, safer, more practical and more enjoyable?' From the responses here were 7 that had accessibility concerns including not being able to see the bus number as it approaches, difficulty crossing the street to get the bus and needing to get off the bus between the stops. These have been shared with Transit and are asking

for a response. Judi asked for Pat to share the comments with her.

9. Other Business:

9.1 Strategic proposal - four pillar outreach and education plan - Garth

This item was deferred to the September meeting.

10. Adjournment:

Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.