



City of Welland
Corporate Services
 Recreation and Culture Division
 145 Lincoln Street, Welland, ON L3B 6E1
Phone: 905-735-1700 Ext. 4000 | **Fax:** 905-732-6187
Email: aac@welland.ca | www.welland.ca



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES (May 19, 2022)

Location	MS Teams Meeting - Recorded		
Date	May 19, 2022		
Time	3:00 p.m.		
	Name	Representing	Initials
Committee Present	Kathleen Adams	AAC	KA
	Cody Caughill	AAC	CC
	Jon Cecilli	AAC	JC
	Terry Scott	AAC	TS
	Ather Shabbar	AAC	AS
	Jim McEwen	AAC	JM
	Aldo Parrotta	AAC	AP
	Frank Campion Ex-Officio	Mayor C.O.W	FC
Absent with Cause	--		
Absent without Cause	--		
Staff Representation	Jack Tosta	Staff Representative	TA
	Cheryl Pieroway	Permit Application Clerk (Recorded Minutes)	CP
Guest Speakers	Tara Stephens	City Clerk/C.O.W	Tara
	Karen Bless	Election Coordinator	KB

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1.	Call Meeting to Order Meeting Called at 3:02 p.m. Brief Introductions	KA
2	Approval of April 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes Amendment to Meeting: FC requested that his representation be upgraded from Guest speaker to an Ex-Officio member of the AAC for today's meeting, May 19, 2022 and previous meeting, April 21, 2022. Motion for approval: JC Second in Favour: JM All in favour	KA/ALL



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	<p>Approval of May 19, 2022 agenda Motion for approval: AP Second in Favour: JM All in favour</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Conflict of Interest: <i>“Having reviewed the agenda, does any committee member have a need to disclose a direct or indirect pecuniary interest with respect to today’s agenda”</i></p> <p>FC indicated he had a possible conflict of interest with respect to the Business/Actions Arising from past Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report from the Engineering Department regarding responsibility for curbs, and curb cuts <p>FC indicated that he would withdraw himself from this vote</p>	<p>KA</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>New Business/Discussion:</p> <p>Report on Polling Stations</p> <p>Tara advised that they have eleven Polling Stations that they are considering at this time that have very few concerns with regards to accessibility. These sites are the Community Room at the Seaway Mall Branch Library, 800 Niagara St; Wesley United Church, 244 First Ave; Centennial High School, 240 Thorold Rd; Fitch Street School, 164 Fitch St; Wellspring Community Church, 370 South Pelham Rd; Casa Dante Lodge, 34 Lincoln St; Welland Community Centre; 145 Lincoln St; East Dale Secondary School, 170 Wellington St; Royal Canadian Legion, 383 Morningstar Ave; Croatian National Home, 6 Broadway; and the Flatwater Centre, 16 Townline Tunnel Rd.</p> <p>Topics discussed were separate entrances and exits, social distancing line markings with tape if necessary, location and availability of accessibility parking, table location floor plans to eliminate barriers, and availability of informational officers to direct the public.</p> <p>Locations of most concern are Wesley United Church’s entrances/exits, Centennial School’s parking location, and Fitch Street School’s parking.</p>	<p>Tara KB</p>



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	<p>Polling Stations will be “Open Polls” allowing any ward to vote at any location.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Business/Actions Arising from past Minutes</p> <p>JT gave an overview of research that Rob Axiak (RA) previously completed on behalf of the AAC and the COW in achieving Legislative Compliance with accessibility standards that have been proposed by the province. RA discovered that several other municipalities have joined forces as a JAAC (Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee) whereby they regularly participate with an accessibility consultant enabling them to develop their own accessibility plan and to fulfil the legislative compliance. Rob’s research may have been misinterpreted by some committee members who felt that the intent was to dismember to the current committee. This meeting was the first opportunity for staff to fully explain what options are available to the committee and to clarify any misunderstandings.</p> <p>Preparation of an Accessibility Plan would involve input from Transit, Planning, Human Resources, the Communications Department, to name a few.</p> <p>Discussion followed</p> <p>JC commented on our biggest challenge, is our lack of in-house expertise to be able to complete the requirements and solicit the required information from the appropriate sources. He mentioned the Herrington Group but also suggested that the committee may explore other options.</p> <p>To provide additional expertise on Accessibility, staff would need to prepare a report at budget deliberations, outlining all the options which are available and providing cost estimates for each option including the benefits and well as recommendations for the preferred option.</p> <p>In light of the current growth Welland is experiencing, staff availability is becoming difficult due to the workloads of each department. This may be addressed by exploring outside assistance for the Committee</p> <p>KA commented that she felt our biggest drawback was the committee’s lack of budget and a delineation between the City’s</p>	



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	<p>responsibility to act as an advocate for Welland’s disabled citizens and a liaison between the city and the disabled community.</p> <p>FC had to leave the meeting at 3:40 p.m. and KA promised to email him updates.</p> <p>KA asked about the process to acquire a budget, as there has never been one provided before. JT suggested that they reach out to the CAO’s office to see what was done in the past. If looking for revenue, Council would want to be presented with some cost estimates and/or deliverables.</p> <p>In an answer to a question by JM, KA stated that the municipality is responsible for preparing and submitting compliance reports. In past years, the staff liaison has worked with the chair and the committee to look at present progress, future plans, and goals. The five-year accessibility plan is an example of this.</p> <p>JC/KA agreed with the suggestions from JT, that we need an overview of the municipal expectations and if available, request a presentation on the legislative process and obligations. JT thought that Human Resources might also have access to some available resources. AS suggested the Ministry of Accessibility might be able to provide a presentation. KA recommended we include City staff such as the City Clerk.</p> <p>In light of JT’s research with the human resources committee regarding training in AODA compliance, the vote on his questions regarding further investigation into joining the JAAC or remaining with the status quote were tabled.</p> <p>KA reminded the committee the June meeting is the last one prior to the summer break, reconvening in September. JT was tasked with reaching out to Human Resources and said he would bring back information.</p>	
6.	Discussion on curb cuts – Due to time constraints, the curb and curb cut discussion has been moved back to June.	KA
7.	Correspondence Nothing to report	KA
8.	Adjournment 4:01 p.m. Motion to adjourn: AP Second: CC All in favour	KA/ALL



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	NOTE: Minutes transcribed through recorded MS Teams meeting at later date.	CP
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Next Meeting:
Thursday, June 16, 2022
3:00pm – 4:00pm
MS TEAMS