

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 29, 2012

**MEETING NO. 09-2012**

**TIME:** 1:33 P.M.

**PLACE:** THUNDER BAY 55 PLUS CENTRE  
700 RIVER STREET

**CHAIR:** MS. T. SODERBERG, VICE-CHAIR

**PRESENT:**

Ms. C. Auger  
Mr. M. Benninger  
Ms. K. Higginson  
Mr. D. Lillington  
Mr. M. Rubenick  
Mr. R. Sponchia  
Ms. T. Soderberg  
Ms. A. Vaillant

**ABSENT**

Ms. S. Bryenton  
Mr. J. Duncanson  
Councillor R. Johnson  
Mr. R. Wheeler

**OFFICIALS:**

Ms. D. Heinrich, Supervisor Community Partnerships  
Mr. S. Holloway, Inclusion Coordinator  
Mr. G. Stover, Committee Coordinator

**COMMUNICATION SERVICES**

Ms. J. McMacken, ASL Interpreter

**GUESTS**

Mr. D. Lopes, Senior Planner – Planning

It was the consensus of the Committee to change the order of the agenda.

1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

ACTION

The Vice-Chair welcomed those in attendance and members introduced themselves.

2.0 COMMUNICATION PROCESS

Ms. K. Higginson, Culturally Deaf Representative, provided an overview of the communication process and procedures

ACTION

3.0 AGENDA APPROVAL

MOVED BY: Ms. C. Auger  
SECONDED BY: Mr. R. Rubenick

With respect to the November 29, 2012 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting, we recommend that the agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

4.0 ACCESSIBLE PARKING

Mr. D. Lopes, Senior Planner provided information relative to the following:

- Collecting Committee input/concerns relative to accessible parking.
- The number of accessible parking spots continues to be a common theme in site plan reviews that are submitted to the Planning Division by the Committee.

Committee members expressed concerns and provided input/feedback relative to the following:

- Lack of accessible parking spots in various lots around the city.
- Curb cuts at the Thunder Centre.
- Intercoms at paid parking lots are inaccessible for culturally deaf individuals trying to receive assistance if needed.
- Accessible parking spots need to be wider to account for larger specialized vans.
- Stricter penalties are needed for unauthorized individuals parking in accessible parking spots.
- Growing percentage of the population requires the use of accessible parking.
- Distance from accessible parking spots to building entrances should be as short as possible.

Mr. S. Holloway to provide Committee members with a new copy of the 2010 Parking By-law.

ACTION  
**Mr. S.  
Holloway**

The Committee would like to be notified immediately regarding any changes to the parking by-law.

5.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting Nos. 07-2012 and 08-2012 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee held on September 20 and October 25, 2012, respectively, be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Ms. C. Auger  
SECONDED BY: Mr. D. Lillington

THAT the Minutes of Meeting Nos. 07-2012 and 08-2012 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, held on September 20 and October 25, 2012, respectively, be confirmed.

CARRIED

6.0 AUDIBLE CROSSING SIGNALS

Mr. S. Holloway, Inclusion Coordinator advised the Committee that the Engineering Division is looking into implementing audible cross walks at Victoria Avenue and Simpson Street.

Discussion was held relative to other possible intersections also in need of audible cross walk signals including Red River Road and Cumberland Street, Walsh and James Street, and Fredrica and James Street.

Ms. T. Soderberg to provide an update to the Committee in January relative to the Accessible Pedestrian Signal meeting occurring on November 30, 2012.

**Ms. T.  
Soderberg**

ACTION

7.0 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

7.1 Terms of Reference Action Plan

Mr. S. Holloway advised the Committee that there is no update at this time.

7.2 Built Environment

Mr. S. Holloway provided an update relative to the following:

- Overview of properties reviewed by the Working Group since October.
- Approached by the Engineering Division for input relative to improving safety for Active Transportation and walkability in the city.

Discussion was held relative to the following:

- Working Group was able to participate in a group tour led by Mr. A. Krupper, Active Transportation Coordinator which included viewing Frederica Street as it is slated for renewal in the summer of 2013. The AAC committee members provided input relative to Active Transportation improvements and accessibility of the area.
- Concerns were provided relative to needing sidewalks alongside bus-stops.
- Ms. D. Heinrich, Supervisor Community Partnerships advised the Committee that Mr. A. Krupper is compiling all feedback and will provide an update to the Committee.

7.3 2012 AAC Open House

Mr. S. Holloway provided an update of the 2012 Open House events.

- Great media coverage.
- 28 people total for both events.
- Good feedback was provided by those in attendance.

Discussion was held relative to the following:

ACTION

- Earlier event promotion is needed for the 2013 Open Houses.
- Events should be held at venues near bus services.
- 2013 events should occur in September.

8.0 COMMITTEE VACANCIES & 2013 MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. G. Stover, Committee Coordinator provided information relative to the advertising of vacant Committee member positions and the changes to the 2013 meeting schedule.

9.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

9.1 Proposed Accessibility Standards – Design of Public Spaces  
(Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment)

Mr. S. Holloway provided an overview of the handout entitled “Feedback On Integrated Harmonized Standard from the City of Thunder Bay Accessibility Advisory Committee”. The comments/input have been forwarded to the Ministry Community and Social Services.

Discussion was held relative to the AMO response to ‘Built Environment Standards’.

9.2 Follow-up on Accessibility Issues Identified by AAC during “Around the Table”

Mr. S. Holloway advised the Committee that there is no update at this time.

9.3 Active Transportation Committee

Mr. S. Holloway advised the Committee that there is no update at this time.

9.4 Public Art Committee

Ms. C. Auger advised the Committee that there is no update at this time.

ACTION

9.5 Walkability Committee

Ms. T. Soderberg advised the Committee that there is no update at this time.

10.0 AROUND THE TABLE

10.1 Transit

Discussion was held relative to the Committee being notified prior to the re-location of any bus-stops.

Ms. D. Heinrich to follow-up with the Transit Division.

**Ms. D.  
Heinrich**

A member expressed a concern relative to the new green coloured bus-stop signs.

10.2 Playground at Hillcrest Park

A member expressed a concern relative to the lack of Committee consultation in the planning of the playground.

10.3 H.A.G.I

A member expressed a concern relative to the difficulty of a wheelchair backing onto the H.A.G.I. bus ramp and preferred the original forward facing ramp.

11.0 NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Meeting Guests

Discussion was held relative to the presentation time of guest speakers at Committee meetings.

It was the consensus of the Committee to limit the presentation time and question period for meeting guests due to the time constraints of the monthly meetings.

ACTION

12.0 NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. at West Thunder Community Centre.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.