

<b>Meeting Date, Time, and Location</b>
Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in Conference Room #1 at Town Hall

<b>Members</b>	<b>Staff Resources</b>
Dennis Hernandez-Galeano, Chair Bev Ferris, Vice-Chair (regrets) Gary Kooistra (regrets) Adam McLeod Barbara McLeod Lori Brant Veronica (Faith) Sparling Steve Gucciardi, Transit Representative (regrets) Councillor Ann-Marie Noyes	Keegan Gennings, Chief Building Official Sean Hutton, Facilities Supervisor Bev Bradnam, Manager, Strategic Initiatives  <u>Guests:</u> Chris Millar, Neighbourhood Planner (at 5:08 p.m.) Craig Millar (at 5:08 p.m.) Luisa Galeano, FEAT Committee

1) **Call To Order**

The December 3, 2019 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 4:55 p.m.

2) **Resignation of Tammy Clark and Nomination of Adam McLeod**

The Chair advised that Council has accepted the resignation of Tammy Clark and has accepted Adam McLeod's application as a member of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

3) **Approval of Minutes**

**Recommendation No. 1:**

**Moved by: Councillor Noyes**  
**Seconded by: Barbara McLeod**

**THAT: The October 29, 2019 Minutes of the Fort Erie Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved as printed.**

**(CARRIED)**

4)

**Outstanding Matters**

1) Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee

- Accessible Bus Demo – Faith advised that the matter was not discussed at the past Regional AAC meeting; however, comments were made at the meeting regarding taxi services for the Town of Fort Erie. Faith noted that she asked why the taxi service licence holders were not required to meet the parameters of service. Bev read an excerpt from the Region’s September 17, 2019 AAC minutes related to this matter:

Taxi Service- Fort Erie

*“Angelo Apfelbaum, Manager, Business Licencing and Enforcement, provided an overview of the Business Licencing and Enforcement division of the Region. Mr. Apfelbaum advised that the modernization of the Taxi Licencing and Transportation Services by-laws will be commencing in the fall and the Business Licencing and Enforcement Division will be asking Committee members for feedback/input”.*

- Councillor Noyes provided a business card she obtained at the Lions Centre for a ride care program, providing personal attendant driving service for seniors. The service is only presently available in Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Catharines and Thorold. Councillor Noyes will follow-up to determine if this is something that can be offered in Fort Erie. It was noted that the web-site showed vehicles that do not have lifts but stated that they can accommodate seniors with walkers or collapsible wheelchairs.

2) Parking Concerns

Dennis noted that the Walmart parking lot has a much better set up with the recent improvements undertaken and the additional accessible spaces will make a big difference for those that require accessible parking. Bev confirmed that the thank you letter to Walmart was sent.

3) Fort Erie Active Transportation Committee (FEAT)

Dennis advised that the past FEAT meeting included discussion related to the Active Transportation Master Plan and updating the FEAT Strategic Plan.

*Chris Millar and his brother, Craig, joined the Committee at 5:08 p.m.* Chris confirmed that FEAT will be dealing with one pillar of the Strategic Plan at each meeting.

4) Letter to 660 Garrison Road re Life Labs

Keegan advised that he met onsite with the new owner who is willing to make the accessibility improvements, including transitions for the door sills. The owner will be contacting his maintenance personnel to conduct the work in the spring.

4)

**Outstanding Matters, continued**

5) Community Theatre – Greater Fort Erie Secondary School

Keegan advised that another site plan will be forthcoming from the School for a field equipment house and he will follow-up at that time to determine when the hand rails will be installed in the theatre.

6) Accessible Taxi Cabs

See Item 4.1. Councillor Noyes had no further update at this time.

7) 238 Bertie Street – Request for Funding

Councillor Noyes advised that she had heard the work has started. Keegan advised that no building permits have been submitted for the work and will follow-up.

8) Hand Rail – Town Hall

Sean confirmed that the hand rail has been ordered. Councillor Noyes advised that during the last snow fall the snow wasn't pushed back enough to reach the rail.

9) Telephone at Leisureplex

Sean confirmed that they are waiting for Digital Services to have the phone moved down to 47". Dennis advised that he understood the concerns of staff related to children accessing the phone at the lowered level.

10) Dollarama Stores

Bev advised that she received a personal call from the Customer Service Team Manager and a follow-up email in response to the AAC letter, as follows:

*"Thank you for giving us the opportunity to address the concerns you brought forward. We contacted our District Manager who assured us that the door openers were repaired and are operating reliably; our carts are not designed to be used outdoors, but staff will be happy to assist with a carry out if requested; our District Manager has reminded all store teams in the district of our policy in that regard".*

Bev advised that during the phone call, the Manager advised that they all sign off on the accessibility policy and Bev noted that it is more than signing off on a policy it has to be part of the corporate culture. Remove from outstanding.

11) Niagara Parks Commission Annual Accessibility Public Information Centre

Gary and Bev F. both attended the session. Bev B. will follow-up with her contact at the NPC to obtain a copy of the presentation. Remain on outstanding so that Gary and Bev F. can provide an overview of the information presented.

5) **Site Plans**

No site plans were reviewed.

6) **Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2019-2023**

Bev advised that she provided a brief power point presentation to Council last evening and the By-law to adopt the 2019-2023 Multi-Year Plan will be on the December 9, 2019 Regular Council agenda. Bev confirmed that the AAC will work through the comments received during the public consultation to see if there are issues that the AAC can address.

7) **Other Matters**

OHRC Right to Read Inquiry – Survey for Parents and Students

Bev advised that the Ontario Human Rights Commission is conducting a survey to support its inquiry into human rights issues that affect students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system. Bev will circulate the information to Committee members.

Human Services Committee

Dennis advised that he recently attended a meeting of several Town Committees related to human services. Both the Chair and Co-Chair of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee, Affordable Housing Committee, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Community Health Care Services Committee and the Accessibility Advisory Committee were invited to participate. Dennis advised that discussions took place on how the Committees can work together for the entire community. Dennis advised the group that the AAC thinks "outside of the box" and works with FEAT and other organizations on joint projects, noting that is the way our Committee thinks and it is not just about accessibility. Dennis advised that they will meet again sometime in the future.

Aquatic Wheelchair for Bay Beach

Bev advised that Lori had reached out to her via email regarding the possibility of the Town purchasing an aquatic wheelchair(s) for use at Bay Beach. Sean was also copied on the email and provided the following response. *"The Bay Beach report going to Council Monday night speaks to this ... due to storage and staffing issue of managing this, we're suggesting the rental of equipment (chairs, umbrellas, etc.) be left to the private sector as a business opportunity"*.

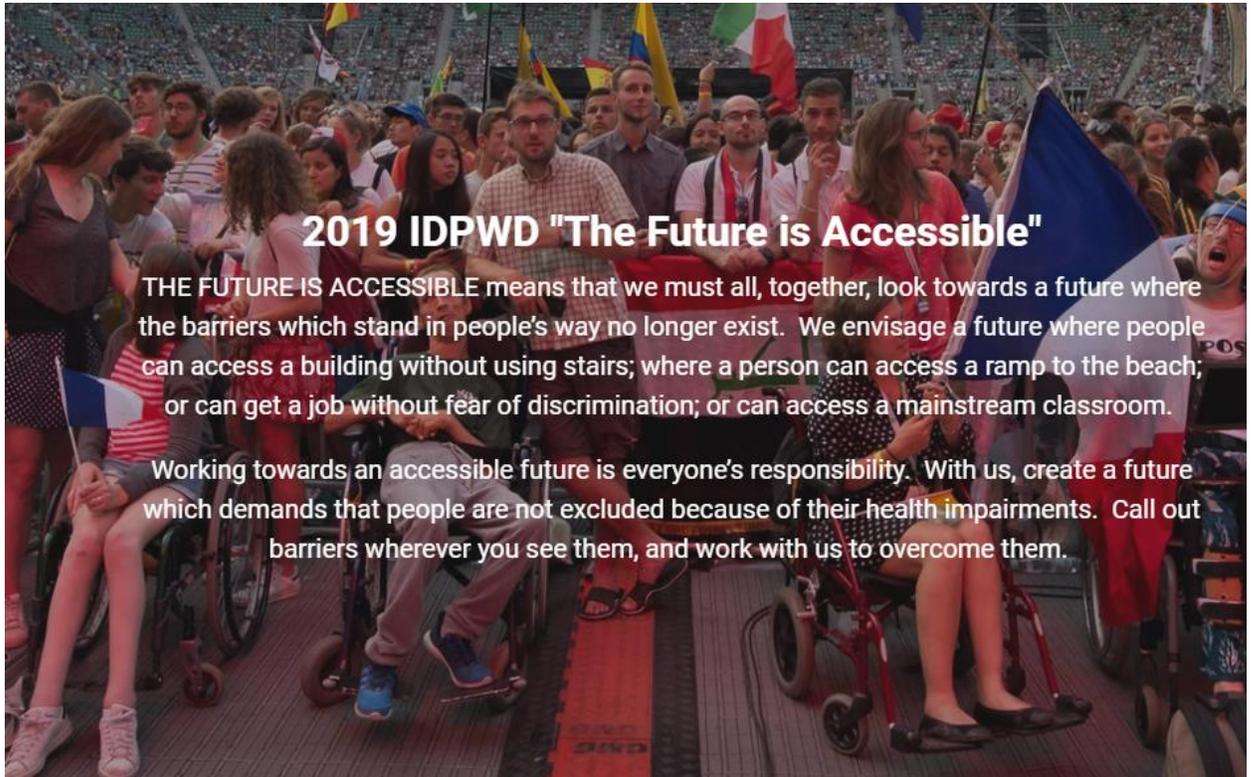
Dennis advised that a friend of his recently visited Virginia and they have chairs available that you call and book in advance and they drop off and pick the chair up following use.

7)

**Other Matters, continued**

International Day for Persons with Disabilities (IDPWD) – December 3, 2019

Bev advised that her presentation to Council ended with a slide from the International Day for Persons with Disabilities' website "The Future is Accessible" and encouraged Council to acknowledge accessibility improvements (one of the recommendations contained in the 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan) during National Access Awareness Week in the late spring or on IDPWD.



8)

**Date for Next Meeting**

The next AAC meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room #1. Councillor Noyes advised that she will not be in attendance at the January meeting. The following are the 2020 Meeting Dates for the AAC:

- Tuesday, January 28, 2020
- Tuesday, February 25, 2020
- Tuesday, March 31, 2020
- Tuesday, April 28, 2020
- Tuesday, May 26, 2020
- Tuesday, June 23, 2020 (changed from June 30 due to holiday Wednesday)
- Tuesday, September 29, 2020
- Tuesday, October 27, 2020
- Tuesday, December 1, 2020 (moved back one week so we can celebrate Christmas)

9)

**Adjournment**

**Recommendation No. 2:**

**Moved by: Lori Brant**

**Seconded by: Faith Sparling**

**THAT: The December 3, 2019 meeting of the Fort Erie Accessibility Advisory Committee does now hereby adjourn at 5:25 p.m.**

**(Carried)**

Minutes recorded and prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

Bev Bradnam, DPA  
Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Dennis Hernandez-Galeano  
Chair