

Minutes of a special meeting of the Council of the City of Oshawa held in Bobby Orr Lounge, Civic Auditorium Complex, 99 Thornton Road South at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Gray and Councillors Cullen, Henry, Kolodzie, Lutczyk, Marimpietri (entered at 6:35 p.m.), Nicholson, Parkes and Sholdra were present. Councillors Neal and Pidwerbecki were absent.

Mayor Gray presided.

Mayor Gray advised the purpose of this meeting was to allow the public an opportunity to provide their views and/or concerns to City Council regarding accessibility issues.

### **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Lynda Lawson, Accessibility Program Co-ordinator, and Cyndie Sproul, Chair, Oshawa Accessibility Advisory Committee, provided a presentation reviewing its mandate and involvement with subcommittees and the community to identify barriers and promote awareness of accessibility issues including attitudinal, transportation, recreation, and built environment barriers.

Councillor Marimpietri entered the meeting during the presentation.

Dianne McKenzie, Executive Director, Epilepsy Durham Region, provided a presentation concerning epilepsy advising that 36,000 individuals in Durham Region live with this unpredictable, invisible disorder. She stated that education and incorporating epilepsy into an accessibility plan is a beginning to conquering the accessibility and psychosocial barriers related to epilepsy.

Paul Feldman was not in attendance to provide a presentation to Council entitled, 'A New Day Has Come'.

### **DELEGATIONS**

Zila Doucette addressed City Council concerning accessibility issues advising that since the Ministry of Transport changed the criteria for accessible parking permits to include arthritis, and did not increase any parking space requirements, there has been a dramatic decrease in accessible parking. Zila Doucette suggested the Ministry's application for accessible parking permits should specify rheumatoid arthritis which is not curable.

Zila Doucette stated the lack of accessible parking is depressing and discouraging and requested the Ministry revert back to their previous qualifications to improve the availability of accessible parking.

Greg Bamber addressed City Council concerning accessibility issues stating there is no accessible parking at Walmart, and anyone taking a bus to the Civic Auditorium would have problems navigating from the bus stop to the rear ramp entrance. Greg Bamber stated the hospitals have good access and the new Lowe's in Whitby is accommodating. Greg Bamber stated the corner of Ritson and Taunton Roads continues to be a popular spot for people in wheelchairs to get off and on the bus and suggested the cement needs to be finished-off at all the bus stops. Greg Bamber requested more gym equipment at Oshawa recreation centres for people with disabilities.

Council members questioned Greg Bamber.

Dorothy MacFarlane addressed City Council concerning accessibility issues stating that with respect to Tim Horton's, it is the decision of each franchise that determines how accessible their merchandise or services are to persons with disabilities. She stated that current construction at WalMart has blocked its designated accessible parking. Dorothy MacFarlane stated that people continuously leave shopping carts in the lined areas beside the accessible parking spots intended for vehicles to let their wheelchair ramps out. Dorothy MacFarlane described an incident which occurred at Riley's Olde Towne Pub whose owner's belligerent behaviour caused embarrassment, adding that people's attitudes still need to change for the better.

Glenn Mcknight, Global Catalysts Consulting Service, stated there are opportunities in realizing accessibility compliance as 20% of the global population is comprised of people with disabilities. Glenn Mcknight stated the City's focus is on physical barriers but advised there are virtual office issues, and though Canadians have compassion concerning accessibility issues, there is a long way to go with virtual office issues which has become a concern in the legal community as well.

Linda Tamburro advised the Durham Water Program continues to seek a place to build a pool and though they have received a Trillium Grant they cannot find anyone in Durham Region to partner with. She stated they are looking for a warm water pool design to assist with physical pain management.

Stephanie Bolton, Canadian Paraplegic Association Ontario, advised her office is in Peterborough but she covers the Central LHIN District 9 which includes Durham Region. She advised statistics show there is a new spinal cord injury every day in Ontario. Stephanie Bolton stated she is working with the Legends Centre to donate a piece of accessible exercise equipment. Stephanie Bolton advised on June 10, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Trent University Gymnasium, the Canadian Paraplegic Association Ontario is hosting a program to demonstrate mobility options for persons with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities.

The public was invited to attend a public information meeting which was being held in the Bobby Orr Lounge concerning winter control and accessibility on Wednesday, May 13, 2009.

Moved by Councillor Cullen, seconded by Councillor Sholdra,  
(302) "That Additional Correspondence Item 1 from Diane Stephen concerning accessibility related to the Columbus Community Centre be referred to staff." CARRIED

### **CONFIRMING BY-LAW**

Moved by Councillor Parkes, seconded by Councillor Nicholson,  
(303) "That the Confirming By-law be passed." CARRIED

32-2009 A By-law to confirm the City Council meeting of May 11, 2009.

### **ADJOURN**

Moved by Councillor Marimpietri, seconded by Councillor Lutczyk,  
(304) "That the meeting adjourn." CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.