City of Winnipeg Access Advisory Committee
Policy Sub Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday August 7, 2018
5:00pm to 6:30pm
Anhang Meeting Room – Millennium Library

Present: Louis Gaudry, Judy Redmond, Larry Baillie, Gail MacAulay, Judy Herscovitch, Colleen Waters, Ken Shachtay, , Chris Sobkowicz

Regrets: Angela Mayen-Obregon, Debbie Ettinger

Special Guests: Rocco Scarcelli DIO

The Access Advisory Policy Sub Committee originally invited the Assiniboine Park Conservancy to attend to make a presentation on the accessibility features of the new Diversity Gardens, and speak to any of the accessibility issues in the rest of the park. Unfortunately, they were unable to attend at the last minute, but were willing to attend a future meeting.

The only other issue for the committee to discuss was the timely project of t Opening of Portage and Main to pedestrians.

- It was an opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of the issue and potentially come up with a position by the whole committee if asked for a public comment.

- There will be a plebiscite vote during the Municipal Election. Since it is a civic election, maybe promoting one over the other is not part of our mandate?

- There is a lack of definitive plans, but the City has a RFP out for both the lower level retrofitting and the upper level barrier removal.

- There has been two factions that have been formed…..Yes Open it Up…..and No keep it closed. Interestingly, both factions have used Accessibility as part of their rationale.

Givens:

1. The lower level definitely needs to be redone for safety, accessibility, and wayfinding…….As well the owners have specific needs in the lower level.

2. Removing the barriers helps pedestrians (Summer Months), Cyclists, and Urban Community Planners

3. Opening Portage and Main to pedestrians will undoubtable cause anger and animosity to vehicular traffic

4. The Dillon Report has a few inaccuracies in terms of pedestrian travel time, and does not relate appropriately for slower moving pedestrians such as wheelchairs, elderly, strollers, pedestrians on their cells etc.

Questions:

1. Can any of the projects ensure and provide adequate accessibility elements to both the lower and upper levels?
    a. Chances are disabled pedestrians will have tremendous difficulty crossing at most times, but definitely during the winter months…..like every other intersection in the City of Winnipeg

    b. Will the intersection be maintained like others in the City of Winnipeg…. And if so… the curb ramps will deteriorate over time and become cumbersome like most other intersections.

2. Chances are that the disabled pedestrians will continue having difficulty wayfinding and negotiating the “Maze” of the multi leveled lower mall.

Committee Position

1. The committee is adamant that the lower concourse be retrofitted to the Accessibility Design Standards and obligated by process in design designation allowing access for the whole community regardless of age or ability. The committee made recommendations in 2009 and should update this report as soon as possible.

2. That the actual vote for the upper level remains a personal issue and that the committee refrains from making a broad statement on how to vote.

Adjourned at 6:30pm