



## Accessibility Advisory Committee

**May 10, 2023**

**2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Live and via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82135784395?pwd=MzV5YmY3dDVMNFFJUXNQVms4c1BXZz09>

1 647 374 4685 Canada

1 647 558 0588 Canada

Meeting ID: 821 3578 4395

Passcode: 007839

Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@Saultstematica>

### Agenda

#### **1. Meeting called to order**

#### **2. Chairs comments**

#### **3. Approval of Minutes – April 12, 2023 AAC meeting**

#### **4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

#### **5. New Business –**

5.1. Traffic and pedestrian concerns including side walk plowing list – Sandra Hollingsworth and Kerri Tuckett

    5.1.1. Mover Councillor Sandra Hollingsworth  
                Seconder Kerri Tuckett

Resolved that the Accessibility Coordinator maintain a list of sidewalk and traffic areas (including sidewalk snow plowing areas) concerning accessibility on behalf of the Accessibility Advisory Committee and other community members with disabilities, and that this list become a formal report to City Council on an annual basis.

5.2. AccessAbility Awareness Week – May 28<sup>th</sup> to June 3, 2023

#### **6. Old Business**

6.1. Tour of new Northern Community Centre; Feedback from Accessibility Coordinator on behalf of AAC

6.2. Video Relay Interpreting (VRI) services; updated information

6.3. New Civic Centre elevator; Accessibility features of elevator accessibility feedback

#### **7. Barrier Removal Updates**

7.1. Standing item; Location of benches, trees, waste baskets

## **8. Site plan Sub Committee Report**

8.1. Finnish Rest Home Phase 5 – Don McConnell, Chairperson AAC

8.1.1. Comments/questions sent to Site Plan

## **9. Adjournment**

Next meeting June 14, 2023     Via Zoom     2:00 – 4:00

Email feedback to Site Plan regarding Finnish Rest Home Phase 5 sent March 27, 2023

The Site Plan Sub-Committee has a few questions regarding this Site Plan application.

1. Does the city have a standard for barrier free angle parking, and can the dimensions of the parking spaces and access aisles be confirmed?
  - a. **Reply sent May 5, 2023:** City does not have BF angle parking but can confirm that dimensions of parking space and access aisle will be same as BF
2. The accessible parking spaces are a considerable distance from the public entrance and there is no accessible path of travel for pedestrians; pedestrians with various disabilities will be travelling on the drive aisle to get to the entrance.
3. Would it be possible to move the accessible parking to be adjacent to the building, making it safer for pedestrians to move from parking to sidewalk to building?
4. Similarly to the barrier free parking, if parking on the main access drive is moved to the South side, then it would not be necessary for these pedestrians to cross traffic when walking to the entrance.
5. There appear to be a lot of ramps inside the courtyard. If these are necessary for fire exits, can they be relocated outside the courtyard to create more usable space within the courtyard?
6. Can the raised platform within the courtyard be lowered to match entrance elevations? The fewer steps and ramps, the safer the space will be.
  - a. All other above questions were sent back to developer for response.  
No reply to date.

We would be happy to meet with the architect to discuss this further.

Thanks,

Diane Morrell on behalf of the Site Plan Sub-Committee for the AAC

# AAC feedback on accessibility in elevator design and features – April 12, 2023

## Elevators in general

Voice annunciation to identify floors; covered in FADS pg. 32

Wherever possible please follow this guide for elevators from CNIB:

[https://www.clearingourpath.ca/5.9.0-elevators\\_e.php](https://www.clearingourpath.ca/5.9.0-elevators_e.php)

## Colour contrast

Colour contrast for elevator buttons/panel and contrast for walls vs. floors

Railings should have colour contrast to adjacent surfaces

This section describes colour contrast:

[https://www.clearingourpath.ca/2.3.0-colour-and-brightness\\_e.php](https://www.clearingourpath.ca/2.3.0-colour-and-brightness_e.php)

## Wayfinding

Wayfinding (directional) tiles on new walkways for persons who are blind or have low vision, for exterior and interior where possible.

This section shows directional tactile walking indicators (bottom, right hand side):

[https://www.clearingourpath.ca/3.3.0-tysi\\_e.php](https://www.clearingourpath.ca/3.3.0-tysi_e.php)

## Signage

Braille and tactile buttons (raised buttons so they are easy to located for persons who are blind or low vision)

Use of pictograms on signage

FADS covers braille and tactile (raised) characters on elevator buttons as well; Page 31

This section show signage requirements:

[https://www.clearingourpath.ca/3.7.0-signage\\_e.php](https://www.clearingourpath.ca/3.7.0-signage_e.php)

## Emergency information/stuck elevator

Text display for emergency instructions for persons who are Deaf or hard of hearing; may be covered in FADS; pg. 77 Public Address Systems

## Elevator security

Considerations for access to elevator after workday hours must be accessible which may mean audible and visual display.

# Accessibility review of new Northern Community Centre – March 28, 2023

**Present:** Committee Members Don McConnell - Chairperson AAC, Carol Magnan, Diana Gerhart, Wayne Scharfenberg, Derrick Lavallee

**Staff:** Diane Morrell - Accessibility Coordinator, Rob Santa Maria - Manager Community Arenas,

Architect: Franco Pastore – IDEA

**NOTE:** Northern Community Centre (NCC) is open and operating, however it was noted that some areas are still being worked on including demolishing of the McMeekin Community Centre. When the NCC is demolished, additional parking will be available, including 20 additional accessible parking spaces. At time of visit, there were few accessible parking spaces available.

## **Observations:**

- It was difficult to discern where the entrance to the NCC was, and expect that it will become more apparent after the McMeekin is demolished
- Doors to enter the building have a vertical push bar door actuator strip. This makes it easy for anyone with limited dexterity to push the bar at any height
- Push bar actuators have also been installed to enter/exit arena areas
- Ramping with railings on ice level to viewing area has been provided
- Viewing surfaces provides great view for persons that use mobility devices, and also provides seating for companions in this area
- Change rooms for accessibility has been well designed for persons who have mobility disabilities including larger benches to transfer to, lowered coat hooks, accessible shower and accessible bathroom

- Concession counters have lowered area for persons using mobility devices; one area has cut out under the counter for knee space
- Viewing area from hockey players bench has plexi-glass for viewing from being seated in a sledge for tournaments
- Family washroom provided on upper floor and has room for adult change table (**change table was not in place at time of tour**), and has emergency call pull cord

#### **Accessibility notes:**

- Push bars do not have contrast from the wall, making it difficult for persons with low vision to locate the door opener. Suggest painting a contrasting colour around the outside of the push bar for **all actuators** in the NCC
- Door actuators have been installed on the second door, away from the location of the push bar actuator. **Is it possible to have the actuators moved to the door closest to the actuator so that it is faster to exit in emergency and is more intuitive?**
- Door handles have been installed on the inside of the doors, and the door handles have an extension at the bottom which created a safety hazard for one committee member. **Safety concern:** Replace inside door handles with handles with a closed loop or a flat push plate thereby eliminating this hazard
- Stairs that go to second level viewing area, require colour contrast nosings for persons who have low vision
- Railings for stairs require contrast for persons who have low vision
- Railings at viewing areas on second level require colour contrast from flooring for persons with low vision
- Colour contrast on vertical support beam beside ramp inside arena would be beneficial for persons with low vision
- **All stairs** for public access require colour contrast nosings and **all railings** require colour contrast for **safety** of persons with low vision
- A quiet room for persons with sensory sensitivities is provided on main floor; discussion about appropriateness of this room has since been changed to a more suitable location

- Door opener from field house to arena needs additional time to remain open; persons using mobility device could not safely move through door before it closed
- Door opener at this same location is a round push plate (not push bar actuator); **please consider replacing with the new push plate as there is limited space in this area to reach the push button actuator**
- At time of visit, push button at south-west door was not working

**City of SSM Facility Accessible Design Standards (FADS) items not included at NCC:**

- Voice annunciated elevator (Section 4.1.14.1)
- Adult change table (Section 4.2.7)
- Assistive listening devices (Section 4.4.6)

**Not included in FADS document, but important for City's overall accessibility:**

- Mobility device charging station; should be included in key public areas with signage and blue electrical plug

**Not discussed during the tour, but is very important:**

Where does the emergency call from the bathroom go, and what processes are in place for this?

**Overall impression:**

Overall, committee members were impressed that the facility is very accessible and has so many great accessibility features.



**Mauno Kaihla Koti**  
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