

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE
DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACES
STANDARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019
SECOND FLOOR EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM
NORQUAY BUILDING, 401 YORK AVENUE**

There are a number of new faces at the meeting. All people present introduced themselves. The agenda was amended to include an introduction by the Chairperson of the Accessibility Advisory Council and a presentation regarding the revised Terms of Reference. Approval of the Council is required to accept changes to the Terms of Reference.

The T of R of the DOPS Standard Development Committee were revised following suggested changes made in the report of the four-year review with the intent to clarify and strengthen its mandate. The document will be made public and made available in alternate formats upon request. A large number of the changes had to do with timelines and deliverables. It identifies areas that are out of scope for this particular standard, but states that the committee may make recommendations to the development of further aspects of the built environment. The minutes will not address all the specific changes to the revised T of R. The T of R have been forwarded to all members of the committee.

Key changes:

- Deliverable dates identified: DOPS is to submit their report to Council by May 31, 2019 and deadline for presentation by co-chairs is June 21, 2019.
- Addition of a senior provincial public servant as Co-chair.
- Report is to be written in plain language, and include explanations and rationales.
- Council is responsible for public consultation, but it is determined that this committee is better suited for that task, need to abide by the consultation requirements in the Act, and be complete by August 30, 2019.
- Premises and structures in public spaces are in scope. Private premises and structures are not.
- Committee may advise Council “whether and when” to consider other aspects of the built environment.
- Secretary to include committee actions *and decisions* in the minutes.

It was commented that although the committee will strive to deliver recommendations for a proposed standard in plain language, there are many technical aspects that must be appreciated and can't be written in a manner that can be misinterpreted. We don't want stakeholders to misunderstand the intent of the committee.

Select members of the committee met with Deputy Minister. This was to discuss the mismatch between the language of the AMA and what the committee is being asked to do under the T of R. Jay told the committee of changes to the T of R, including the

addition of an ADM from GET serving as a co-chair. The committee representatives reiterated to the DM their interest and the interest in the community in hearing the government's anticipated timing and process to update the standards for the rest of the built environment.

The committee shared with the ADM of GET their main concern that when we discuss the scope and intent of the standard with the public, there will likely be a public backlash for not attending to built environment as it pertains to building/structures. The committee is looking to the government for assurances that the design of public spaces is the first step in addressing larger accessibility issues regarding the built environment, in particular, updating the Manitoba Building Code and moving it beyond the "manual wheelchair minimum standard" currently employed.

There are no future meeting scheduled. Given the timelines the committee must adhere to, it was suggested we set up three meetings in the next five weeks.