

**MINUTES OF THE  
ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

**1. THE CHAIR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 4:00 P.M.**

Working Group Members Present: Linda Bartram  
Pippa Blake  
Steve Bertrand  
Jon Breen  
Chris Dobbie  
Keith Kroeker  
Susan Gallagher

Regrets: Councillor Alto  
Ernie Stigant

Councillors: Councillor Loveday

Staff: Brad Dellebuur, Transportation Department  
Christine Brinton, Recording Secretary

Guests: Mary, Sign Language Interpreter

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – February 1, 2016**

It was discussed by the Accessibility Working Group (AWG) that the letter drafted by Jon Breen regarding first recommendations on how to best ensure that Council's determinations will most effectively and efficiently consider and meet the needs of community members and visitors with disabilities, be circulated again via email and the AWG will review and "reply all" with suggested edits prior to the next meeting.

**Motion:** It was moved by Linda Bartram, seconded by Susan Gallagher, that the agenda of Monday, February 1, 2016 be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**The Chair requested that** Items or background information which AWG members wish to discuss needs to be distributed to all AWG members a week prior to the upcoming meeting.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 11, 2016**

**Motion:** It was moved by Linda Bartram, seconded by Keith Kroeker, that the minutes from the Accessibility Working Group meeting held January 11, 2016 be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Jeremy Loveday left meeting 4:05 pm.

#### 4. BUSINESS ARISING

Additional AWG Members – The Accessibility Working Group welcomed Pippa Blake to the Committee.

The AWG received email from Brad Dellebuur regarding the advertising for additional members for the AWG which currently has 4 vacancies. This ad ran in the Saturday Times Colonist and will run in Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> Victoria News.

Councillor Jeremy Loveday returned to meeting 4:07 pm  
Steve Bertrand arrived at 4:08 pm

Strategic Plan Presentation – Councillor Loveday gave a brief overview of the City's 2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan. Steve Bertrand thanked Councillor Loveday for bringing this Working Group together and discussed how the other Council Committees can share information (especially on accessibility issues). The City's website posts minutes which can be found at: <http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/city/mayor-council-committees/other-boards-committees.html>

Action: Susan Gallagher will review minutes and agendas of the other Committees and bring potential accessibility issues to the attention of the AWG.

Action: Staff will forward link to the AWG where the City's various committee's minutes and agendas can be found (see above for link).

On-Line Survey – Steve Bertrand – This is a survey to get out to the general public on issues regarding accessibility around the City of Victoria. Steve has circulated a draft to the AWG and has received one round of feedback.

Action: AWG to send comments to Steve Bertrand on the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft (and “reply to all”) by February 10, 2016.

#### Draft Motion regarding Service Dogs in Taxi's – Steve Bertrand

The AWG discussed the letter from Graeme McCreath, Treasurer of the Canadian Federation of the Blind regarding a taxi driver's refusal to respond to a call that involves a guide dog.

The Director of BC Transportation Board, Jan Brooke spoke with Steve Bertrand and advised him that the *BC Guide Dog Act* has been updated as of January 18, 2016.

[http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws\\_new/document/ID/freeside/266\\_2004#section12](http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/266_2004#section12).

The AWG discussed the following:

- Would hope that anyone who has a service animal or mobility issue, would disclose that on the call to a taxi company.
- If the caller does not disclose and a taxi arrives whose driver has an allergy, the taxi company policy is for this driver to wait with the patron and call another cab.
- What exactly is the cab company's written policy?
- The AWG is considering recommending that Counselor Loveday respond to the letter stating that the AWG is satisfied with the current policy and that the updated BC Guide Dog Act should protect Guide Dog users.

Action: Steve will circulate the taxi policy and the AWG will make a recommendation at the next meeting.

### Sign Posts in Sidewalks - Email

Councillor Loveday received an email from Greg Koyl regarding not being able to see grey sign posts that hold parking signs. His suggestion is that the Public Works yard paint a yellow stripe on the posts, similar to the yellow they paint on curbs.

AWG discussed the following:

- Any kind of marking would help, but yellow is the best colour to use for contrast.
- Using a cane would help, but that comes down to choice.
- Staff advised the AWG that they can review these requests based on location, staff are looking to locate these signs out of the walking paths, preferably in the “furniture zone”.

Action: Brad will follow up with Mr. Koyl to determine the extent of the issue, and will report back at next meeting.

### Sidewalk Signs Safety – Susan Gallagher

Susan Gallagher requested the AWG consider asking Council to reconsider allowing sandwich boards on sidewalks.

Action: Add to agenda for March meeting to discuss further.

Action: Distribute regulations regarding sandwich boards for review prior to the March meeting.

### Portable Ramps at Heritage Buildings – Steve Bertrand

Steve Bertrand asked that the AWG review this “roll-a-ramp” link and discuss at the next meeting as a possible solution for portable ramps at various locations in downtown Victoria

<http://www.rollaramp.com/wheelchair-scooter>

AWG discussed the following:

- John’s Place is a good example of a building entrance that requires a ramp to ensure safe accessibility into its building.
- There is no provision to legally put these out on sidewalk, businesses generally put them out to provide access for an individual, and then remove them from the entrance.
- Is this an area we are interested in pursuing?
- What is the current definition of sidewalk obstruction?
- Sidewalk obstruction, clearance and sandwich boards, these could all be part of the same discussion
- Can the City have an incentive for businesses to improve access?

Action: Add to the agenda for March and for review

Action: Review the above link regarding a possible solution

Action: Staff to provide background information on possible business funding.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### Accessible Pedestrian Signals – moved to March meeting

Discussion of choice verses personal responsibility to be added to a future agenda.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday, March 7, 2016 at 4:00 pm.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The AWG adjourned at 5:15 pm