

MINUTES OF THE
ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2015

CALL TO ORDER AT 4:00 P.M.

Working Group Members Present: Linda Bartram
Susan Gallagher
Jon Breen
Chris Dobbie

Absent: Ernie Stigant
Steve Bertrand

Councillors Present: Councillor Alto and Councillor Loveday

Staff Present: Brad Dellebuur, Transportation Department
Christine Brinton, Recording Secretary
Kat Campbell, Sign Language Interpreter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Susan Gallagher requested the item “curb cuts” be added to this agenda under new business.

ACTION: The Accessibility Working Group would like to add the item “role call” to the next and all upcoming agendas.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The mandate of the Accessibility Working Group (AWG) is to provide policy recommendations, expertise and experiential knowledge to Victoria City Council on accessibility issues with the aim of making City of Victoria infrastructure and facilities more accessible for all by:

- Identifying barriers for persons with disabilities created by current City of Victoria infrastructure;
- Making recommendations as to how to remove these barriers;
- Establishing criteria by which barrier removal can be prioritized and the allocating of funding can be determined; and
- Working with the City of Victoria to draft policies and procedures to prevent the creation of barriers in the future.

ACTION: It was moved by Susan Gallagher that Linda Bartram be nominated as Chair of the Accessibility Working Group for 6 months.

CARRIED

The AWG then discussed the Terms of Reference:

- The proposed formation of an AWG was discussed and approved at the August 20, 2015 Governance and Policy Committee meeting. Council met and approved the formation of an AWP and adopted the Terms of Reference attached to the motion on **August 27, 2015**.
- Councillor Loveday advised the AWG there is money in a reserve fund for addressing

accessibility issues. While the AWG can forward recommendations on developing criteria for setting priorities, decisions about allocating funding from the reserve fund are made by City Council.

- The AWG will meet monthly for the first year, semi-annually after that. Additional meetings can be called after the first year, at the discretion of the Chair.

WORKING GROUP VACANCIES

AWG members discussed the process on having a call for new members. Councillor Alto explained that an announcement will go through various media outlets for new members (this committee can have up to 12 members). There is room to add up to 4 additional members.

Current members on the AWG are: Ernie Stigant, Steve Bertrand, Linda Bartram, Susan Gallagher, Jon Breen and Chris Dobbie.

Action: Staff to provide Linda with a list of members, and contact information, including the two newest appointments (this will be sent separately, once ratified by Council).

ACTION: It was moved by Chris Dobbie that a notice to request new members be sent out by the second week of January with a deadline of a month (February 15th).

CARRIED

Linda would like current members to approach various individuals to encourage someone in these groups to put their names forward so that any gaps are filled.

Action: Chris will approach the hard of hearing community.

Action: Linda will approach the developmental disability community.

Action: Jon will approach the mental health community.

Action: Susan will approach the seniors' community.

Action: Councillor Alto or Councillor Loveday will distribute the notice requesting new AWG members, to the current AWG members, so they can ensure that those they are approaching can be made aware of the notice.

JOHNSON STREET BRIDGE / DAVID FOSTER WAY / JANION DEVELOPMENT INTERFACE REPORT

Access to David Foster pathway – in order to ensure a pedestrian link to the David Foster Harbour Pathway from the north east plaza, the City has worked with the Janion's architect to develop a staircase concept. Given the elevation difference between the plaza area in front of the Janion development and the proposed level of the David Foster Harbour Pathway, it was determined that an accessible ramp could not be achieved in this particular location - as such, a staircase (with bike wheel ramp) is proposed. Accessible access will be available on the south side of the Johnson Street Bridge from the plaza adjacent to the proposed Northern Junk Development.

AWG members discussed the following:

- The possibility / opportunity to get access near the Canoe Club/Swift Street. At some point there may be opportunity to discuss access options with the developer of the parking lot north of the Janion development.
- John - how inconvenient will not having David Foster Harbour Pathway access via the Janion frontage be for someone in a wheelchair?

- John – is there any option, including putting in an elevator? Brad – an existing Telus duct between the Janion development and the new Johnson Street Bridge structure may limit the ability to provide an elevator at this location.

5:06 pm – Councillor Jeremy Loveday left the meeting.

ACTION: AWG members asked staff to report back on additional implications of increasing accessibility to the David Foster Harbour Pathway adjacent the Janion development. Brad will also forward the AWG comments to the Johnson Street Bridge team.

NEW BUSINESS

Council allocation of funding to Accessibility Reserve Fund – Council created an Accessibility Reserve Fund in 2015, and allocated \$250,000 to the Fund in the 2015 budget. The Accessibility Working Group will write a letter to Council, requesting Council allocate budget to the Accessibility Reserve Fund annually.

Curb Cuts – the City currently references Master Municipal Construction Document (MMCD) and City standards for constructing curb cuts. Linda suggested AWG members should consider what is needed for the blind, as there is often no detectable indication (particularly with new or replacement curb cuts) that the individual using a white cane or guide dog is leaving the curb and stepping onto the street.

A discussion on what the best design should focus on to improving detection, while not creating issues for other user groups, would be appropriate.

Action: Brad will provide copies of current standards to the group via email.

Action: “Canadian barrier free design” – John will email contact to see if he will share any research information regarding curb cuts.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, December 7, 2015 at 4:00 pm.
The AWG will limit meetings to one hour.

ADJOURNMENT

The AWG adjourned at 5:30 pm