

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016**

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

Working Group Members Present: Linda Bartram  
Steve Bertrand  
Chris Dobbie  
Susan Gallagher  
Keith Kroeker  
Rachel Buchanan  
Paul Jones  
Kathryn McWhirter  
Jon Breen

Regrets: Chris Marks

Councillors: Councillor Loveday  
Councillor Alto

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

Guests: Mary, Sign Language Interpreter  
Gabby, accompanying Rachel

The Accessibility Working Group welcomed the new members (Rachel Buchanan, Paul Jones, Kathryn McWhirter, Chris Marks) and thanked Jon Breen for his work over the last 6 months. Jon has resigned from the AWG and today was his last meeting. Ernie and Pippa have also resigned due to personal reasons.

Action: Christine will circulate an updated AWG contact list.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – March 7, 2016**

Susan requested a discussion on the idea of a hearing loop being installed at the front desk here at City Hall, this will be added to the April agenda.

**Motion:** It was moved by Linda Bartram seconded by Susan Gallagher that the agenda of Monday, March 7, 2016 be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 1, 2016**

**Motion:** It was moved by Linda Bartram, seconded by Steve Bertrand, that the minutes from the Accessibility Working Group meeting held February 1, 2016 be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

A Special meeting of the AWG was held on Feb 9, 2016 to Recommend that the City of Victoria support the Barrier Free BC proposal that the Government of BC draft a BC Persons with Disabilities Act. This was approved by Council on Feb 11, 2016.

**Motion:** It was moved by Linda Bartram, seconded by Steve Bertrand, that the minutes of the February 9th special meeting (attached) be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

#### **4. BUSINESS ARISING**

##### a) On-Line Survey

The Accessibility Working Group (AWG) discussed the following:

- There are some concerns with Survey Monkey as it is American based.
- Steve advised the AWG that most information gathered is very general.
- Age and gender and IP address is obtained, making this a concern.
- Fluid Surveys might be an option as data is housed in Canada.
- Suggestion of using this as a starting point, use some money and hire a consultant to craft something very clear, as there are people that do this.
- Steve advised the editing is the challenge, this process is taking too long and it needs to get out.
- What will we do with this information once the AWG has completed the survey?
- Steve would like someone else to take this on, Keith volunteered to do this.

Brad advised AWG that the City of Victoria uses survey monkey and the City's Citizen Engagement department could review this survey and bring options to a future AWG meeting with options on how to proceed.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFC3LH2>

- Chris likes Brad's idea, bring in the City's Citizen Engagement Department and then move on from there.

Action: Brad will determine when a representative from the Citizens' Engagement Department is available and let the AWG know.

Action: Christine will add "definition of disability" on the next agenda for discussion.

##### b) Draft Motion regarding Service Dogs in Taxi's

The AWG discussed the letter from Graeme McCreath, Treasurer of the Canadian Federation of the Blind regarding a taxi driver's refusal to transport him and his guide dog.

The AWG discussed the following:

- Kathryn – you have to spell out your needs, or businesses may not be able to accommodate.
- Chris – main comment is that if you drive a bus, you can have a dog on a bus, why not a taxi?
- Rachel – agrees that you should explain your situation.

Councillor Loveday advised the AWG that these have been great and informative discussions on this subject and he feels well informed and able to respond to Mr. McCreath's letter and request.

Action: The AWG has decided to take no further action. Councillor Loveday is going to respond to Graeme McCreath.

c) 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.

Brad is currently following up with the public works yard and Mr. Koyl and will report back at next meeting.

d) 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 APRIL meeting to discuss further.

Action: Brad - Distribute regulations regarding sandwich boards for review prior to the April meeting. Portable sign permit information, including the regulations, are available at: <http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/business/permits-licences/portable-sign-permits.html>

e) Portable Ramps at Heritage Buildings – Steve Bertrand

At the February meeting, Steve Bertrand asked that the AWG review this "roll-a-ramp" link and discuss further regarding a possible solution for portable ramps at various locations in downtown Victoria <http://www.rollaramp.com/wheelchair-scooter>

Since the last meeting a few AWG members met at John's place. The ramp is too steep for Steve, but Jon's wheelchair did make it up the ramp.

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. At present, they will put a temporary non-compliant (too steep) portable ramp at the step upon request.
- Larger issue is whether we want to look at supporting businesses housed in older buildings to become more accessible
- A structure could be made to work for all, but that would mean altering a heritage building. Steve may attend the heritage committee meeting and speak to it.
- What has been done, we could try to craft a solution with businesses to make it a cost sharing project?
- Can the \$250,000 be used for this.
- How many inaccessible buildings in Victoria are there?
- Does the City have an incentive for businesses to improve access?

- Councillor Alto discussed the Downtown Business Association is able to help businesses they have a fund and advised the AWG they may wish to consider a larger policy and refer to the heritage committee for possible solutions.

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

Action: Counselor Alto to raise this concern at a Heritage Advisory Panel meeting.

Action: Steve to attend a Heritage Advisory Panel meeting and report back to AWG.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

Accessible Pedestrian Signals – Linda Bartram forwarded (via email) the position paper regarding the operation and features of accessible pedestrian signals (APS) across Canada, are far from standardized. In order to enhance the safety and independence of Canadians who are blind, deafblind, or partially sighted, as well as to ensure consistency that is easily recognized by pedestrians who rely on APS systems across the country, accessible pedestrian signals require agreed upon operating standards.

There are approximately 25 recommendations in this document regarding audible signals.

Action: Linda will forward the most recent version (May, 2014) and the AWG will discuss at the next meeting. Linda will put forward a recommendation.

Curb Cuts – at the December 7, 2015 Accessibility Working Group meeting, the members were asked to review the document titled “The effects of truncated dome detectable warnings on travelers negotiating curb ramps in wheelchairs” (<http://www.biomedsearch.com/article/effects-truncated-dome-detectable-warnings/256777938.html>).

These warning systems work well with transitioning from the curb/sidewalk to the street. AWG members noted truncated domes are currently being used in Richmond, Surrey and many other cities. Following the discussion in December, the AWG made a motion that truncated dome mats be installed on all new curb cuts, and that the City retrofit all existing ‘no-lip’ curb cuts on an immediate basis. The AWG was requesting an update on this.

Brad – staff was looking at costs for truncated domes vs. using the MMCD 10 mm lip ramp design to provide council with some guidance on where they want to go. This information will be beneficial for Council to consider, as there are several thousand wheelchair ramps in the City. It’s acknowledged some wheelchair ramps require replacement/updating – there is an ongoing maintenance program for these improvements. There are currently no new ‘zero-lip’ installations going in now.

Susan advised the AWG should have a look at the good curb cut designs at the northwest corner at View/Vancouver, and at Fort/Vancouver.

Action: Staff will provided the email address and the Service Request Form link.  
Email address: (pw@victoria.ca)  
Service Request Form link: (<http://www.victoria.ca/EN/meta/contact/service-request-form.html>)

Action: Christine will forward new members minutes from November 2015 to February 2016.

Councillor Alto wanted to note that Chris Marks is not able to attend meetings on Mondays.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday, April 4, 2016 at 4:00 pm.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The AWG adjourned at 5:19 pm

Attachment -- (A Special meeting of the AWG was held on Feb 9, 2016 to Recommend that the City of Victoria support the Barrier Free BC proposal that the Government of BC draft a BC Persons with Disabilities Act)