

**MINUTES OF THE
ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 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
Chris Marks

Regrets: 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 (AWG) welcomed its newest member, Chris Marks and did a roundtable introduction.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – April 4, 2016

The AWG added the draft letter to DVBA regarding accessibility upgrades of downtown businesses to the agenda.

Motion: It was moved by Steve Bertrand seconded by Rachel Buchanan that the agenda of Monday, April 4, 2016 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 7, 2016

Motion: It was moved by Linda Bartram, seconded by Steve Bertrand, that the minutes from the Accessibility Working Group meeting held March 7, 2016 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING

a) Definition of a Disability

The AWG discussed the proposed definition for disability:

“A physical, sensory, developmental or mental condition or a health problem that significantly restricts the performance of one or more of a person's daily

life activities for a period longer than six months, either on a recurring or intermittent basis.”

Susan Gallagher entered the meeting at 4:10 pm

The AWG held a discussion on the proposed definition, ensuring all people with disabilities are covered in this definition. The AWG made the following change:

“A physical, sensory, developmental or mental condition or a health problem that significantly restricts the performance of one or more of a person's daily life activities for a period longer than six months **on a permanent**, recurring or intermittent basis.”

Motion: It was moved by Linda Bartram, seconded by Paul Jones that the AWG adopt this definition, “A physical, sensory, developmental or mental condition or a health problem that significantly restricts the performance of one or more of a person's daily life activities for a period longer than six months on a permanent, recurring or intermittent basis.”

CARRIED

b) On-Line Survey

The Accessibility Working Group (AWG) discussed the following:

- City staff discussed the need for Council to direct staff to work with the AWG to conduct a survey to obtain information on the needs of persons with disabilities accessing amenities in the City of Victoria.
- Linda discussed the City of Victoria conducting an on line survey to determine the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities who travel, work, shop and visit amenities in the City of Victoria.

Motion: It was moved by Keith Kroeker, seconded by Susan Gallagher that the City of Victoria conduct an online survey to determine the challenges people with disabilities face when accessing facilities, infrastructure, services and amenities within the City of Victoria.

CARRIED

c) Sign Posts in Sidewalks - Email

Councillor Loveday received an email from Greg Koysl 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.

Engineering staff contacted Greg Koysl regarding his concerns. There are isolated locations where posts were not properly placed in the sidewalk where the City of Victoria may go and review on a case-by-case basis, relocating items if necessary.

d) Sidewalk Signs Safety – Susan Gallagher

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

Susan advised that the link that City staff forwarded states “Signs must be placed at the curb or against the building in a manner that leaves a minimum of 2.0 m of clear sidewalk space.” (<http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/business/permits-licences/portable-sign-permits.html>). Susan would like to know if the City follows up to ensure these criteria are being met by the store owners. The AWG discussed the following:

- When a business applies for a portable sign, there are criteria that the City requires from the business, prior to the City issuing a permit. A sticker on the sign will show the City has approved a particular portable sign (each year is a different colour).
- If encounter a sign that is not leaving a minimum of 2.0 m of clear sidewalk space, send pictures or email with all information to the City’s bylaw enforcement. Have lots of information and “paint the whole picture”.
- Business Licence Clerk
P: 250.361.0572
E: portablesigns@victoria.ca

e) Portable Ramps at Heritage Buildings - Update

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. At the March meeting the AWG discussed drafting a letter to the DVBA regarding a potential partnership between the City of Victoria and the DVBA to fund accessibility upgrades of downtown businesses. Councillor Jeremy Loveday forwarded a draft letter for the AWG’s review and approval.

Action: The AWG approved the draft letter going forward (attached).

- f) Accessible Pedestrian Signals – Linda Bartram forwarded (via email) the position paper regarding the operation and features of accessible pedestrian signals (APS) across Canada, these 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.

The AWG discussed the following:

- The paper that was forwarded described the difference between accessible signals, rather than audible.
- Linda discussed number 7 of the most recent document, (*APS sites must be accompanied by orientation guides that include pedestrian information that is accessible to all pedestrians. Whether the text of the orientation sign is incorporated into the pushbutton housing or on an adjacent sign, it must provide the name of the street associated with the pushbutton housing in both uncontracted braille and tactile letter formats. A cardinal locator must also be included in the lower right-hand corner of the orientation guide.*)
- The AWG discussed requesting Council directing staff to examine adopting these standards.

The AWG made the following motion:

Motion: It was moved by Paul Jones, seconded by Rachel Buchanan, that *the Accessibility Working Group requests Council to undertake a review of the position statement of the Accessible Pedestrian Signals and make recommendations for implementation.*

CARRIED

5. NEW BUSINESS

Hearing Loop at Front Desk of City Hall – Susan Gallagher

Susan would like the AWG to consider making a motion to install a hearing loop at the front desk of city hall. A hearing loop is a special type of sound system for use by people with hearing aids. The hearing loop provides a magnetic wireless signal that is picked up by the hearing aid when it is set to “t” setting.

The AWG discussed the following:

- Cuts out unwanted background noise
- no need to use a receiver / handset
- sound goes directly into hearing aid
- cost effective

Action: Susan Gallagher will add this to the agenda in May, Susan will bring forward additional information on costs.

Follow-up on Curb Cuts – Truncated Dome Detectable Warnings – Linda Bartram

Linda Bartram did a follow-up on curb cuts at the Vancouver/Fort and Vancouver/View intersections, asking other Working Group members their thoughts on the designs used. While there was some positive feedback received for the current installations, the use of truncated domes would provide additional information to people using the intersections.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 2, 2016 at 4:00 pm.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The AWG adjourned at 5:10 pm



AWG - Draft letter
to DVBA.docx