

**MINUTES OF THE
ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016**

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

Working Group Members Present: Linda Bartram
Steve Bertrand
Chris Dobbie
Rachel Buchanan
Paul Jones

Regrets: Susan Gallagher
Kathryn McWhirter
Keith Kroeker
Chris Marks

Councillor Present: Councillor Loveday
Councillor Absent: Councillor Alto

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

Guests: Mary, Sign Language Interpreter
Jenny, accompanying Rachel

The Accessibility Working Group (AWG) did a roundtable introduction. Chaz Whipp was welcomed, Chaz is the Manager of Facilities for the City of Victoria.

Councillor Loveday updated the AWG on the Barrier Free motion. This motion was passed and will be discussed at the Union of BC Municipalities in Victoria in the Fall.

ACTION: The AWG would like this brought forward so that a representative can attend UBCM when this is discussed.

The AWG requested staff to create an “Issues List” to keep track of the issues raised. This will be a reoccurring item on the agenda.

At the February meeting, Steve Bertrand asked that the AWG review a “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. At the April meeting, Councillor Jeremy Loveday forwarded a draft letter for the AWG’s review and approval. Councillor Loveday updated the AWG on the positive response received regarding the letter to the DVBA.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – May 2, 2016

The AWG added “Disability Alliance BC (DABC) Funding” under New Business to the agenda.

Motion: It was moved by Steve Bertrand seconded by Rachel Buchanan that the agenda of Monday, May 2, 2016 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 4, 2016

Motion: It was moved by Chris Dobbie, seconded by Steve Bertrand, that the minutes from the Accessibility Working Group meeting held April 4, 2016 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING

a) Hearing Loop at Front Desk of City Hall – Susan Gallagher
Susan was absent from the meeting. Bring forward this item to the June agenda.

b) Portable Ramps at Heritage Buildings - Update
This was discussed earlier in the meeting (see above).

Action: Follow up for the fiscal 2016/17 year with DVBA.

c) Accessible Pedestrian Signals – Linda Bartram

At the April, 2016 meeting, Linda Bartram forwarded (via email) the position paper regarding the operation and features of accessible pedestrian signals (APS) across Canada, which are not 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.

Action: The AWG requested staff follow up and ensure Council undertakes a review of the position statement and make recommendations for implementation.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Audiovisual Equipment for Citizen Engagement Meetings - Paul Jones lead the discussion regarding a public meeting where the majority of the residents were unable to participate fully due to non- audible sound and the lack of appropriately sized/quantity of visual graphic screens from speaker/presenters. This particular meeting was at the Crystal Gardens.

Paul suggested the Citizen Engagement Department undertake a review, or create a checklist that will assess the size, capacity, design of the proposed venue. Then, based on the number of projected participants, provide adequate audiovisual equipment in order for participants to hear fully the information being presented with the goal of receiving the greatest amount of sound and meaningful questions/feedback from its citizens.

Chaz Whip, Manager of Facilities for the City of Victoria advised the AWG that the Victoria Conference Centre has a standard layout. Chaz understands the Crystal Gardens' sound is lacking and had heard other feedback after that particular event.

Chris Dobbie advised the AWG that the provincial government has a checklist that is fulfilled prior to a meeting for various people with disabilities. Linda would like forward thinking, before a meeting. Ahead of time so everyone at this table can attend this meeting.

Chaz will bring more information to the next meeting, including where or not the City has an inventory and the checklist the VCC uses and share with the AWG. Chaz will see what we (the city) has and bring to the June meeting.

DABC (disability alliance BC)

The AWG discussed the following “April 2016: Community Update” from Disability Alliance BC. Paul Jones read this for the AWG members information:

DABC RECEIVES FUNDING FROM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC TO ENSURE A FUNCTIONAL NEEDS FRAMEWORK FOR EVERY COMMUNITY

*DABC is thrilled to announce funding from EMBC to work with local authorities over the next two years in order to meet the emergency preparedness goal of the provincial government's **Accessibility 2024** initiative. The government of British Columbia has made a commitment to becoming the most inclusive province in Canada for people with disabilities by 2024. Emergency Preparedness is one of **Accessibility 2024's** twelve building blocks. The Province's laudable goal is for every BC community to have accommodated the needs of persons with disabilities in its emergency planning by 2024. The Province will measure the success of this goal by the number of community emergency response plans that comply with a Functional Needs Framework (FNF).*

DABC is a leader in emergency preparedness and people with disabilities and is excited to be working with local authorities in different regions of BC to increase local level capacity to respond to the needs of community members with disabilities in emergencies and disasters.

DABC will work with local authorities to: Review local community response plans, Provide recommendations to local authorities on how to integrate the Functional Needs Framework and identify people's needs during an emergency, Provide training to local authorities that supports the Emergency Preparedness building block of Accessibility 2024”

The AWG discussed:

- The role of City and what this means for this working group
- City Administration will be open to having these conversations
- The Victoria Fire chief will have more information.
- Where to go when there is a tsunami, Chris Dobbie will enquire at the provincial government.

Councillor Loveday left the meeting at 4:44 pm

Paul Jones made a motion to adjourn at 4:46 pm

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, June 6, 2016 at 4:00 pm.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The AWG adjourned at 4:46 pm