

AWG Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2018

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Present: Linda Bartram, Susan Gallagher, Paul Jones (arrived at 4:30), Chris Marks, Chris Dobbie and Steve Bertrand
(Interpreters: Keith Brougham, Mary Butterfield)

Councillor: Councillor Ben Isitt (arrived at 5:45 pm)

Guests: Derrick Newman, Manager, Construction & Parks Infrastructure, COV
Navdeep Sidhu, Assistant Director, Parks, Recreation and Facilities, COV
Adam Fawkes, HCMA Architecture and Design
Doug Nutting, Recreation Integration Victoria
Jennifer Blome, Accessibility Services, Rick Hansen Foundation
Doug Copley, Access Assessor and Consultant, Rick Hansen Foundation

Staff: Brad Dellebuur and Christine Brinton, COV

Regrets: Robin Bayley, Councillor Loveday

2. Approval of July 9, 2018 agenda

The AWG approved the agenda as circulated.

Moved by Chris M, seconded by Steve. Carried

3. Approval of April 9, 2018 minutes

The AWG approved the minutes of April 9, 2018 as circulated.

Moved by Chris D, seconded by Steve. Carried

4. Consultation with AWG - Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre

Adam Fawkes thanked the AWG for agreeing to meet again, explaining this is a long process and many things needed to be done. All of AWG's recommendations/ comments were very helpful.

Rick Hansen Foundation representative (Jenny Blome) discussed points and categories for Accessibility certification, best practices of universal design; feedback is very important, such as who will be using the building, how will they use it, and needs.

Adam prepared a presentation for the AWG that covered the following:

- Revised site and building design based on input received and ongoing consultation with stakeholders, staff and operators.
- Accessibility considerations for the site and building design including: tactile way finding outside to entrance; bus stop will be moved nearer entrance; Brad confirmed that an audible signal at Princess to cross Quadra will be installed; direct route from entrance to reception desk (do not have to navigate through lobby sitting area); Silver Threads multipurpose room before gates; multiple ways of accessing the pool (entry wall, beach access, ramp, self-operated portable lift); adequate space between pieces of exercise equipment which will need to be maintained over time and not filled in with additional equipment; elevator will be larger than minimum code; exercise area will have partitions; acoustics being carefully considered for large open areas.

Feedback from prior presentation:

- The project team reviewed AWG comments received after the first consultation.
- Many of the comments received from AWG are more detailed than the current schematic state of the design and will be carefully considered as they continue to refine the design.

Rick Hanson Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC):

- The project is pursuing the “Accessibility Certified Gold” rating under the Rick Hansen Foundation’s Accessibility Certification Program.
- A detailed guide containing accessibility considerations specific to this project has been created that considers the needs of those with physical, cognitive and sensory impairments. Cognitive considerations are limited to simple language and signage.
Action: This guide to be shared with AWG
- A review of the current design based on the above criteria has commenced
- Periodic RHFAC input will be provided to the project team as the design continues to be refined.

The AWG raised the following:

- RHFAC does not take into consideration all disability areas (e.g. environmental disabilities and autism). Accommodation of these may involve policies and best practices but may also involve the built environment. They could be considered innovations by RHFAC and more points might be given.
- Environmental disability issues with regards to the location of the entrance, lobby area and reception – new design has partially addressed this as it is not necessary to walk through the seating area to reception, but there is no separation by a wall.

Adam indicated that there is still the possibility of a separate entrance with this design.

Action: Robin to discuss this directly with Adam

- Hand wash station (possibly incorporated into bottle fill station) - current design has roughed in plumbing for 2 or 3 possible food kiosks so this plumbing could facilitate a hand wash station.
- Privacy options while swimming are being seriously considered for several user groups who may require more privacy.
- Contrasting colours / textures between walkway and pool edges. Adam advised there will be contrasting colours and tactile indicators at the pool edge.
- There will be lower counter heights throughout the facility, including in the washrooms. There will be lifts and adjustable change tables in change rooms and in the shower areas.
- There will be ample space for strollers, wheelchairs and walkers throughout the lobby and pool deck, so they don't become obstacles.
- First aid equipment will be stored in the guard room which will be air conditioned. WorkSafe regulations for placement of defibrillators, etc. will be followed. Security strategy will be regulated by provincial regulations and privacy act.
- Washrooms will be well-marked (raised lettering and Braille). AWG raised the concern that the gendered change rooms will be smaller than the existing facilities which are not adequate to accommodate people all needing to change at the same time (e.g. after an aquafit class) and that seniors may not be comfortable using the larger universal change room.
- There will be adequate deck space for wheelchairs to maneuver and the pool deck will be as level as possible. The AWG raised the concern of the location of the hotter hot tub and that it be positioned close to where seniors would be exiting the pool after an aquafit class

Adam thanked the AWG – updated information will be available and there will be further consultation this Fall, at the end of the design development phase.

5. Business Arising:

a) Accessibility Primer

The latest draft of this document was emailed to the AWG for their review. After receiving edits and comments, Paul will revise and send out next week.

ACTION: Paul will email to AWG next week and bring back to August meeting for approval.

b) Update on Accessibility Framework RFP and Training

Brad advised the AWG that they received four good submissions and that the City will be awarding the contract by the end of July. Training will be part of the conversation with the consultant.

ACTION: Add to agenda for another update at next meeting

c) Accessible Pedestrian Signal Pilot

Brad advised the AWG that 2 of the 3 APS signals have been installed - the third one to be installed (Gorge and Washington) will be installed once a new signal pole is in place. The remaining 6 locations on the request list are in the planning stages, and are scheduled to be completed before year end.

Linda advised that the public needs to be advised that they need to “hold in the button for three seconds” to activate the audible signal. Brad informed the AWG that they will continue to monitor public feedback, tweak the system if necessary and will inform the public generally once all APS are installed.

ACTION: Linda will research Polara Accessible Pedestrian Signals, and will update AWG with additional information.

d) Accessible Meeting Venue

The AWG discussed the location for the July meeting (Save on Foods Memorial Arena meeting room):

- This location is not central, and not easily accessed by transit
- The current room temperature is unsuitable for most (very cold)
- The main doors were locked when Paul arrived (after 4:30)
- The chairs in the meeting room are uncomfortable
- AWG members would like to meet in a proper boardroom
- AWG members do not understand why City Hall can't be utilized - why does this committee have to meet outside of the downtown core?
- Paul would like efforts to be made so meetings can be held at City Hall. “City Hall should be made accessible for all”
- The AWG discussed issues with meeting at City Hall, including pet dander in the air, dogs in the building, and food being brought into City Hall for meetings.

Councillor Isitt arrived at 5:46 pm

Councillor Isitt advised that AWG members can bring individual concerns to Council (speaker's list) at every Council meeting.

Paul left the meeting at 5:55 pm

Brad reminded AWG that Council had directed staff to find an accessible location for AWG meetings. Staff utilized the AWG checklist to evaluate the various locations. Staff went through the process (and included Steve B. in the evaluation process, to represent AWG, and in his capacity as someone who does accessibility evaluations of various facilities) – after completing the evaluation process, staff and one member of the AWG

(Steve) decided to try this room. If AWG does not feel this is suitable meeting space, staff can continue to look for an acceptable accessible meeting location.

AWG believes that City Hall should be made accessible. The AWG advised Councillor Isitt as to the accessibility barriers at City Hall. The encouragement of pets in City Hall may be the only current issue preventing use of City Hall meeting space. The ventilation system would also need to be cleaned and it would take time for the allergens to be removed once pets were banned. Brad will confirm that scented cleaning products are no longer being used. Council Chambers and a pet-free route to Council chambers could be designated as a pet-free area. Staff contact with dogs could be discouraged and a pet friendly area of City Hall could possibly be retained.

Following the discussion, AWG made the following motion:

MOVED (Susan)

SECONDED (Steve)

That Council direct staff to take steps to create an accessible meeting space at City Hall

CARRIED

Staff will continue to discuss meeting location options, including City Hall. If no other location is secured, the August AWG meeting will be held at Save on Foods Memorial Arena.

Action: Brad to confirm that scented cleaning products are no longer being used at City Hall

e) Council does not seem to be aware of AWG reports

Council passed a motion May 24/18 to provide clarity on how Advisory Committee recommendations will be processed. The motion passed by Council is as follows:

“That staff be directed to include in the Quarterly Update a list of recommendations from the Accessibility Working Group and Active Transportation Advisory Committee, with comments from staff including the advisability of the recommendations and potential resource implications, to inform Council’s consideration of the recommendations.

And that recommendations from the Accessibility Working Group and Active Transportation Advisory Committee relating to time-sensitive matters (matters which will be considered by Council prior to the next Quarterly Update) may be brought forward in a Council member report by a Council Liaison directly to the Committee of the Whole, within two weeks of the advisory committee meeting where the recommendation was adopted.”

As for this procedure, on September 6 at the quarterly review, staff will be giving Council an update on all outstanding AWG issues.

- f) Status report on issue list projects (DEFERRED)
- g) Clarify current City curb cut standards (DEFERRED)
- h) Status of Truncated Dome Pilot (DEFERRED)

6. New Business

- a) Community Request for Participation in Cook Street Village Design Charrette

Community representatives and City staff are planning Here is the request to participate in the Health, Wellness and Accessibility walk for the Cook Street Village design charrette for the Cook Street Village, and want to do a walkabout prior to the charrette, focusing on accessibility issues in and around the Village. The walkabout is scheduled July 17. Ideally, two or three AWG members could attend to provide input. Representatives from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee has also been invited to participate.

The design charrette is currently scheduled for July 25 at the Parks Yard office – unfortunately, the meeting room is on the 2nd floor of the building, and is not fully accessible) – the charrette will be an all-day exercise, and will utilize the feedback/comments received on the walkabout.

ACTION: Brad will send details to the entire group, please respond to him. Susan would like to participate on the 17th.

7. Next meeting – Monday, August 13, 2018 (location to be determined)

8. Adjournment – 6:10 pm