

MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017

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

The Accessibility Working Group welcomed Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe who is replacing Councillor Alto.

Present: Linda Bartram (Chair), Susan Gallagher, Paul Jones, Steve Bertrand, Chris Marks, Chris Dobbie, Robin Bayley (via skype)

Councillors: Councillor Jeremy Loveday, Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe

Staff: Brad Dellebuur, Christine Brinton

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – February 6, 2017

The Accessibility Working Group (AWG) reviewed the agenda. The Chair noted the addition of times for each item on the agenda to keep the meeting on track.

Motion: It was moved by Linda Bartram, seconded by Paul Jones that the agenda of Monday, February 6, 2017 AWG meeting be approved as circulated.
Carried

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 9, 2017

Motion: It was moved by Linda Bartram, seconded by Chris Dobbie, that the minutes of the AWG meeting held January 9, 2017 be approved as circulated.
Carried

4. REAPPOINTMENT OF CHAIR:

Motion: Paul Jones made a motion that Linda Bartram continue as the Chair of the AWG. Chris Dobbie seconded this motion.
Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING:

- a) Fort Street Bike Lane Project - Staff provided (prior to meeting) via email a PDF of the concept drawing for the Fort Street Bike Lane Project, as well as background information.

At the meeting staff displayed an 8 foot drawing showing accessibility features, accessible pedestrian signals for Vancouver and Fort / Quadra and Fort, countdown signals, midblock crossings for pedestrians, moving furniture out of the sidewalk space, loading zones and accessible parking spaces.

The AWG discussed:

- New accessible pedestrian signals will be on timers (not push button activated).
- Truncated domes will be installed at each crossing.
- Need for some type of tactile guidance on the main sidewalk to indicate location of mid-block crosswalks (possibly a strip on the sidewalk; and the removal of the bus stop at Fort and Vancouver. These are long blocks, and the distance between bus stops will be problematic, especially for people with disabilities so the AWG is opposed to the stop's proposed removal.

Action: Brad will bring back options for indicating mid-block crossings, to the AWG *as soon as they are determined*.

Action: Brad to discuss with BC Transit the AWG's objections to the proposed removal of the transit stop at Fort and Vancouver.

Action: AWG members to provide additional comments or feedback regarding the Fort St. Bike Lane plan to Brad Dellebuur via (email at bdellebuur@victoria.ca).

- b) **Timing of Audible Signals** - Staff at the Public Works yard are incorporating changes of the timing of audible signals to match the timing of visual walk signals, into their regularly scheduled maintenance rollout. The chair Reminded Brad of the Intersection at Fort and Richmond being a concern raised by the low vision group last Fall.

Action: Brad will discuss with signal shop regarding integrating the adjustments into regular site visits and report back the scheduling of this work to the AWG.

Action: Brad will ensure that timing at Fort and Richmond is extended to ensure pedestrian safety.

- c) **Status Reports / Issues List**

- **Barrier Buster Project** – Chaz will need to update the group, Andre from the Accessibility Consultation Group has also been in contact with Chaz. Brad to follow up with Chaz and report back at the next AWG meeting.
- **Accessing Bus Stop on 500 block of Pandora** – Steve Bertrand will follow up with Keith Kresse at the City. Linda Bartram & Susan Gallagher to check out for access for persons with vision loss.
- **Vic West Dog Park** – Steve Bertrand updated the AWG. He met with residents who use mobility devices such as wheelchairs and scooters who are unable to travel over the loose gravel which has been put down in the new dog area. The City will use a machine to pack down the gravel making it

easier for wheelchair navigation. They are also looking into an outdoor mat to be placed around the inside perimeter of the fenced in area as another solution.

- **Disability Alliance of BC workshop – Planning for Persons with Disabilities in Emergencies** – February 20 and 21 – The training will be a 1 day workshop (you can choose the 20th or 21st) and is free throughout the province. Linda urged AWG members to sign up and will send out an email with details. <http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/epworkshops.htm>
- **On-line Survey** – Citizen Engagement have the survey ready to go, subject to the AWG's review. The chair is looking for AWG members to serve on a survey subcommittee to meet between monthly meetings, to keep the project moving.

The Chair then asked the AWG to consider giving their time to the following additional subcommittees:

- Truncated Dome Pilot Subcommittee
- Accessing Bus Stops Subcommittee
- Accessible Pedestrian Signal Pilot Subcommittee

AWG members expressed how they felt they were not able to take on any more responsibility. The AWG then discussed increasing their membership to 12, the maximum allowed under existing Terms of Reference, and identified knowledge or particular disabilities not represented by the current AWG membership such as seniors, youth, persons with developmental challenges, persons who are hard of hearing, and skills that the AWG could use, such as policy analysis and writing.

Motion: It was moved by Linda Bartram and seconded by Susan Gallagher that members of the public be sought to fill the other 5 positions on the Accessibility Working Group (to make 12 members total) through Legislative Services.

Carried

Action: Councillor Jeremy Loveday will follow up with Legislative Services.

- d) Adoption of Amended Recommendations from Staff by Council - Councillor Loveday gave an update on the Committee of the Whole meeting held on January 26, 2017 regarding the adoption of Staff's amended recommendations of the AWG's recommendations in its report, and additional motions arising from discussion.

Accessibility Working Group Report

That Council:

- 1) Direct staff to report back with resource and timing implications at the next quarterly update regarding the AWG recommendation to hire an individual be contracted/hired to work with the AWG in identifying barriers for persons with disabilities, examine existing City accessibility policies and procedures, make policy recommendations, develop an accessibility framework, and provide on-going staff training and support, and report back on which 2017 projects may need to be done in 2018 as a result.
- 2) Approve amendments to the 2017 Financial Plan for new capital projects to be funded from the Accessibility Capital Reserve: a. "Truncated Dome Pilot Project" with a budget of \$30,000. b. "Accessible Pedestrian Signals Pilot Project" with a budget of \$30,000.
- 3) Update the Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Working Group to become an Advisory Committee as defined in the Council Procedures By-law 16-011.
- 4) Direct staff to include accessibility impacts on all reports to Council.

Paul Jones acknowledged Councillor Loveday's continuing support and thanked him for the great effort he has given.

Accessibility Framework - Accessibility Framework D2, dated February 2, 2017. This was compiled by Robin Bayley to help define "Accessibility Framework". This is the start of the scoping work for a budget request to spend 2017 funds on accessibility work and also a plan for work required to meet City goals and objectives regarding accessibility laid out in the Official Community Plan and Strategic Plan.

Action: AWG members to review the Accessibility Framework and send comments to the Chair.

Proposed Statement of Commitment – Linda Bartram shared the latest draft of the "Proposed Statement of Commitment to create a Barrier-Free Victoria" dated February 3, 2017 with the group. This document is intended to be formally adopted by Council as the top-down direction to staff to incorporate consideration of accessibility into all the work they do.

Staff advised that while the vision for the City of Victoria is primarily contained in the Strategic Plan, this statement would strengthen the message. Discussion took place about whether Council would adopt such a Statement, as it is an unusual instrument, but Councillors Loveday and Thornton-Joe felt that Council would be receptive.

Action: AWG members to review and send comments to the Chair.

Councillor Jeremy Loveday left the meeting at 5:45 pm. Paul Jones left the meeting at 5:50 pm

6) **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 pm

7) **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday, March 6, 2017