

MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017

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

Working Group Members Present: Linda Bartram
Susan Gallagher
Paul Jones
Steve Bertrand
Chris Marks
Robin Bayley (via skype)

Regrets: Chris Dobbie

Councillors: Councillor Loveday

Councillor Regrets: Councillor Alto

Staff: Jacqueline Weston, Assistant Director,
Transportation
Chaz Whipp, Manager, Facilities
Christine Brinton, Recording Secretary

Guests: Andre Gordon, Josh and Doug from Team
Access BC Job Creation Partnership (JCP)
Project

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – January 9, 2017

The Accessibility Working Group (AWG) reviewed the agenda and corrected the following “TAC Guidelines – installation of truncated domes” should read “ADA Guidelines – installation of truncated domes” under Business Arising. Jacqueline Weston added “follow-up / reporting back on various issues”
And Susan added timing of audible signals.

Motion: It was moved by Paul Jones, seconded by Robin Bayley that the agenda of Monday, January 9, 2017 Accessibility Working Group meeting be approved as amended. Carried.

Action: Linda indicated that the February agenda would include the first of a series of short Presentations on member’s disabilities.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 5, 2016

Motion: It was moved by Paul Jones, seconded by Robin Bayley, that the minutes from the Accessibility Working Group (AWG) meeting held December 5, 2016 be approved as circulated. Carried.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation – Andre Gordon, Access Manager, Team Access BC Job Creation Partnership (JCP) Project, The Rick Hansen Foundation / Victoria Disability Resource Centre

Andre Gordon is an access manager working out of the Victoria Disability Resource Centre. The Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Program is a program designed to make the built environment in Canada accessible for people of all abilities.

Starting with a rating system which is organized in eight (8) categories, with points given to each feature within a category and summarized on a scorecard. The points are totaled to give an overall rating score. Once rated, a building is designated one of four levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. An assessment and certification rating provides a snapshot of a building's overall accessibility by measuring the practical level of usability and accessibility. The pilot project, which runs to the end of June, is providing complimentary assessments of facilities and buildings, both private and public. The Greater Victoria Public Library is one of the first public facilities to be assessed. The project is providing employment for 4 persons on PWD in Victoria who have undergone training in the assessment process. The ultimate goal is to provide training and certification to persons with disabilities who wish to become private accessibility assessors.

Action: Chaz Whipp will be in contact with Andre with regards to City owned buildings.

5. BUSINESS ARISING:

- a) Grant Opportunity, Rick Hansen – Follow up - In December, Jacqueline Weston provided a list (via email) of potential projects for this grant opportunity and asked the AWG which of the projects they would consider the top priority applicant for the grant. The intent is to prepare an application for the one top priority project. Grant applications are due March 31, 2017.

The AWG reviewed the list of potential projects with estimated costs and discussed this option (PRC-247, Community centres repairs and upgrades, Cook St Village Centre accessible door refit for stretchers to fit \$32,000)

The application for Cook Street Village should consider more than just widening the doors, (e.g. signage, washroom access and functionality, way finding, hearing loop etc.) after an assessment to be carried out by the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Program pilot project outlined above.

Motion: It was moved by Steve Bertrand, seconded by Chris Marks, that the Accessibility Working Group give their support for a barrier buster application for the community centre repairs and upgrades at the Cook Street Village Centre.

Carried

Action: The Facilities Department, City of Victoria, will fill out the Barrier Buster application after the assessment of the facility has been carried out by Andre's team and AWG representatives.

Action: Chaz Whipp will also meet with the accessibility group from the Cook Street Village Community Centre to ensure everyone's concerns have been considered and that everyone involved is fully aware of the application.

- b) Pylon Signage - Update from Linda Bartram and Susan Gallagher - Re: their follow-up Conversation with Joaquin Karakas, Senior Urban Designer and Susan Mavors Consultant.

They discussed including audible eye beacons, the need for good colour contrast and size and location of the text on the beacons. Joaquin has examples and Susan Gallagher will be meeting with him to see if they meet the needs of persons with vision loss.

- c) Installation of Truncated Domes

At the December meeting Jacqueline Weston brought examples of the truncated domes and distributed a map showing six potential locations for installation of these domes in the pilot project. Jacqueline had emailed the truncated domes installation guidelines and the 2010 ADA Standard for Accessible Design Sections 406 and 705 to the AWG members to review.

In her email, Jacqueline had also asked about the following:

1. Comments on the draft standard drawing;
2. Preferences for colour and/or material; and
3. Beyond this pilot, thoughts on priority, where these will be installed.

The AWG discussed:

- The standard requires that there be a 70% contrast between the truncated dome panels and the surrounding surface.

- The pilot project is proposing testing black coloured panels at the designated downtown locations and yellow panels at the out of downtown locations.
- Pilot will install stainless steel buttons, which are screwed into the existing surface, at the NW and NE corners of Pandora & Douglas.
- Will these buttons and the black panels offer enough contrast, especially at night? Yellow may be best.
- yellow may also help distracted pedestrians, being a high contrast
- Location near the CNIB was added to the list of proposed locations.

Action: Jacqueline will circulate via email more information (eg, how contrast is determined, how do they test it).

d) Audible / Accessible Pedestrian Signals (list of locations that have been identified where signals are needed, PED signals)

The AWG feels that more than one audible pedestrian signal should be installed in the City of Victoria in 2017.

Jacqueline asked for this item to be moved to the next meeting.

Action: Jacqueline will circulate via email any list of locations where it has been identified that audible pedestrian signals should be installed.

e) Toronto and Accessibility – Robin Bayley

Robin Bayley provided a report to the AWG regarding Toronto Accessibility after her meeting with Nicole Cormier, Accessibility Coordinator at Toronto City Hall.

The AWG then discussed the following:

- Robin has contact names for our city staff to utilize.
- Toronto is a good place to look for direction for policy change
- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act was the catalyst
- There is a need for a high level statement of commitment from the City of Victoria. There is a formal statement from Toronto Council that states its “Commitment to Creating an Accessible City”

Action: The AWG will use the “City of Toronto Statement of Commitment of Creating an Accessible City” to develop a similar statement for Victoria.

f) Discussion on BC Transit Stops, Designated Pick up Zones

At the December meeting, it was discussed that it is difficult for some people with vision loss or mobility challenges to get into position to catch the bus or to know when their bus has arrived, when there is more than one bus pulling into the stop. Often the last bus in the row will pull out before the Person has reached the bus.

The AWG discussed the following:

- Sidewalk on the City Hall side of Douglas Street is extremely low and this makes it hard for persons in wheelchairs to get on and off buses safely.
- Curb too low at many of the bus stops, for example in front of the Bay Centre on Douglas Street. The sidewalk has a steep slope from a “gutter” up to the curb.
- There are issues that would be cleared up by leveling the sidewalk.
- Street furniture and trees are obstacles that have to be negotiated around when trying to get to the bus door.
- Toronto and Vancouver have designated zones for pickup.

Action: Jacqueline will discuss these concerns at a scheduled meeting with BC Transit and email the group with an update.

g) Pandora Bike Lane Project

Jacqueline gave an update regarding the Pandora bike lane project and a concern that has been raised regarding the bus stop on the 500 block. There is a site meeting with a concerned resident next week.

Action: It was agreed that Steve Bertrand will also attend this meeting on behalf of the AWG.

6) DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday, February 6, 2017

7) ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm