



MINUTES - ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 14, 2025, 4:02 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation.

Meeting conducted electronically via Zoom and in-person

PRESENT: S. Jennings (Chair), S. Hough (Vice Chair)

PRESENT

ELECTRONICALLY: L. Bartram, C. Marks, N. Moss, C. Paisley

ABSENT: P. Singh

STAFF: A. Galiev - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, S. Mackenzie – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, T. Knowles – Senior Planner, Social Policy, A. Heimburger – Senior Legislative Coordinator, S. Maichen – Legislative Coordinator

GUESTS: M. Moore – Lived Experience Consultant, R. Proulx – Licker Geospatial Consulting, C. Guy – Licker Geospatial Consulting

A. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

B. **Land Acknowledgement**

Committee member N. Moss acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees First Nation and Xwsepsum First Nation communities, and thanked them for allowing us to live, work and play on their lands.

C. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved By S. Hough

Seconded By L. Bartram

That item *F.1 Complete Communities* be considered first, and the agenda be approved and re-ordered accordingly.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F.1 Complete Communities

Committee received a presentation from Renee Proulx from Licker Geospatial Consulting, regarding the Complete Communities Project.

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Construction on sidewalks in residential areas creating obstacles*
2. *Policies and procedures around tactile warning surface indicators (TWSI's)*
3. *Potential recommendation of construction bylaws*
4. *Guidelines with placement of street signs*
5. *Potential of quantifying the frequency of ongoing construction and doing analysis and overlay with existing data sets*
6. *The lack of markings on slopes or dips*
7. *Village node evolution*

C Marks joined the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Faith based organizations and non-government organizations*
2. *Gathering information to inform the City and influence policy decisions*
3. *Looking at the completeness of the City from an accessibility lens*
4. *The Geospatial map being able to shed light on the gaps in accessibility in the City.*
5. *Conflict when aesthetics is chosen over accessibility*
6. *Potential section of report on recommendation*
7. *The need for people to follow bylaws the City has in place in regards to accessibility*
8. *Relationship between immigrants and a high redevelopment score*
9. *Relationship between choice and needs regarding housing types and options*
10. *Waiting lists for public housing and subsidies*
11. *Waiting lists for accessible housing and limited choices*

D. READING OF MINUTES

D.1 Minutes from the meeting held December 10, 2024

Moved By S. Hough

Seconded By S. Jennings

That the minutes from the meeting held December 10, 2024 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Welcome and Remarks from the Chair

The chair noted the opportunity for the Committee to recruit new members and urged existing members to look over the Terms of Reference to ensure their interest of continuing on the Committee.

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.2 Accessibility and the Unhoused

Committee Member N. Moss provided an overview of accessibility challenges and concerns experienced by the unhoused community in Victoria, highlighting the importance of applying a lens of equity to accessibility programs to maximize participation and promote inclusion, extending opportunities to a variety of demographics.

Committee discussed the following:

1. *The high poverty rate in Victoria*
2. *Potential statistics of the unhoused and interest in accessing data*

F.4 Community Roundtable

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Confirmed the attendance of R. Kenny, Assistant Director of Transportation, at the next meeting.*

G. Next Meeting Agenda & Date

The Chair noted that the next meeting was Tuesday, February 11, 2025, and brought attention to the wildfire emergency currently being experienced in Los Angeles, expressing her sympathy to those impacted by the disaster and reminding the Committee how quickly our lives can change outside of our control.

H. Adjournment

Committee, by unanimous consent, adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.