



**AGENDA – ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**May 13, 2025, 4:00 P.M.**

**ESQUIMALT NATION ROOM, CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE**

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

**Meeting conducted electronically via Zoom and in-person**

**PRESENT:** S. Jennings (Chair), S. Hough (Vice Chair), L. Bartram, P. Singh, C. Marks

**ABSENT:** N. Moss, C. Paisley

**STAFF:** A. Galiev - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, S. Mackenzie - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, M. Moore - Lived Experience Consultant, Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, S. Maichen - Legislative Coordinator, A. Moffatt - Legislative Coordinator

**GUESTS:** C. Brandy - Research Associate, Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, I. Christophe

**A. Call to Order**

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

**B. Land Acknowledgement**

The Vice Chair 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 and Seconded:

That the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**D. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**D.1 Minutes from the meeting held April 8, 2025**

Moved and Seconded:

That the minutes from the meeting held April 8, 2025 be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **E. Welcome and Remarks from the Chair**

The Chair introduced Isaiah Christophe, a guest observer to the Committee.

## **F. NEW BUSINESS**

### **F.1 Dementia Inclusive Practices - Carolyn Brandly**

*Committee discussed the following:*

1. *A funded research partnership through MITACS to support the development of dementia friendly guidelines in City's built environment.*
2. *Carolyn is a research associate with the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and a doctoral student at University of Victoria.*
3. *Context:*
  - *Gaps in research regarding the experiences of dementia patients*
  - *Prevalent attitudinal barriers including ageism and stigma around dementia*
  - *Local demographic trends – e.g. 1 out of 4 individuals over 65 in Victoria have dementia*
  - *The varied needs of early onset dementia patients compared to older individuals*
4. *Intersectional approach to the project:*
  - *Overlap between strategies employed by the blind community and dementia care*
  - *Connection to aging in place and Seniors Strategy and opportunities to expand*
5. *Governance:*
  - *Consulting with key City staff*
  - *Community-led Working Group will serve to collect resources for the City to build on community efforts*
  - *The AAC will serve in an advisory role and will be updated on the project progress mid-way through and close to completion*
6. *Practical solutions:*
  - *Solutions that the City can introduce to improve dementia inclusivity, examples being refuge spaces, improved lighting and general neighbourhood building*
  - *Making signage more accessible to people with dementia, with a focus on people with multiple languages*
  - *Deliverables could include digital storytelling and practical guidelines on dementia friendly spaces*
7. *Potential contact for Carolyn at the Rick Hansen Foundation Conference*

### **F.2 Chair and Vice Chair updates - Suzan Jennings and Sandra Hough**

*There were no updates.*

### **F.3 National AccessAbility Week**

*Committee discussed the following:*

1. *Planning for the National AccessAbility Week event in partnership with CNIB and AAC*
  - *Formatted as a roundtable panel focusing on lived experiences and decision making around accessibility.*
  - *Michael Moore, the City's lived experience consultant supporting the EDI Office and AAC, being a moderator.*
  - *Guest attendees for the panel include partner agencies who collaborate on various projects.*
  - *Timeline and scheduling for the event*
  - *Attendance of the AAC and others as audience members*
2. *Linda Bartram shared information about an online event for the Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians*
3. *Chair shared information about the Shoal Centre Lunch and Learn accessibility event that she has been invited to be a panelist at.*

#### **F.4 Taxi-Rideshare Focus Consultation**

*Committee discussed the following:*

1. *Provincial Government research on recommendations around the need to improve accessibility within the ride-hailing space*
2. *Consultation is a space to share experiences as people with lived experiences around accessibility*
3. *Supporting accessibility inputs into external projects as part of Collaboration and Partnership focus area of the Accessibility Framework: e.g. Victoria Airport Authority, Government of BC, BC Hydro.*

#### **F.5 Community roundtable**

*Committee discussed the following:*

1. *Finalizing Accessible and Adaptable Housing Guidelines that the Committee provided input into*
2. *Finalizing a Guide to the Accessible BC Act which will provide an updated content from the Accessibility Framework, accessibility terminology and has been developed with support from the Committee*
3. *Usage of technological solutions such as AI to support accessibility both within the organization and in the community*
4. *Successes around addressing residents' needs through the Accessibility Feedback Mechanism: e.g. addition of a curb-cut downtown to assist in accessibility to movie theatres for individuals with wheelchairs*
5. *The importance of accessible recreation and potential work in this area.*
6. *Follow-up on charging cord cover pilot consultation with the Engineering and Public Works department and possibility of a presentation to the Committee or a consultation in June or July*
7. *The Transportation team will be bringing forward bike-sharing topics for consultation in summer*
8. *Timeframe on recruitment for the Committee.*
  - *Recognition of Linda Bartram's contributions to the Committee as a committee member, community leader and advocate.*
  - *Recognition of embedding accessibility deeply into City processes due to a collaborative nature of work and supports from the City departments, in particular its EDI Office.*

H. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved and Seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**