



MINUTES – ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 12, 2026, 4:02 P.M.

XWSEPSUM 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. Hough (Vice Chair), T. Pokorny

PRESENT

ELECTRONICALLY: S. Jennings (Chair), D. Arafah, C. Marks, D. Monsour (*joined at 4:10 p.m.*), P. Singh

ABSENT: C. Paisley, N. Moss

STAFF: A. Galiev - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, M. Moore - Lived Experience Consultant, Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, M. Haden- Legislative Coordinator

GUESTS: Carolyn Brandly – Research Associate, Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and University of Victoria

A. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm.

B. **Land Acknowledgement**

The Vice Chair provided a land acknowledgement, recognizing that the Committee is privileged to live, work, and have a good time on the unceded lands of the Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations.

C. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved and Seconded:

That the agenda be approved.

Carried by unanimous consent.

D. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Moved and Seconded:

That the minutes from the meeting held April 14th, 2026, be approved.

Carried by unanimous consent.

E. Welcome and Remarks from the Chair

The Chair remarked that it is a privilege to be on the Committee and to be able to work as accessibility advocates, noting the beauty and accessibility of the place we live and how far accessibility efforts have come.

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1 Fostering Inclusion for People with Dementia: Project Update and Reflections – Carolyn Brandly

Carolyn Brandly provided a presentation on dementia inclusivity.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Appreciation for guiding the project*
- *Recognition of dementia as a disability*
- *Impact of dementia on individuals and caregivers*
- *Supports for people with dementia, including financial considerations*
- *Opportunities to expand on the findings and involve regional partners*
- *Discussing the story map available publicly highlighting research findings*

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

The updates from the Chair and Vice Chair were related to item F.3.

F.3 National AccessAbility Week 2026 event update

The Chair and Vice Chair provided updates on the Show & Share Accessibility Conversations event on Friday May 29th at 1:00- 3:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Agenda, event registration and partners' involvement*
- *CREAN's Zara Chaudhry being an event coordinator and planner*
- *Circulating the event information within members' own networks*
- *Focusing on building relations and showcasing a collective impact of community and City's AAC efforts on accessibility*
- *Poster presentations demonstrating successes around involving residents with lived experiences*
- *Invitations to Council members through the Chair*
- *Including a poster presentation on the topic of wheelchair use of bike lanes*

- *Highlighting intersectionality of accessibility through poster presentations and interconnectedness of partner efforts, such as*
 - *Accessibility in GVPL (informed by the AAC chair and EDI Office's Lived Experience Consultant)*
 - *Battery-operated evacuation chair in City facilities (procured through the SPARC grant)*
 - *Electric cord cover pilot (consulted the Public Works department)*
 - *Complete Communities Access and Accessibility Assessment (in partnership with Licker Geospatial)*
 - *Electric Wheelchair Charging Station set up at City Hall, Crystal Pool, Royal Athletic Park and Victoria Conference Centre (funded through the SPARC grant and guided by the AAC)*
 - *Dementia Inclusion in public spaces (led by a research associate in partnership with the University of Victoria under the MITACS funding program)*
 - *Garth Homer Society Travelling Mosaic (the AAC contributed to creating a public art demonstrating community efforts around accessibility)*
 - *CNIB (supporting the inclusion of guide dogs in City's public spaces and the AAC working with the Public Works department to install waste bins for dog waste disposal)*
- *Confirmed presenters: Greater Victoria Public Library, Garth Homer Society, Canadian Institute for the Blind, University of Victoria and others*

F.4 Community Roundtable

A committee member had an administrative question.

G. Next Meeting Agenda & Date – June 9, 2026

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and Seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY