



MINUTES – ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 14, 2026, 4:04 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)

PRESENT

ELECTRONICALLY: S. Jennings (Chair), N. Moss, D. Arafeh (*joined at 4:51 p.m.*), C. Marks, D. Monsour

ABSENT: C. Paisley, T. Pokorny, P. Singh

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

GUESTS: Adrian Benedek – Director, Program Innovation, Garth Homer Society, Eric Doherty - Climate Justice Victoria, Zara Chaudry – CREAN

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

B. Land Acknowledgement

A Committee member acknowledged that the members are joining from unceded Lekwungen lands, acknowledging the particular significance of the work of the Committee during Earth Week and in the context of international conflicts, encouraging members to take some time to reflect.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and Seconded:

The following items were added to the agenda:

- F.4 - Question regarding sidewalks in private developments
- F.5 - Earth Week Ride and Roll

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee, by unanimous consent, approved the agenda as amended.

D. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

D.1 Minutes from the meeting held on March 10, 2026

Moved and Seconded:

That the minutes from the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held March 10, 2026 be approved.

Carried by unanimous consent.

E. Welcome and Remarks from the Chair

The Chair acknowledged the privilege of the roles the Committee holds with the City and acknowledged a recent success with inputs from Committee members for BC Transit.

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1 Garth Homer Society & AAC National AccessAbility Week

Committee discussed the following:

- *The possibilities of an all-abilities forum to showcase the Committee's accomplishments around accessibility to community and Council in partnership with the AAC, CREAN, Garth Homer Society and other accessibility – focused service providers and community groups*
- *Creating a forum for conversations - ideally during the National AccessAbility Week*
- *Replicating successes with the Welcoming City conference in partnership with the Welcoming City Advisory Committee and CREAN's conference on AI and disability held recently*
- *The opportunities for technology to bridge the built environment and accessibility needs, e.g. GoodMaps, BlindSquare, AccessNow*
- *Specific topic suggestions and formats, including potentially a Show&Tell format*

D. Arafeh joined the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

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

The Vice Chair provided a recap of the Welcoming City Conference.

F.3 Community Roundtable

Members provided updates on their work on accessibility in the community.

F.4 Question regarding sidewalks in private developments

A member had a question about reporting an accessibility complaint related to a grocery store in Oak Bay.

F.5 Earth Week Ride and Roll

Seniors for Climate and Climate Justice Victoria are organizing a Ride and Roll in the bike lanes to promote their use. Members who use faster-than-walking devices are invited to attend.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Safety concerns surrounding bike lane use*
- *Helmet rules in bike lanes*

G. Next Meeting Agenda & Date – May 12, 2026

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and Seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY