



**Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes
November 9, 2021 via Zoom
(16:00 – 18:00)**

Attendees:

Chair – S. Jennings

Vice Chair – S. Hough

Members – C. Paisley, L. Bartram, P. Singh, N. Moss, C. Marks

Council Liaisons – B. Isitt, S. Potts

Mayor – L. Helps

Staff – A. Mas, A. Galiev (EDI Lead)

Guests – R. Bayley

Regrets – A. Love

1. Meeting Called to Order at 4:03pm

2. Approval of the Agenda

Additions, time permitting:

- Notice of motion re: wheelchair rodeo
- Short term action plan feedback

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of Minutes from October 12 Meeting

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Remarks from the Chair

S. Jennings acknowledged the diversity of committee members with unique experiences and expressed that she values everyone's input. She also stated that we are all in this together. S. Jennings also thanked B. Isitt for the amendment on mobility scooters in bike lanes to involve the AAC.



5. Business Arising

5a. Presentation from Mayor Helps

Mayor Helps provided a presentation, followed by a Q & A. Topics discussed include:

- Power wheelchairs and scooters in bike lanes – Clarification that use of bike lanes is not required for those using power wheelchairs and scooters, and that power wheelchairs and scooters will continue to be permitted on sidewalks. Amendment to motion for Council to work with AAC on implementing use of power wheelchairs and scooters. C. Paisley raised the importance of dignity of risk, and allowing people with disabilities to have agency over decision-making.
- Accessibility for restaurants – Role for City to connect businesses to Rick Hansen Foundation to provide federal funding to improve accessibility for businesses.
- Accessibility Reserve Fund – Every year the City puts \$250,000 into a fund, which now has over \$1,000,000. Accessibility improvements are made as part of project planning and funding is drawn from general building and infrastructure reserve, rather than from accessibility reserve. Interest in exploring potential to partner with DVBA to use reserve fund to partner with arts organizations to make their spaces more accessible.
- Accessible budget process – Recommendation to Council with specific budget improvements to make the process more accessible. Initial recommendation to make the document easy to search when using a screen reader.
- Accessible units – Consider pairing subsidies for individuals with disabilities with increase in supply of accessible units to expedite getting people into housing.

5b. Honoraria for People with Lived Experience of Disability



This item should be brought to the current governance review for discussion to determine what kind of mechanism can be used for compensation. Councillor Potts and Mayor Helps will be advocating for including compensation in the governance review. Once Councillor Potts has next steps on the governance review, she will come back to the Committee. In the meanwhile, she welcomes comments and input from the Committee on this topic.

Councillor Potts also expressed interest in working on advocating for a rent subsidy program to the Province and making the budget process more accessible.

5c. Requests from staff for AAC Input

Missing Middle Housing

- Focus on universal design over accessible design as more units could be made accessible with this approach
- Look beyond accessible units for people with disabilities, it's also important to make neighbour's homes accessible – e.g., ground floor, door width, accessible bathrooms
- Consider affordability for missing middle housing
- Surveys - Frustration around registering to complete surveys, as this creates an additional barrier. Request for more notice for surveys so they have time to spread it to the community

ACTION ITEM – A. Mas to follow up with engagement (re: survey accessibility) and Planning staff (for in depth conversation about missing middle housing)

Single Use Items

- Document speaks about exemptions with requests (e.g., straws by request), what is the difference between by request exemptions and by request restrictions?
- Plastic bags should also be available by request for people with disabilities, which was also requested several years ago in engagement.
- Concerns about the “by request” exemption becoming a barrier.



- Glad to see that they're exploring financial barriers for people who are low income, curious to see how they'll approach this equitably.

Downtown Core Area Plan

- Document was very difficult to navigate, not accessible
- The memo did not include any information about accessibility, which raised concerns about accessibility in the document. In the future it would be helpful to highlight specific information relevant to accessibility in memos to the AAC.
- Specific design input
 - Create more visible contrast between edge of stairs and ramps, particularly at Victoria Conference Centre
 - Ramp at Synagogue on Johnson Street – challenging to access from main entrance

5d. Hosting an Accessibility Learning Event In lieu of Committee Meeting in December

Follow up on proposal to host an event (e.g., town hall or lunch and learn) in lieu of an Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting in December to bring community together and share information around accessibility. Discussion of proposed options:

1. Proceed pending confirmation of committee members having time and capacity to plan and promote the event.
 - No capacity right now for this, interest in doing something in the spring
2. Not proceed and have a regular meeting in December
 - Approved unanimously, interest in meeting in person. Vaccination needs to be confirmed for those attending. Request that those who cannot make it in person join over Zoom.

ACTION ITEM - A. Mas to follow up on availability of room (e.g., Council Chambers, Esquimalt Room) and funds for an in-person hybrid meeting on December 14th.



5e. Accessibility in Bike Lanes

Concerns raised about perceived safety risks on behalf of some people with disabilities preventing all those who use scooters and power wheelchairs from being able to use bike lanes. C. Paisley raised that dignity of risk is important for people with disabilities to have agency to make their own decisions about their safety.

Ultimately, bike lanes should be inclusive of people with disabilities, without requiring that all power wheelchair and scooter users must use them. S. Jennings identified concerns about the AAC not being consulted in this process. C. Paisley suggested making a motion to Council to ensure AAC involvement in decisions around accessibility in bike lanes.

MOTION - AAC supports the motion put forward by Council to pursue the inclusion of power wheelchairs and mobility scooters in bike lanes. In order to ensure dignity of risk of people with disabilities, it is essential that Council work collaboratively with the AAC on accessibility in bike lanes.

Moved by N. Moss

Seconded by P. Singh

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5f. Update on Accessibility Training

A. Mas provided an update on accessibility training and interest in coordinating a follow up session for staff that attended the training and the AAC. Members requested to see the training outline.

ACTION ITEM – A. Mas to send the training outline to Committee members.

6. New Business



6a. Review Accessibility Log

Tabled to December 14 meeting.

7. Next Meeting Agenda & Date – December 14

- Missing Middle Housing
- Review Accessibility Log
- Walk N Roll Rodeo
- Short Term Action Plan Feedback

8. Adjourned – 5:58pm