



MINUTES – ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 14, 2022, 4:10 P.M.

CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People
Meeting conducted electronically via Zoom

PRESENT: S. Jennings (Chair), S. Hough, L. Bartram, C. Marks, N. Moss, C. Paisley,
J. Scott, P. Singh

STAFF PRESENT: A. Galiev – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, B. Roder – Committee
Secretary

A. Call to Order

L. Bartram assumed the roll as Chair and called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

B. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee acknowledged the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations communities, and thanked them for allowing us to live, work and play on their lands.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By J. Scott

Seconded By S. Hough

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. NEW BUSINESS

C. Marks joined the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

C. Paisley joined the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

F.1 **Accessible British Columbia Act review presentation (Urban Matters)**

Committee received a presentation from I. Matous-Gibbs and A. Rodgers, Consultants with Urban Matters, regarding a review of the City's Accessibility Framework as it complies with the Accessible British Columbia Act.

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Consultant will coordinate consultation with grassroots organizations working within the City on the topics of Accessible BC Act, current and future accessibility approaches*
2. *Suggested inclusion of CNIB, Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre, Spinal Cord Injury BC, Learning Disabilities Association of BC, AIDS Vancouver Island, Brain Injury Society, University of Victoria Students Society, Camosun College Centre for Accessible Learning, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society, Community Living BC, Victoria Cool Aid Society, and other accessibility, autism and mental health organizations as external stakeholders*
3. *Agreed that overall the City's current Accessibility Framework is in line with the Accessible BC Act with minor improvements proposed on language and definitions, committee membership and feedback mechanisms.*
4. *The consultant will coordinate internal engagement on compliance with the Accessible BC Act as well as current and future accessibility planning approaches.*
5. *Staff training on "Exploring Universal Design" took place in 2021. Could explore future iterations of accessibility training including the members of the AAC.*
6. *Noted the importance of improving accessibility for persons with various types of disability*
7. *Committee is in a position to celebrate the successes of the current work and continue to advise and encourage the City, and work in a collaborative effort*
8. *Committee's next steps in this project include optional participation in engagement session and they will receive a follow-up from the consultants*
9. *Staff will liaise with the consultants and can forward Committee feedback*

D. READING OF MINUTES

D.1 Minutes from the meeting held February 22, 2023

Moved By J. Scott

Seconded By S. Jennings

That the minutes from the meeting held February 22, 2023 to be adopted with the following revisions:

F.2 Floating Bus Stops

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Human rights complaint regarding the floating bus stops launched against the City by the Canadian Federation of the Blind (CFB) regarding unsafe bus stops*
2. *Noted concerns with approximately five floating bus stops on both Pandora and Wharf that require pedestrians to cross bike lanes to access the bus stops*
3. *Concerned for safety of citizens, particularly for the blind community*
4. *Complaint was based on discrimination towards blind people and the Human Rights decision concluded that the blind had been discriminated against.*
5. *The decision of the Human Rights Tribunal also unfortunately implied that the installation of a flashing amber light was a satisfactory*

mitigation despite the fact that this solution has not been found to be effective and the blind community spoke against it.

6. *Based on the Human Rights decision, the City installed, at the floating bus stops, a flashing amber light and a button that, when pressed, states "Yellow lights flashing. Cross with caution. Vehicles may not stop"*
7. *Concerned as the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has now used the Human Rights decision to make recommendations in the Active Transportation Design Guide and that other communities are potentially planning to or installing inaccessible floating bus stops.*
8. *The CNIB Foundation and Translink are conducting two separate studies to review floating bus stops to assess safety and accessibility concerns. They are keeping each other informed. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is participating in the TransLink discussions. An AAC member has also attended a stakeholder meeting. AAC members have provided feedback through the Translink stakeholder survey, Design Guide for Inclusive Bus Stops Next to Bike Lanes, forwarded by the City's Manager of Sustainable Transportation Planning and Development.*
9. *Stressed that the City needs to come up with an alternative solution to address the safety concerns which still exist with the floating bus stops*
10. *Recounted instances where Committee members or members of the public have had issues navigating floating bus stops with mobility devices*
11. *Requested that staff or the Committee brings this back to a future meeting for further discussion once the CNIB and TransLink studies have concluded.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.2 Action Log Update

Committee discussed the meeting to be held in May 2023, which includes a discussion on developing a formal Accessibility Accommodation Request Process for members of the public seeking support to access City Services and programs and the attendance of the City Clerk.

F.3 Committee Update Roundtable

Committee discussed the fieldtrip planned in May 2023:

1. *Committee proposed touring the City in an accessible van, focusing the fieldtrip on concerns with tactile walking surface indicators and curb cuts*
2. *Members are asked to send a list of specific locations to staff for assessment*
3. *A Saturday afternoon was suggested, and could line up with Accessibility Awareness Week*
4. *Transportation and Public Works staff are encouraged to attend*
5. *Suggested locations could include Clover Point, accessible parking spots, a corner curb at Cook Street, a power bar on Douglas Street in front of the Times*

Colonist, the modular washrooms on Douglas and Broughton, floating bus stops, pleating sidewalks in the downtown core

6. *Members who are unable to attend in person could connect through one member's phone*
7. *Discussed allowing businesses to comply with the newly adopted Patio Regulation Bylaw and proposed a future fieldtrip to visit patios*
8. *4 years ago, City staff were going to walk every sidewalk in the City to note the uneven sidewalks and curb cuts. Committee inquired with staff as to whether there was a summary report and staff will follow-up*
9. *Committee would like to discuss approaches to wraparound curbs in the City and potentially visit*
10. *Committee inquired on whether scorelines are still being used*
11. *A corner at McKenzie and Quadra was provided as a good example for tactile walking surface indicators*

G. Next Meeting Agenda & Date – April 11, 2023

The Committee deliberated on the start time and duration of their meetings, and decided that the next meeting will be held on April 11, 2023 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By L. Bartram
Seconded by unanimous consent

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY