



MINUTES – ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 13, 2023, 4:11 P.M.

CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE

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

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

ABSENT: J. Scott, N. Moss

STAFF PRESENT: A. Galiev – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, S. Mackenzie – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, T. Piwowar – Manager of Facility Development, S. Verjinschi – Assistant Director - Facilities Management, B. Fawdrey – Senior Planner, S. Stoltz – Committee Secretary

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

B. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee acknowledged that 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 S. Jennings
Seconded By S. Hough

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. READING OF MINUTES

D.1 Minutes from the meeting held May 9, 2023

Moved By L. Bartram
Seconded By S. Hough

That the minutes from the meeting held May 9, 2023 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1 Accessible Washrooms presentation (Construction and Facilities Management)

Committee received a presentation from Bert Fawdrey, Senior Planner, regarding Accessible Washrooms in the City and new projects and improvements that are underway, including a multi-year program to renew all 18 park washrooms to upgrade accessibility features.

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Sidewalk washrooms in the City and specific features of the washroom design*
2. *Accessibility features in washrooms, including the following:*
 - a. *Adequate door width*
 - b. *Five-foot turning radius*
 - c. *Toilet location, height, and backrest*
 - d. *Required grab bars*
 - e. *Contrasting colours for contact points*
 - f. *High-contrast signage with braille*
 - g. *An additional handle on the inside of the door*
 - h. *More vibrant colours on the exterior of the structure*
 - i. *Contact information for maintenance to be included*
3. *The washroom design will not address the accessibility need for access to water inside the washroom or the challenge of the need for a sideways approach to the water access on the outside for some wheelchair users. The committee requested that these design shortcomings be passed on by the City to the manufacturer and that future acquisitions of sidewalk washrooms address these accessibility needs.*
4. *Changes to accessible public washrooms in parks based on prior feedback*

F.2 Chair's Updates:

F.2.a. Accessibility events in the region and nationally

Committee watched a video regarding accessible spots and features in and around the City of Victoria from Tourism Vancouver Island. The Chair delivered an update on recent accessibility events in the region and across Canada, as well as national policies and projects regarding accessibility that are currently underway.

F.2.b. Accolades on the accessibility field trip

The Chair and Committee expressed appreciation for the EDI staff's efforts for the AAC field trip, and gratitude for the continuously developing relationships between the Committee and various City departments.

F.2.c. Pride Parade

Committee discussed plans for the City of Victoria's Pride Parade on July 9th, including the possibility of having an AAC banner or other materials for the parade.

F.3. Committee Roundtable

Committee discussed the following:

- 1. The process for delivering feedback to the City regarding public spaces*
- 2. Proposed accessibility features for Centennial Square upgrade including
 - concerns raised by the former accessibility committee regarding safe access to the Douglas sidewalk adjacent to Centennial Square for those in wheelchairs using the bus ramp (the angle was very steep). This may have been addressed by the introduction of new kneeling buses*
 - the potential for the Committee to receive a presentation from staff in the future**
- 3. Infrastructure changes that could promote accessibility within the City*
- 4. Action log and upcoming presentations for the Committee from staff, including presentations from the Legislative Services and Transportation departments*
- 5. Sidewalk sign (sandwich boards) placement from an accessibility perspective; ensuring that portable signs are licensed and not creating a barrier or hazard for pedestrians with disabilities maneuvering along the sidewalk*
- 6. The Connecting with the summer program 'Feet on the Street' regarding accessibility*
- 7. Potential ideas for an educational program or policy regarding businesses storing items in public washrooms impeding accessibility*

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

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By L. Bartram

Seconded By S. Hough

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY