



**MINUTES - ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**March 11, 2025, 4:02 P.M.**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE**

**The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation.**

**Meeting conducted electronically via Zoom**

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

**ABSENT:** C. Marks, N. Moss

**STAFF:** A. Galiev - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, S. Mackenzie – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, T. Knowles – Senior Planner of Social Policy, M. Moore – Lived Experience Consultant, Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, S. Maichen – Legislative Coordinator

**A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

**B. Land Acknowledgement**

The Vice Chair acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees First Nation and Xwsepsum First Nation communities, and thanked them for allowing us to live, work and play on their lands.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved and Seconded:

That the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**D. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**D.1 Minutes from the meeting held February 11, 2025**

Moved and Seconded:

That minutes from the meeting held February 11, 2025 be approved.

## **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **F. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **F.1 Social Infrastructure Strategy – Tanyss Knowles**

Committee received a presentation from Senior Policy Planner T. Knowles regarding community infrastructure and social infrastructure policy as Victoria grows and urbanizes.

*Committee member P. Singh joined the meeting at 4:15 p.m.*

*Committee discussed the following:*

- 1. Alignment and implications with existing projects and initiatives:
  - a. Complete Communities accessibility assessment initiative and its connection to the Social Infrastructure Strategy*
  - b. Draft Official Community Plan implications*
  - c. Community infrastructure as pop-up events needing measures to ensure accessibility*
  - d. A need for an accessibility guideline for events ran by the City’s Arts and Culture and Economic Development teams**
- 2. External and business-related considerations:
  - a. Accessibility considerations around City procurement (needing to meet accessibility requirements)*
  - b. Jurisdiction the City has over local business accessibility issues*
  - c. Accessible Canada Act (ACA) which makes government businesses accountable for accessibility within organizations under the federal jurisdiction**
- 3. Next steps to work on a community infrastructure strategy embedding accessibility for the Official Community Plan*
- 4. Strategy for meaningful access, particularly regarding transportation*

#### **F.2 National AccessAbility Week brainstorming**

Committee members S. Jennings and L. Bartram led a conversation on National Accessibility Week, and shared plans to have the community engage annually with the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

*Committee discussed the following:*

- 1. Capacity considerations for a big event*
- 2. Considering an event as a learning session/exposé*
- 3. Deliberation of a tradeshow style side for the event where the Committee can extend out into the community and invite potential partners
  - a. Communicating with accessibility related organizations and invite them to set up a display at the event*
  - b. Elected officials participation**

### **F.3 Member Spotlight discussion**

*Committee discussed the following:*

1. *Idea of monthly member highlights where Committee members discuss what they do outside of the committee*
2. *Utilization of the Accessibility Advisory Committee's webpage on the City of Victoria website*
  - a. *Locating a website that can be linked on the Accessibility Advisory Webpage that can be used as a resource centre for FAQs*

### **F.4 CNIB Voices for Action**

Committee members M. Moore and L. Bartram spoke on the Canadian National Institute for the Blind's (CNIB) *Voices for Action Advocacy Program* for connecting persons who are blind, deafblind or low vision with legal resources and legal grants.

*Committee discussed the following:*

1. *The importance of advocacy*
2. *The essential resources provided by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind*

### **F.3 Chair and Vice Chair Updates (Suzan Jennings and Sandra Hough)**

The Vice Chair shared plans for hosting the 2025 Welcoming City Conference on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at Victoria City Hall. The Coastal Research, Education, and Advocacy Network (CREAN), with support from the Vice Chair and Lived Experience Consultant M. Moore, is hosting a conference dedicated to the topics of accessibility and intersectionality on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Victoria City Hall.

### **F.4 Community Roundtable**

*Committee discussed the following:*

1. *Plans for attending the National Accessibility Conference put on by the Rick Hansen Foundation*
2. *BlindSquare, KultureCity, and GoodMaps ready to launch for National AccessAbility Week*
3. *Start of pilot project for electrical charge cord covers*
4. *Accessibility considerations around the City's website and what can be done to make it more accessible*

## **H. ADJOURNMENT**

*Committee, by unanimous consent, adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.*