



MINUTES– ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 9, 2024, 4:01 P.M.

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 (Vice Chair), L. Bartram, J. Scott,
N. Moss, C. Paisley, P Singh

ABSENT: C. Marks

STAFF: A. Galiev - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, S. Mackenzie – Equity,
Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, E. Ebarb - Active Transportation Project
Coordinator, S. Maichen – Legislative Coordinator

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

B. Land Acknowledgement

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By L. Bartram
Seconded By J. Scott

Committee reordered the agenda to receive **F.1 - Accessible Parking Mapping Update (Transportation)** and **F.3 - Oak Bay Juncture field trip update (Linda Bartram and others)** as the first item of business and that the remainder of the agenda be reordered accordingly.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1 **Accessible Parking Mapping Update (Transportation)**

Committee received a presentation from Eric Ebarb- Active Transportation Project Coordinator regarding an update on the City's Accessible Parking Mapping and answered questions for the group.

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Accessible parking stall numbers in downtown Victoria*

2. *Integrating accessible parking stalls and accessibility features into digital maps on the City webpage*
3. *Creating a list of parking stalls with accessibility features separate of the digital map*
4. *Having a parking map dashboard with real -time information on available general and accessible parking*
5. *City of Victoria's parking app to include accessible parking availability tools*
6. *Working with the EDI Office to refine access to maps and include any additional information*

F.3 Oak Bay Junction field trip update (Linda Bartram, Eric Ebarb and others)

Committee discussed the following:

1. *City staff appreciating the feedback received from the AAC members*
2. *Resulting in suggestions and solutions that will be implemented promptly*
3. *Desire to continue engaging with each other*

D. READING OF MINUTES

D.1 Minutes from the meeting held December 12, 2023

Moved By Sandra Hough
Seconded By Jeremy Scott

That the minutes from the meeting held December 12, 2023 be approved

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.4 City of Victoria and EDI Office Updates

F.4.1 UBCM's Complete Communities Program application

EDI lead spoke on the Complete Communities Grant Program to evaluate completeness of the City of Victoria's communities (housing, transportation, daily needs and infrastructure) through the lens of access, inclusion and accessibility and the upcoming grant proposal that the EDI office will be bringing to Council for endorsement (Jan 12). The grant will further support evidence-based decision making.

F.4.2 BlindSquare technology – CNIB/Trans Canada Trail

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Coordinator spoke about BlindSquare, an app that assists with navigation, and the thoughts the blind community has on the app before the City moves forward with integration on City-owned spaces, including partnering with Trans Canada Trail through Transportation Department on installing technology on the Victoria leg of the trail.

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Comprehensive testing of the application by Michael Moore, a lived experience consultant with the Social Planning and Research Council accessibility grant initiative.*
2. *Expanding on technology and exploring indoor application of similar technology for wayfinding and signage*
3. *The importance of the app being free as to be accessible for all*
4. *Exploring connections with community partners including Neil Squire Society, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Spinal Cord Injury, Rick Hansen Foundation*

F.4.3 Accessibility assessment engagement monthly (City Hall, Victoria Conference Centre, Crystal Garden, Neighbour Space)

S. Mackenzie – Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Coordinator, spoke about the EDI office’s plan to have a monthly field trip visiting each City - owned sites to inspect for accessibility and sort through the needs of each space.

1. Presenting a schedule for monthly field trips starting with the City Hall
2. Valuable opportunities to impact accessibility in major city facilities
3. Every 4th week of Tuesday (TBD)
4. Will be exploring individual opportunities for those unable to come

F.4.4 2024 workplan approach

The Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Lead provided the Committee with a draft document on a workplan for 2024 based off of the 2023 Action Log and upcoming Accessibility Strategy approaches

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Focus on cross-departmental advancement based on the 2024 accessibility themes (built environment, transportation, emergency management, adaptable housing, recreational programming, parks and open space, arts and culture, digital access and others)*
2. *Directly involved through the EDI Office on 2024 Accessibility projects including soft accessibility improvements in four sites, Complete Communities Initiative.*
3. *Monitor and contribute to the 2024 Accessibility-connected Capital Projects (City -wide) where appropriate*
4. *Encouraged hearing City efforts on corporate capacity development (Accessibility Municipal Cohort Accelerator/RHFAC) and the development of internal universal design guidelines*
5. *In addition to the 2024 accessibility themes, the 2023 Action log actions to be considered in 2024, including*
 - a. *Approaches to scent reduction*
 - b. *Pet considerations in city facilities*
 - c. *off-leash dog area status updates*
 - d. *Protected bike lanes and floating bus stops to be added to the document*
 - e. *Developing standards for accessible public washrooms*
6. *Discussing meeting times for the Committee*

G. Next Meeting Agenda & Date – February 13, 2024

H. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved By L Bartram
Seconded, by unanimous consent.

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY