



MINUTES - ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 9, 2024, 4:03 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 and in-person

- PRESENT: S. Jennings (Chair), S. Hough (Vice Chair), L. Bartram, C. Paisley, P. Singh, C. Marks, N. Moss
- ABSENT: J. Scott
- STAFF: A. Galiev - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, S. Mackenzie – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, Y. Funahashi – IMPACT Associate, A. Heimburger– Legislative Coordinator
- GUEST: K. Cooper - Community Planner, T. Knowles - Senior Planner, Social Policy, S. Young - Climate & Environmental Sustainability Specialist, M. Moore - Lived Experience Consultant

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

The Chair extended a welcome to committee members and presenters

B. Land Acknowledgement

The 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

Committee, by unanimous consent, approved the agenda.

D. READING OF MINUTES

D.1 Minutes from the meeting held June 11, 2024

Moved By L. Bartram

Seconded By S. Hough

That the minutes from the meeting held June 11, 2024 be approved with the following addition to agenda item F.5 *Community Roundtable*

F.5 Community Roundtable

Committee discussed the following:

8. *Request to the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office to provide an update on the City of Victoria's Governance Review.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Welcome Remarks from the Chair

There were no welcome remarks from the Chair.

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1 Official Community Plan Update Consultation (Sustainable Development and Community Planning)

Committee received a presentation from the Community Planner and Senior Planner, Social Policy regarding the City of Victoria's Official Community Plan (OCP) Update project.

N. Moss joined the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

S. Hough joined the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Improving availability of affordable housing*
 1. *Ongoing advocacy for new BC Housing and affordable housing projects*
 2. *Expediting affordable development process*
2. *Ecological impacts of development and densification to existing ecosystems*
 1. *Opportunities to create and preserve greenspace through creation of common 'green' areas*
3. *Impacts of new development on affordability and gentrification of neighbourhoods*
4. *Addressing accessibility concerns in 2-3 storey buildings*
 1. *Adaptable unit requirements for new developments in BC Building Code - effective March 2025*
5. *Previous consultation with the Accessibility Advisory Committee during creation of the 'Missing Middle Housing Strategy'*
 1. *Desire for input from relevant engagement to be considered by staff during OCP Update project*

F.2 EV Cord Bylaw Consultation (Engineering and Public Works)

Committee received a presentation from the Climate & Environmental Sustainability Specialist regarding the availability of electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure across the City and accessibility considerations in City initiatives to improve the availability of public infrastructure.

Committee discussed:

1. *Slope and other considerations*
 1. *Overall, lower grade slopes are preferred*
 2. *5-8% slope recommended by Rick Hansen Foundation requirements*
 3. *Where addresses are adjacent to steep slopes of 8% or more, licenses would not be available*
 4. *Impact of reduced slope requirements on the number of dwelling units eligible for pilot project participation*
 5. *Cord covers are to cross the sidewalk perpendicularly*
 6. *The cords and covers are only to be in place when a vehicle is charging*
 7. *Hazards and barriers created through exposed EV cords across sidewalks*
2. *Time of day restriction for use of EV cords*
 1. *General preference for EV cord use in the evening*
 2. *Barriers to people with disabilities by restricting nighttime access to sidewalks*
 3. *A time-of-day restriction is desirable, no time period was offered, but overnight was discussed. Trickle charging typically requires at least 12 hours for a reasonable charge*
3. *Pilot project as an opportunity for holistic engagement from the broader community*
 1. *A one-year term that would apply across the City*
 2. *Licenses would be issued during that year would be valid for a year*
 3. *Option to end EV cord program if pilot project deemed unsuccessful*
 4. *Metrics would be tracked to monitor the success of the program.*
 5. *The AAC would be consulted on the progress of the pilot.*
4. *Process of beginning pilot project*
 1. *Council direction to commence*
 2. *12-month period for pilot project*
 3. *Staff report back to Council*
5. *Balancing of the City's responsibility to assist residents with EVs alongside duty to support the accessibility community*
6. *Licensing of EV cords and enforcement of compliance with licensing requirements in accordance with Streets & Traffic Bylaw No. 09-079*

Moved By: L. Bartram

Seconded By: S. Jennings

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) endorses the EV Cord Pilot Project, conditional to adherence with criteria that the AAC has outlined:

1. Specific time of day restrictions for use (for predictability);
2. Yellow cord cover colour;
3. 8% maximum slope;
4. 20 mm maximum cord cover height;
5. Use of rubber material for cord cover

FOR (6): S. Hough, S. Jennings, C. Marks, N. Moss, P. Singh, L. Bartram
OPPOSED (1): C. Paisley
CARRIED (6 to 1)

C. Paisley left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

F.3 Chair and Vice Chair updates (Suzan Jennings and Sandra Hough) at 5:15pm

The Chair asked committee members to share reasons they joined the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC).

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Desire to advocate for change following onset of disability*
2. *Sense of duty to assist the newly formed AAC following previous work on the Accessibility Working Group*
3. *Desire to see representation from blind community*
4. *Desire to share experiences following paralysis and assist others in navigating barriers and challenges*
5. *Interest in learning from others' experiences in the accessibility community to be informed to evoke change through effective advocacy*
6. *Participation as a means to support the human right for access and inclusivity within everyone's daily lives*
7. *Realization of everyday challenges following spinal injury and interest in advocating for accessibility rights*

F.4 Community Roundtable

Committee discussed the following:

1. *BlindSquare update*
 1. *Primary messaging almost completed*
 2. *Invitation for AAC members to consider any questions or feedback regarding BlindSquare for the September 10th meeting.*

C. Marks left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Committee discussed the following:

2. *City of Victoria Governance Review update – relayed internally.*

H. Adjournment

Committee, by unanimous consent, adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.