



## MINUTES – ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 12, 2024, 4:04 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, N. Moss, P. Singh, C. Marks (joined at 4:35 p.m.)

ABSENT: J. Scott, C. Paisley

STAFF: A. Galiev - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, S. MacKenzie - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, C. MacDonald - Inclusion Coordinator, A. Heimburger - Legislative Coordinator

### A. Call to Order

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

### B. Land Acknowledgement

Committee member N. Moss 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** S. Jennings

That the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### D. READING OF MINUTES

#### D.1 **Minutes from the meeting held February 13, 2024**

**Moved By** L. Bartram

**Seconded By** N. Moss

That the minutes from the meeting held February 13, 2024 be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**E. Welcome Remarks from the Chair**

The Vice Chair expressed gratitude for the dedication and passion of each committee member and thanked everyone for attending.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

**F.1 Presentation by the Recreation Services Department**

Committee received a verbal presentation from the Inclusion Coordinator and were provided an overview of the Recreation Department's services and programs.

*Committee discussed the following:*

1. *Overview of the Recreation Services department's role in addressing accessibility:*
  - a. *Website and search tool improvements*
  - b. *Addition of wheelchair accessible electric bus to fleet for Road Trips and Rambles program*
  - c. *Addition of an Inclusion Coordinator staff position*
2. *Leisure Involvement for Everyone (LIFE) subsidy program*
  - a. *Term of the LIFE pass*
  - b. *Accessibility of program registration and increasing awareness of program to potential participants*
  - c. *Evaluation of the LIFE program's access and impact*
3. *Crystal Pool Accessibility*
  - a. *Upcoming accessibility assessment of facility by the Rick Hansen Foundation and involvement of the AAC*
  - b. *EDI and Recreational Services to coordinate AAC accessibility assessment of the facility*
4. *Goals of City's recreation programming*
  - a. *Regional approach to recreation programming – working with municipalities to fill service gaps*
  - b. *Commitment to programming based on input from the community, including those with lived experience of disability*

**F.2 Chair updates (Vice-Chair)**

The Vice-Chair provided a summary of the Welcoming City Conference in February.

*Highlights included:*

1. *Success of an Advisory Committee-led conference*
2. *Partnering school inclusion workers with translators to improve accessibility for new immigrants and refugees*
3. *Understanding intersectionality of immigrant experiences, including around accessibility*

**F.3 Accessibility Assessments**

### **F.3.1. Victoria Conference Centre accessibility assessment – recap (Vice-Chair and others)**

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator provided an update regarding the accessibility assessment of the Victoria Conference Centre in February.

### **F.3.2. Royal Athletic Park (RAP) accessibility assessment**

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator provided an update on the Royal Athletic Park (RAP) accessibility assessment.

*Committee discussed the following:*

- 1. March 26 – field trip to RAP for assessment using the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) scoring system*
- 2. Will be joined by City staff from Recreation Services*
- 3. Ability for members who missed previous assessments to schedule a one-on-one tour with the EDI Office*

### **F.4 Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) Accessibility Assessment update**

The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Lead provided an update on the RHF grant program.

*Committee discussed the following:*

- 1. Potential for a RHF representative to present findings to the committee*
- 2. Next steps to include analysis of recommendations and roll-out of cost-effective solutions (e.g. wayfinding signage)*
- 3. RHF accessibility assessment of Crystal Pool to be completed in addition to the grant program*

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator provided an update on BlindSquare and shared information about GoodMaps, a personalized navigation application.

*Committee discussed the following:*

- 1. Ability of the GoodMaps application to improve access to facilities through digital mapping*
- 2. Ability of applications to address a range of accessibility needs, including neurodivergence*

### **F.5 Accessibility Feedback Mechanism (AFM) requests**

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator provided an update on the City's Accessibility Feedback Mechanism (AFM).

*Committee discussed the following:*

- 1. Success of AFM in providing opportunities for staff-community member discussions to address accessibility concerns.*
- 2. Intake process that involves 1-1 supports on accommodations where*

- possible*
3. *Desire to see provincial legislation to include requirements for local government action on accessibility problems revealed through accessibility feedback mechanism.*

#### **F.6 Community roundtable**

*Committee discussed the following:*

1. *AAC plans for Accessibility Awareness Week*
  - a. *EDI and AAC to explore options and opportunities (training)*
2. *Tools to keep informed of the City's upcoming transportation projects to provide feedback*
  - a. *Parks & Recreation webpage on City of Victoria website*  
<https://www.victoria.ca/parks-recreation/major-projects>
  - b. *City's Global Information System (GIS) mapping tool "VicMap"*  
<https://maps.victoria.ca/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=VicMap>

#### **G. Next Meeting Agenda & Date – April 9, 2024**

#### **H. Adjournment**

*The Committee, by unanimous consent, adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.*