



MINUTES - ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 10, 2024, 4:06 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

ELECTRONICALLY: S. Hough (Vice Chair), L. Bartram, C. Paisley, P. Singh, C. Marks

ABSENT: N. Moss, S. Jennings (Chair)

STAFF: A. Galiev - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, S. Mackenzie – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, Y. Funahashi – IMPACT Associate, A. Heimburger– Legislative Coordinator

GUESTS: D. Clarke - Emergency Management Community Liaison, M. Moore – Lived Experience Consultant, B. Dodd - Canadian National Institute for the Blind

As neither the Chair nor Vice Chair were present but a quorum for a meeting was met, the Committee, by unanimous consent, designated L. Bartram as acting Chair.

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m.

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 July 9, 2024

Moved By L. Bartram

Seconded By C. Marks

That the minutes from the meeting held June 11, 2024 be approved with the following revisions to agenda items *F.2 EV Cord Bylaw Consultation (Engineering and Public*

Works), and F.3 Chair and Vice Chair updates (Suzan Jennings and Sandra Hough) at 5:15 p.m.

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

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)

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

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Welcome Remarks from the Chair

The acting Chair welcomed Committee members and extended her wish that members enjoyed the summer.

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1 Emergency Preparedness (Emergency Management)

Committee received a presentation from the Emergency Management Community Liaison regarding the Emergency Management Program and soliciting advice from committee members regarding strategies to engage a greater diversity of residents.

Committee discussed the following:

1. *Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) able to post content to their website*
2. *Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians emergency preparedness seminar resources available on AEBC website*

3. *Considerations and limitations under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act preventing City staff from compiling residents' accessibility needs*
4. *Organizations with potential to connect City staff with Victoria residents with disabilities:*
 1. *Rick Hansen Foundation*
 2. *Action Committee of People with Disabilities*
 3. *Disability Resource Centre*
 4. *Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre*
5. *Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office to update and make available a list of agencies that service people with disabilities*

F.2 Chair and Vice Chair updates (Suzan Jennings and Sandra Hough)

This item was not discussed.

F.3 Accessibility related projects update

The Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator provided updates on current accessibility-related projects within the City:

Committee discussed the following:

1. *BlindSquare*
 1. *Completion of testing phase*
 2. *Completing final details for TransCanada Trail (Victoria leg - Clover Point to Johnson Street Bridge)*
2. *GoodMaps*
 1. *Finalizing technology intended to provide information to assist with accessibility of the interior of buildings*
 2. *City of Victoria facilities to be included:*
 1. *Crystal Gardens*
 2. *Crystal Pool*
 3. *City Hall*
3. *AccessNow*
 1. *Crowd sourced, dynamic information sharing platform for accessibility*
 2. *Partnership with City of Victoria for portion of TransCanada Trail between Steamship Bar & Grill and Johnson Street Bridge.*
 3. *The Chair and lived experience consultant involved in mapping accessibility features*
 4. *City to schedule a testing session with the committee to solicit feedback on the program/system/platform*
4. *Rick Hansen Foundation Grant*
 1. *Certifying selected sites for sensory inclusion*
 2. *Introduced sensory inclusion training for City of Victoria staff*
 3. *Tools including sensory stations received through KultureCity to provide to patrons and residents with addressing sensory needs*
5. *Use of the accessibility feedback mechanism for accessibility questions and concerns at accessibility@victoria.ca*

S. Hough joined the meeting electronically at 4:33 p.m.

6. *Considerations for accessible mapping*
 1. *Majority of 'accessible' maps cater to low vision versus blind users*
 2. *Lack of alt or adjacent text in interactive maps*
 3. *Adaptability of transitional mapping to be made accessible*
 4. *Inclusion of detailed location descriptions required in adjacent text to supplement limited information contained within in-map alt text*
 5. *Feasibility of creating more tactile maps in the City*
 1. *Use of 3D printing technology to create tactile mapping for signage and wayfinding*
 6. *Concerns with accessible mapping for the Pemberton Park Playground Replacement project communications and opportunities to improve accessibility in maps*
7. *CNIB Access Labs through the EDI Office initiating a review of City of Victoria digital and print resources and develop guidelines*
 1. *Determining improvements and modernizations to improve accessibility with the support of the Committee*
 2. *Initiating Tactile Maps project to ensure user friendly accessibility solutions in addition to technology-based improvements*

F.4 Community Roundtable

Committee discussed the following:

1. *A new accessibility undertaking: accessible and adaptable housing engagement*
 1. *Updates to Provincial Building Code to align with the Province's accessibility standards*
 2. *New development proposals must consider accessibility*
2. *Action items update*
 1. *EDI office to provide an update of action item list during next meeting*
 2. *Request for discussion on floating bus stops at a future meeting*
 1. *Potential for the City to take a leadership role in promoting an understanding of the accessibility concerns with mid-block floating bus stops and the alternative designs Victoria has chosen*
 2. *Request for the Transportation staff for a conversation with the committee*
3. *Parking requirements for buildings – BC Building Code versus City bylaw*
4. *Non-accessible crosswalks in Victoria*
 1. *Pembroke St at Douglas St and Quadra St at Hillside Ave*
 2. *Audible signal does not assist with orientating the blind pedestrian to cross the intersection in a straight line as the audible signal on the opposite corner cannot be heard upon approach*

Committee requested that a late item titled Powered Wheelchairs – Charging on City Premises be added to the agenda as F.5.

F.5 Powered Wheelchairs – Charging on City Premises

The EDI Office's IMPACT Associate provided an overview of the City's research related to providing charging stations for powered wheelchairs on City premises and requested committee feedback on the need.

Committee discussed the following:

- 1. The proposed charging stations provide a solution for a problem faced by those who use powered wheelchairs.*
- 2. Understanding that while power wheelchairs can take a long time to charge, it is still beneficial to use in emergencies to provide sufficient charge for the user to travel home*
- 3. Consider installing charging stations in areas that are pleasant to spend a few hours*
- 4. Ideas on Incorporation of secure parking for power wheelchairs in the project*
- 5. Consider how to accommodate those without spare charging cords and liability concerns with providing a universal charger*
- 6. Would like to see charging stations these installed more commonly in new buildings*
- 7. Will the City charge a fee for use at publicly available stations?*
- 8. Importance of signage and ensuring that charging stations are reserved for use by power wheelchair users*
- 9. Can charging stations for powered wheelchairs be treated under the purview of parking lot requirements (e.g. EV charging)?*

G. Next Meeting Agenda & Date – October 8, 2024

The next meeting is October 8, the agenda was not discussed.

H. Adjournment

Committee, by unanimous consent, adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.