



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

Access Ability Advisory Committee (AAAC)
Thursday, February 8, 2018, at 3:00 p.m.
Council Chamber & Chamber Meeting Room
City Hall
MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone	- Chair
Julia Schoennagel	- Community Member
Paul Haskel	- Community Member
Tanis Juriga	- Community Member
Karla Olson	- Community Member
Anne Bélanger	- Community Member
Asifa Lalji	- Community Member

REGRETS:

Harvey Wolfson	- Community Member
Colleen Vogler	- Community Member
Chris Nicholson	- SD40 Representative

STAFF:

Lisa Leblanc	- Manager, Transportation, ENG Services
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Secretary, ENG Services
Steve Kellock	- Senior Manager Recreation Services & Facilities ENG Services
Oana Capota (Left at 5:00 pm)	- Museum Curator, Office of the Cao Museum & Heritage Services
Heather Corbett (Left at 3:37 pm)	- Committee Clerk, Legislative Services

GUESTS:

Alex Taciuk (Left at 4:10 pm)	- Student, University of British Columbia Master of Community & Regional Planning
Filippos Gkekas (Left at 4:10 pm)	- Student, University of British Columbia Master of Community & Regional Planning
Mengying Li (Left at 4:10 pm)	- Student, University of British Columbia Master of Community & Regional Planning
Steve Cundy (Arrived at 4:00 pm)	- Project Manager, CH2M Hill Canada
Stan Leyenhorst	- Inclusive Design Specialist, Universal Access Design

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

Procedural Note:
Item 3.1: Orientation and Oath of Office
to be conducted prior to the start of regular agenda items.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1.1 Additions to and adoption of the Agenda of February 8, 2018

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the Access Ability Advisory Committee meeting held on February 8, 2018 be received and adopted with the addition of Item 4.2: Downtown Parking by Karla Olson, Committee Member and noting that Item 5. 1: Museum Transportation Exhibition Content Development be addressed prior to other agenda items.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of December 6, 2017

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Access Ability Advisory Committee held on December 6, 2017, be received and adopted with the following amendments:

1. *Item 5.1 – Second bullet point should read, ‘Due to the limited number of accessible parking spaces, a member stated...’;*
2. *Item 5.1 – Third bullet point should read, ‘...fatigue can set in during and outing and driving is a necessity’;*
3. *Item 5.1 – Seventh bullet point should read, ‘...(mixed use) accessible stalls/loading zones do not make allowances..’;*
4. *Item 5.3 – Fifth bullet point should read, ‘...a member suggested priority boarding for those with accessibility challenges during peak times’; and,*
5. *Item 5.3 – Tenth bullet point should read, ‘...whereby passengers place their payment tokens in a box to indicate why they are riding the ferry...’;*
6. *Item 5.5 – Paragraph should include the following statement, ‘The count took place in the early afternoon; therefore, did not capture commuter use.’;*

7. *Item 5.5 – should read, ‘They were informed by a local resident...’ as opposed to, ‘They noted..’;*

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Orientation and Oath of Office – Heather Corbett, Legislative Services

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, briefly introduced herself, Councillor Johnstone, and staff liaisons. After a short roundtable introduction of committee members, Heather commenced with her presentation which covered the role of advisory committees, terms of reference, meeting attendance and quorum, meeting conduct, City policies & freedom of information and, lastly, oaths of office. Members were reminded to RSVP Carilyn Cook, Committee Secretary, as to whether or not they will be in attendance at each meeting to ensure quorum.

3.2 Great Streets for Seniors – UBC School of Community Regional Planning

After introducing themselves, Alex Taciuk, and Mengying Li, Filippos Gkekas commenced with their presentation. This student-led project titled, ‘Great Streets for Seniors Uptown Streetscape Study,’ was a result of a collaborative effort by project partners which include UBC’s School of Community & Regional Planning, Bunt and Associates, and the City of New Westminster. The project team is studying walkability in Uptown New Westminster from a senior’s perspective, with the goal being to provide feasible recommendations to make Uptown comfortable for seniors to confidently get around.

Comments provided by members included:

- A member suggested that the City look into seamless sidewalks that have no hard breaks to ensure even pavement - other members agreed;
- A member stated that width is often a challenge, especially if you want to walk alongside someone who is in a wheelchair;
- A member stated that those with visual impairments may not see the challenges of the sidewalk; therefore, visual aspects need to be considered including sidewalk surface and staying away from big changes of colour on the sidewalks;
- A member questioned why the curb letdown was not the same width as the path across the road;

- A member suggested installing an automatic crossing with no push buttons as for some people it can be very hard to reach the buttons;
- A member stated that while the chirping sound at this intersection was good as it also serves as an alert for drivers, the length of crossing time should be longer for seniors in the area;
- A member said she was nervous around cars turning right at the intersection as they do not stop behind the line and tend to move into it;
- A member suggested that the intersection be turned into a scramble crossing as it would accommodate a number of different needs;
- A member suggested that the students visit the area in a wheelchair or with a “White Cane” in order to gain a different perspective.

Next steps include, recommendation of interventions at problem areas, gathering input from stakeholders and partners and, finally, refining and finalizing recommendations.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Funding for Automatic Door Opener – Anne Bélanger

Anne provided a brief recap of her desire to have an automatic door opener installed at the entrance to her condo building in order for her son, other residents, and visitors to have easier access while entering and exiting the building. She advised that they received a quote for the button and that the topic will be discussed at the building’s upcoming AGM, to be held in March. There is support for the push button installation and it continues to gain momentum. Funding and/or grants are still being sought out to assist with the costs. It was suggested that the City provide information to people as to where they can go for help for these kinds of things, i.e. on the City website, etc.

Councillor Johnstone advised that a goal of the Committee this year would be to explore the possibility of providing small grants or assistance in coordinating and connecting people who wish to make accessibility modifications to their homes. As the City should be a facilitator of accessibility, the Committee’s aim should be to have framework to get this to Council by the end of the committee year.

4.2 Downtown Parking – Karla Olson

Karla Olson, Committee member, advised that clarity is needed with respect to the parking near Donald’s Market and the Fraser River Discovery Centre (FRDC) and that there are ways to increase parking for people with disabilities by using mixed parking practices. As an example, she had previously observed mixed-used parking at the FRDC – it was 9:00 am to

4:00 pm for employees and, after 4:00 pm and on weekends, the parking was designated to allow Donald's customers to use the spaces. Since then, it has been designated as FRDC employee parking only; however, this would have been a great opportunity to remove distance and financial barriers to areas of the City for people with disabilities by having it allocated as free, after-hours accessible parking. Karla emphasized that if the City is adopting a mixed-use parking policy it should include the needs of people with disabilities by designating more spaces as complimentary after-hours accessible parking. Karla requested that these spaces be re-designated as complimentary accessible parking after hours and during the weekend and that, in general, this be how spots are designated, if the City is adopting a mixed-use parking policy.

Lisa would like to meet with Karla, other committee members, and the parking supervisor, as this is an issue that could possibly be addressed differently. Committee members who may be interested in meeting to talk about this subject will be contacted at a later date with the issue possibly being addressed as a sub committee topic.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Museum Transportation Exhibition Content Development – Oana Capota (See Item 6.1)

Oana Capota, Museum Curator, introduced herself and requested suggestions from the group to help shape the content of the upcoming "*People Gotta Move*" transportation exhibition which will be on display at the museum from July 5, 2018 to the middle of November 2018.

Members provided the following suggestions for the exhibit:

- Braille in elevators and how numbers are represented, perhaps with a hands-on example;
- The evolution of wheelchairs, with models (old basket seat ones, etc.), that people can sit in and actually test out;
- Interaction with the built-in technology and environment;
- Wayfinding – how do those with visual or physical impairments navigate throughout the City?;

Members were encouraged to send any additional ideas they may have to Carilyn who will forward them to Oana.

5.2 Election of Alternate Chair – Committee

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Julia Schoennagel act as Alternate Chair for the Access Ability Advisory Committee for the 2018 term.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

5.3 2018 Work Plan Workshop– Lisa Leblanc/Steve Kellock

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled to the next meeting.

5.4 Q to Q Pilot Ferry Infrastructure Upgrades Workshop – Lisa Leblanc/Steve Cundy/Stan Leyenhorst

Lisa introduced both Stan Leyenhorst, Inclusive Design Specialist, from Universal Access Design, who came recommended by the Rick Hansen Foundation, and Steve Cundy, of CH2M Hill Canada, the project manager for the Q to Q pilot ferry service. Stan will share with us his personal experience as someone who relies on a wheelchair to get around, as well as provide his professional advice on the pilot ferry service, as his specialty is universal design with a focus on access for everyone.

Staff advised that the demonstration ferry averaged approximately 850 passengers per day over the course of the service and that patrons are looking to use the service for both recreational purposes as well as commuting. Currently, New Westminster has limited infrastructure for pleasure craft use on the Fraser River. Staff are looking for feedback from the Committee to inform the report going to Council on how to proceed with the pilot ferry. It was noted that nothing is final yet; staff are checking in to ensure that they are on the right track.

The following discussion ensued:

- Staff stated that it is unlikely that there will be washrooms on the ferry as the boats are relatively small and the trip across is only seven minutes;
- Members were advised that with respect to gangways, there are no statutes that address this topic; however, there are inferences in the BC Building Code and Canadian Transportation Agency Act for larger facilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act provides guidelines for gangways providing access to small craft marinas stating that either of the following shall be achieved: maximum gangway slope of 8.33% or a gangway of at most, 80 feet long. Members were advised that the gangway at the Quay is 80 feet, while the one at Port Royal is 66 feet;

- Staff advised that 80% accessibility is typically the benchmark used in accessibility design for mass transit, noting that the ferry would not be considered mass transit;
- Staff estimate that it is possible within the constraints of the budget, space, water lot, and tides present, that we can make a recommendation for infrastructure improvements that would achieve accessibility about 50% of the time with the slope being 8.3% or less;
- A member suggested the implementation of an app so that people could be informed on tidal information prior to taking the ferry;
- A member requested a boat that would enable riders to view the scenery;
- A member felt that the ferry service should be accessible to everyone at all times, while another member believed that that may not be realistic in light of the challenges with tidal schedules, etc. Stan advised that with the reality of limited resources, 100% access all the time would not be achievable;
- Stan advised that independent access is related to the slope/grade of the gangplank and that at some point the passenger may require assistance;
- Stan suggested an app and/or other digital communication (which may help mitigate some of the issues) as well as the implementation of an emergency system, for example a bridge taxi, in order to avoid passengers getting stuck on either side;
- Staff confirmed that the majority of the demonstration service users were from Queensborough;
- Steve shared with members that the goal is to have the pilot project run through the seasons, including when the weather is poor;
- Steve informed everyone that infrastructure construction will be easier on the Quayside aspect of the crossing than it will on the Queensborough side.

Lisa informed Committee members that our next meeting would be held at the Quay in order to tour the area and that we would meet somewhere by the River Market.

5.5 Commercial Vehicle Amendment Bylaw – Accessible Taxis – Lisa Leblanc

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled to the next meeting.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Museum Transportation Exhibition Content Development (See Item 5.1)

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, April 12, 2018
Thursday, June 14, 2018
Thursday, September 6, 2018
Thursday, December 6, 2018

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm.

Certified correct,

Original signed _____

PATRICK JOHNSTONE
CHAIR

Original signed _____

CARILYN COOK
COMMITTEE SECRETARY