



ACCESS ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 11, 2014 3:00 pm
Council Chamber, City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Betty McIntosh	Chair
Anne Bélanger	Community
Erin Gable	Community
Glen Henderson	New Westminster School Board
Mary Varga	Community (3:40 pm)
Michael Wilson	Community

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Ryan Chilton	Student
Paul Gauthier	Community
Ron Jones	Special Advisor
Ken Wilkinson	Community

GUEST:

Janet Taylor

STAFF:

Jason Haight	Manager, Business Ops, Parks, Culture and Recreation (3:11 pm)
Fan Jin	Transportation Technologist, Engineering Services
Kathy Prothero	Recording Clerk, Engineering Services
Eugene Wat	Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Engineering Services

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

5.3 Audible intersection concerns – Ms. Janet Taylor

5.4 Sixth Avenue and First Street Crosswalk (vision on First Street) – Mr. Glen Henderson

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of Minutes of June 12, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Access Ability Advisory Committee meeting held June 12, 2014 be received and adopted.

CARRIED

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Status of AAAC Recommendations to Council – Councillor McIntosh

Request to increase the fine for parking in a designated disabled parking stall without a disabled permit from \$80:

- Councillor McIntosh informed members that the Street and Traffic Bylaw will be going to Council on October 6th;
 - Councillor McIntosh was in another City and advised that the amount of the fine was posted under the disabled symbol which appears to be a deterrent;
 - There is a disabled individual in Sapperton who is unable to park in front of her home due to a demand for parking in this area. Mr. Wat commented that on-street disabled parking is only provided at designated commercial/institutional areas to service multiple users. They are not placed in single family neighborhoods to accommodate specific residents. It is difficult to monitor if this signage is installed throughout the City as we have no way of telling when an individual moves.

Moved and Seconded this Committee Recommends

THAT Council request staff to investigate the preparation of a policy on the provision of disabled on-street parking in single family neighborhoods to accommodate people with disabilities residing in the area.

CARRIED

All members voted in favour of the motion.

Request that Council approve funding of up to \$1,000 to assist in the project to build, promote and educate the City's universal access program:

- Councillor McIntosh informed members that this was approved by Council.

Procedural note: Item 4.3 was discussed before 4.2

4.3 Accessible Video (YouTube) Project – Mr. Jason Haight for Mr. Ken Wilkinson

Mr. Haight updated members on the status of the video project. Short notice was provided by Techno Monkey for filming, and along with some other complexities, filming was postponed until Mr. Haight returned from holidays. There are 10 videos intended to promote accessibility education and awareness. Upon securing logistics, actors and equipment (i.e., a van with a ramp, guide dog, etc.), the filming will occur on September 25th and/or September 30th. Actors will be used in multiple videos and the goal is complete filming on September 25th (if supported by the weather). Ms. Bélanger and her son are available on September 25th and could participate on this day.

Mr. Haight will coordinate filming logistics and actors with support from Mr. Wilkinson.

4.2 TransLink Update – HandyDart/Taxi Access to the New West Exchange - Mr. Fan Jin

Mr. Jin updated members on this effort. Staff have been liaising with TransLink for access at New West Exchange for taxis and HandyDart. The agreement was finalized and beginning September 1, 2014, Royal City Taxi carrying individuals with Taxi Saver supplements will be allowed to utilize the New West Exchange under a pilot program. TransLink will be disseminating this information to the Access Transit User Group and staff will investigate whether or not this could be posted to the City's Website.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Consolidate two bus stops into one accessible bus stop – Mr. Fan Jin

Mr. Jin advised that there are three inaccessible bus stops in the 1000 block (north side) of Quayside Drive within 300m (see attached drawing). As the city is working with TransLink in making bus stops within the City wheelchair accessible if feasible, the City approached CMBC to install wheelchair landing pads. As this type of installation will impact existing trees, CMBC proposed to consolidate the three bus stops into two accessible stops.

As a result, staff wish to inform this Committee to see if there are any concerns. AAAC expressed no concern with this change.

5.2 “Can Do” Accessibility Attitude/City Facilities and Services – Mr. Mike Wilson

A number of years ago discussions took place regarding the City of New Westminster having a “can do” attitude with their service delivery (see attached). Mr. Wilson met with the Director of Human Resources, Joan Burgess, and the Director of Parks, Culture & Recreation, Dean Gibson, to review the policy implementation and progress to date. It was determined at this meeting that the Active Access Policy, approved by Council, was not implemented by the Human Resources Department. It was understood at this meeting that the Human Resources Department would review this policy, compare it to similar policies with other municipalities and provide the Access Ability Advisory Committee with an update. Mr. Wilson will assist where he can.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Human Resources Department be requested to provide an update to the Access Ability Advisory Committee on the status of the City's Active Access Policy.

CARRIED

All members voted in favour of the motion

5.3 Audible Intersections - Janet Taylor

Ms. Taylor's concern is trying to cross Columbia at Fourth Street because she cannot see across the street to the light and there is no audible signal. This is especially bad when the sun is shining and reflecting off the river. The other area of concern is in front of the Army and Navy.

Staff advised the priority areas are schools, busy commercial areas and the college and audible signals are not installed at every intersection. An e-mail from Mr. Emanuels, Manager, Design & Construction advised that an audible signal will be installed at Fourth Street and Columbia. All other intersections without audible signals are being evaluated but all new signalized intersections are installed with audible signals.

Staff confirmed that once the Anvil Centre construction is concluded, there will be an audible street naming announcement featured as a pilot project at the intersection of Columbia and Eighth Street.

Another area of concern are the concrete bollards at Fourth and Columbia (in the south leg crosswalk) and in front of the Army and Navy. Staff advised these are in place for pedestrian safety to ensure that vehicles do not drive onto the sidewalk. Staff will investigate the option of painting these a bright colour (yellow) to ensure that those with visual impairments do not walk into them.

First Street and Sixth Avenue – Mr. Glen Henderson

Mr. Henderson commented that when a driver stops at the light on Sixth Avenue at First Street there is no indication that you can proceed into the intersection (going north to south). Staff advised that this is a pedestrian actuated intersection and so the signal lights are only displayed for east and west traffic, not north to south. There is a stop sign for the north to south traffic and all vehicles must stop in accordance with the Motor Vehicle Act. This is a standard pedestrian actuated crossing.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Information Update – Councillor McIntosh, Chair

- Chamber of Commerce have a consultant conducting the Builders Awards this year and have advised that the same categories will be in place as in past years;
- Anvil Centre grand opening Sunday, September 14th noon to 6pm with tours throughout the facility:
 - Museum and archives rooms are spectacular and the coach being moved by crane onto transport truck and relocated;
- Queen's Park process still underway regarding the USL pro soccer team;
- Staff advised construction of the Fourth Street overpass to WPP is underway with stairs and an elevator; and
- The Q to Q Bridge – We are still seeking funding for the more costly option, which was chosen during the consultation process.

Ms. Belanger left the meeting at 4:40 pm

- Braid Street Bailey Bridge – We are unable to make the September 15th agreed upon date and have proposed an extension. Two bridges will be installed.
- Anvil Centre dinner on October 9th for Committee representatives and VIPs.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE (received by members for information)

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the following correspondence circulated to members be received:

- 7.1 BCCPD Community Update; Changes to Canada Pension Plan Tribunal Appeal Process
- 7.2 Disability White Paper Summit; Monday, June 16
- 7.3 Invitation to MTP Open House; June 24 & 26
- 7.4 Transition; Summer 2014
- 7.5 Open House Invitation re Moody Park Adventure Playground and Spray Park
- 7.6 Access Success and Education Videos; Call for Volunteers
- 7.7 Let's Talk Families BC Survey; Sparc bc

CARRIED

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

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 30, 2014 @ 3 pm
Council Chamber, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm

COUNCILLOR BETTY MCINTOSH
CHAIR

KATHY PROTHERO
RECORDING CLERK