

Accessibility Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Open to public attendance in Committee Room G

Lower Level, City Hall

Committee members may attend electronically

PRESENT:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Councillor Jaimie McEvoy | Chair |
| Karen Basran* | Committee Member |
| | Human Resources Business Partner |
| Anne Bélanger | Committee Member |
| Taryn Bruckshaw* | Committee Member |
| Iris Cheng | Committee Member |
| Shannon Dolton | Committee Member |
| Hazel Fitzpatrick* | Committee Member |
| Nancy Kato | Committee Member |
| Vic Leach | Committee Member |
| Susan MacAndrew* | Committee Member |
| Karla Olson | Committee Member |
| Julia Schoennagel | Committee Member |

ABSENT:

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| Wendy Parry | Committee Member |
|-------------|------------------|

STAFF PRESENT:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Mike Anderson | Manager of Transportation |
| Zaria Alibhai | Coordinator, Public Engagement and Communications |
| Shelly Schnee | Program Coordinator, Seniors |
| Carilyn Cook | Committee Clerk, Legislative Services |

*Denotes electronic attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor McEvoy opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsundered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made

invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions took place.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Addition of New Business Item 5.1 – Election of Alternate Chair by Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Orientation and Oaths of Office Presentation

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, commenced with her presentation which included the role of advisory committees, the terms of reference, meeting attendance and quorum, meeting conduct, City policies and freedom of information, and, lastly, oaths of office.

4.2 September 26, 2022 Council Report: City's Response to Accessible British Columbia Act – For Information

No discussion.

5. NEW BUSINESS

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Anne Belanger be elected as the Alternate Chair for the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the 2023 Committee year.

CARRIED.

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

In response to questions from Committee members, Councillor McEvoy provided the following comments:

- Staff will conduct background work to determine quick wins that could be met;
- Once the Organizational Accessibility Plan and development feedback mechanisms are complete, we can determine where to go from there;
- Committee members are welcome to submit for follow up any items from the City's previous Access Ability Advisory Committee; and,
- City Council is very supportive and responsive to accessibility work.

Discussion ensued and Committee members made the follow suggestions for upcoming committee meetings;

- Have a walk with a person who is sight-impaired around the challenging areas of the City, including high-traffic areas where it is hard to hear the audible crosswalk notifications; and,
- Quick win items could include:
 - Addressing parking, including from a poverty aspect, increasing the number and width of accessible parking stalls, parking enforcement, and working with merchants regarding the use of accessible stalls for snow storage during snow events; and,
 - Looking at past success and how we can build upon them.

6. END OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 6:51 p.m.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 26
May 24
June 28
July 26
August 23
September 27
October 25
November 22

Certified correct,

Original Signed

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy

Original Signed

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk