



**ACCESS ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(AAAC)**

**Wednesday, April 13, 2017, at 3:00 p.m.
Council Chamber & Chamber Meeting Room
City Hall
MINUTES**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone	- Chair
Anne Bélanger	- Community
Heather Boersma	- Community
Karla Olson	- Community
Leslie Sayer	- Community
Julia Schoennagel	- Community
Hayley Sinclair	- Community
Colleen Vogler	- Community
Michael Wilson (arrived at 3:20 pm)	- Community
Paul Butler	- New West Chamber of Commerce

REGRETS:

Lisa Leblanc	- Manager, Transportation
Jerry Behl	- Transportation Engineer Engineering Services
Erika Mashig	- Parks & Open Space Planner Parks and Recreation

STAFF:

Jason Haight	- Manager, Business Operations Parks & Recreation
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Secretary, Engineering Services
Joan Burgess (left at 3:28 pm)	- Attending on behalf of Human Resources
Stephen Blore (left at 4:08 pm)	- Transportation Planner Engineering Services
Antonia Reynolds	- Coordinator, Active Transportation Engineering Services

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1.1 Additions to and adoption of the Agenda of April 13, 2017

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the Access Ability Advisory Committee held on April 13, 2017 be received and adopted with the addition of New Business Item 5.1, Snow Clearing – Karla Olson.

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 February 9, 2017

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Access Ability Advisory Committee held on February 9, 2017 be received and adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

No items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Gender Neutral Washrooms and HR Policy – Joan Burgess (Item 6.1, Report: Gender Neutral Washrooms and HR Policy)

Joan Burgess, on behalf of Human Resources, reminded members that the Human Resources Department is currently in the process of creating a new Accessibility Policy that will include recognition of gender neutral washrooms which is a component of the BC Human Rights Code. Members received a draft of the new Accessibility Policy and were encouraged to bring any questions and/or comments about the Policy to the June 15th AAAC meeting.

Members were also requested to pass a modification to the Committee's original October 6, 2016 motion. After a short discussion, the following amended motion was passed by the Committee.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Staff recognizes that the issue of gender neutral washrooms is covered in the Accessibility Policy update that is currently being developed and staff will alert Council to the AAAC's motion of October 6th, 2016 when staff report to Council on the Accessibility Policy update.

CARRIED.

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

4.2 Rotary Crosstown Greenway Accessibility Considerations

– Stephen Blore

(Item 6.2, Report: Rotary Crosstown Greenway Accessibility Considerations)

Interim treatment to the Rotary Crosstown Greenway, to be implemented later this summer, will consist primarily of line marking and sign improvement to essentially install an all ages and abilities cycling facility.

The following discussion ensued:

- The map should be more reader-friendly for those new to the Greenway by including street names, identify the location of the Greenway, etc.;
- The green paint on bikeways is used throughout Canada to highlight conflict zones. Evidence shows that green paint is most effective when used sparingly;
- Staff are looking to create a new crosswalk on the northern leg of Eighth Street at Seventh Avenue where there is currently only one crossing;
- As the signal at Eighth Street and Seventh Avenue takes approximately 60 seconds to change, pedestrians tend to cross against the light rather than wait. Staff are investigating how to make the signal respond faster without having to replace the whole box, which would use the whole budget. It was suggested that the push button at this intersection be changed to a sensory button for ease of use, especially for those with minimal strength;
- Improvement of uneven and loose surface transition areas in the Century House parking lot and near the tennis courts will take place upon completion of electrical and greenway work being done in the area;
- Disabled parking spots should be wide enough to allow for a wheelchair lift to be used.

4.3 Front Street Mews Courtesy Parking – Jerry Behl/Erika Mashig (Item 6.3, Report: Front Street Mews Courtesy Parking)

On behalf of Jerry Behl, Transportation Engineer, and Erika Mashig, Open Space Planner, who were unable to attend, Antonia Reynolds, Active Transportation Coordinator, provided a brief recap of the Front Street Mews Courtesy Parking Report. The Mews will have a one-way travel lane for vehicles running westbound from Sixth Street to Begbie Street. It will have approximately 32 back-in-angled parking stalls, three parallel parking stalls (one more than the required amount), and be designed for universal accessibility. Staff will monitor parking access for sixth months, including during the “Fridays on Front” events, and revisit the Committee for more feedback after that time.

The following discussion ensued:

- Challenges with disabled parking spots were discussed under Item 4.2, *Rotary Crosstown Greenway Accessibility Considerations*;
- The suggestion to have some parking designated as disabled during the daytime and switching over to general parking in the evening, was discussed at previous meetings. Members queried if this option was considered by staff and if it is something that can still be implemented. Staff are requested to observe parking activity at Fridays on Front and report back to the Committee in six months;
- Members requested that staff consider complimentary parking at all disabled parking spots throughout the City and asked for a list including where, if any, complimentary handicapped parking is already implemented. Staff are requested follow up in December with a complete response.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Snow Clearing - Karla Olson

Regarding TransLink’s letter of February 9, 2017 with respect to the prioritization of snow and ice removal from bus stops, Karla Olson, Committee Member, noted that the City’s website currently only addresses snow and ice removal from driveways and sidewalks, with no mention of bus stops. Staff noted that this issue is on Council’s work plan.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Report: Gender Neutral Washrooms and HR Policy

This was addressed under Item 4.1, Gender Neutral Washrooms and HR Policy.

6.2 Report: Rotary Crosstown Greenway Accessibility Considerations

This was addressed under Item 4.2, Rotary Crosstown Greenways Accessibility Considerations.

6.3 Report: Front Street Mews Courtesy Parking

This was addressed under Item 4.3, Front Street Mews Courtesy Parking

6.4 Report: Walk New West (To be Received for Information)

Antonia gave a brief overview of the Walk New West Program, including the current Walk New West Challenge, with the goal being to encourage everyone to embrace movement as a whole, including wheeling, scooting, etc. The Challenge consists of a different theme each week which can be found on the City's website, in the local papers, etc.

The following discussion ensued:

- Maps of various walking routes should include bench locations. People could make note of current bench locations and provide suggestions of where benches could be installed;
- Walks should be started later in the day (i.e. 11:00 am) as it can take someone with a disability a longer time to get ready;
- Annual walks and marathons should include modified groups and routes for those with mobility challenges;
- "Walk a Mile in Their Shoes" was suggested; encourage able-bodied walkers to go for a walk with someone who has a disability to see the challenges they encounter along the way.

6.5 Report: Sidewalk Accessibility Upgrades (To be Received for Information)

The goal is to ensure that every curb corner has a curb letdown by the end of the year. Once this is complete, the next phase will be to correct the letdowns that are not designed well and fix them. Members were encouraged to contact Antonia, Carilyn, or Fan Jin, Engineering Technologist, with the location of any curb letdowns in need of repair or improvement.

The following discussion ensued:

- At the Plaza, on Columbia Street and Eighth Street, one of the curb letdowns is approximately ½ an inch higher than the other one, which can make a big difference to someone with a disability.

6.6 Action List – Committee

Julia Schoennagel, Committee Member, advised the group of some metal fascia in the sidewalk at the Landmark Cinema building which is very difficult to get a wheelchair over. Councillor Johnstone explained that the fascia is located directly on the property line between TransLink and the Landmark Cinema building. He urged Julia to write him a letter in order to start a conversation with the two parties and have this issued resolved.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, June 15, 2017
Thursday, October 12, 2017
Thursday, December 14, 2017

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Certified correct,

Original Signed

PATRICK JOHNSTONE
CHAIR

Original Signed

CARILYN COOK
COMMITTEE SECRETARY