



ACCESS ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 27, 2014 3:03 pm
Council Chamber, City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Betty McIntosh	Chair
Anne Bélanger	Community
Ryan Chilton	Student
Glen Henderson	New Westminster School Board
Mary Varga	Community
Michael Wilson	Community
Ken Wilkinson	Community

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ron Jones	Special Advisor
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VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Erin Gable	Community
Paul Gauthier	Community

GUESTS (arrived at 3:08 pm):

Mr. Marco Bonaventura	Project Manager I, TransLink
Ms. Sarah Chung	Access Transit Coordinator, TransLink
Ms. Margaret Gibbs	Project Manager II, TransLink
Mr. Jon Navarra	Transportation Engineer, TransLink
Mr. Don McCuiston	

STAFF:

Eugene Wat	Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Engineering Services
Jason Haight	Manager, Business Ops, Parks, Culture and Recreation (3:10)
Fan Jin	Transportation Technologist, Engineering Services
Kathy Prothero	Recording Clerk, Engineering Services
Alison Worsfold	Committee Clerk, Legislative Services

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of Minutes of January 16, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Access Ability Advisory Committee meeting held January 16, 2014 be received and adopted.

CARRIED

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Committee Orientation and Oath of Office – Ms. Allison Worsfold, Legislative Services

Ms. Worsfold, Committee Clerk, reviewed the following documents with the Commission members:

- Rules of Conduct: Advisory Committees & Bodies of Council
- Social Media Policy
- Terms of Reference
- Permission Forms

Members are to contact Ms. Prothero, the Recording Clerk regarding attendance at each meeting. If a member is unable to fulfill his/her duties, they are asked to notify staff as soon as possible so the position can be refilled.

The Oath of Office was administered to Committee members.

Ms. Worsfold left the meeting @ 3:12 pm.

Following the orientation, members introduced themselves.

3.2 Universally Accessible Elevators – Mr. Bonaventure & Ms. Chung, TransLink

Members provided background information regarding universally accessible elevators. A lot of elevators have the button panel on left side although some members feel they should be on right for those who are disabled. When the inside panel is on the left and up against the wall it is difficult to access. Ideally there would be panels on both sides of the door inside the elevators, or located at the front and the back. Members do not expect existing elevators to be refitted, but would like to see improvements. One member mentioned that motorized chairs have the control mechanism on the right, which then makes sense to have the panels on the left where the user's left hand is free.

Members would like consideration given during planning process of the Evergreen Line and TransLink advised the new line would try and be consistent and appreciates the feedback from Committee members. Some of the other stations being considering for upgrades are Surrey Central, New West (south side), Main Street and Commercial/Broadway (new platform on the Safeway side) and the east side of the Joyce Station. TransLink will look at

integrating suggestions into the design of these and the Evergreen Line. TransLink is looking at reconfiguring the south elevator at New West Station (the north was done a few years ago). Other challenges are people with visual challenges using escalators if there is a right entry for up or left entry for coming down. Members also commented that on some trains the floor space between the door and the platform is wider and wheels could get caught.

TransLink confirmed that there is an Advisory Committee (19 members) that provides input to a variety of issues. New cars being procured as part of Evergreen Line have more aisle space as some seats been removed so that someone with mobility issues can come in one door and flow through to another door to exit.

Eugene commented about renovations being done within stations and how members would like to have signage notification provided well in advance of getting to the out-of-service elevator. When disembarking from the train it would be appreciated if notification of the closure was provided at the disembarkation location rather than travelling to a location that is out of service. Information provided on the platform by way of a notice on the wall in bright colours identifying the closure it would be beneficial.

TransLink advised that there is an "Alerts and Advisories" page that provides up-to-date information on outages. TransLink advised that there is an alerts notification that will go to your phone or e-mail that you can sign subscribe to.

Members suggested that perhaps the website could provide a direct link to elevator outages rather than working your way through the menu. Ms. Chung advised that there is a mobile website (m.translink.ca) which provides 9 major buttons on alerts and advisories.

3.3 Wheel Accessible Taxi Loading at McNeely Exchange – Ms. Gibbs & Ms. Chung

One member provided an update for TransLink and stated the area is challenging because the taxi zones are located further away on the eastern side of Eighth Street. Until the development of Plaza 88, there was limited accessibility because there was a better ingress and egress to the area.

- There is more shopping taking place on the platform and a lot of seniors and residents with mobility issues;
- Extended use of taxis as a HandiDart supplement (due to the HandiDart cutbacks);
- People shopping in the complex/Safeway take a taxi home and the stairs and slope on Eighth Street, along with the texture of the street prevent a challenge; and
- Carnarvon appeared to be a reasonable loading area for taxis but the street space is limited due to the existing loading zones for general use.

Members would like TransLink to consider making the McNeely loading area accessible thus allowing taxis to enter the area. This would be not all taxis, but those wheelchair accessible taxis.

TransLink advised they are starting a pilot program for taxis using a taxi supplement trips to pick up and drop off customers.

Taxi supplements is long standing service of HandyDart and if a bus is unavailable a taxi will be dispatched instead of the bus. This program was expanded into taxis last year and provided 7,000 extra rides.

- Taxis on HandyDart business (taxi supplements) would be allowed to come in and pick up and drop off;
- Looking at 6-12 months pilot program and the purpose is to identify if there is any operational or safety issues;
- Need some instruction for taxi drivers (what they can and cannot do);
- Need high visibility vest when they are outside of their vehicles, and other details to work on, etc.

TransLink wants to get feedback on the pilot program from mall customers, HandyDart customers, taxi drivers, CMBC drivers, Transit Supervisors and HandyDart drivers and address the issues with a view of moving toward a permanent change. Bus drivers have operational procedures to follow and if they find unsafe issues they will bring those to the Bus Operator Safety Committee who will communicate them back to TransLink.

There is no tentative start date for the pilot program at this time. Once discussion takes place with Royal City Taxi, they hope to begin within the next 2-3 months. Signage will also be required in the area when the Pilot begins. One member commented that it would also be beneficial to have signage on the platform level to provide direction to users.

TransLink staff left the meeting at 4:00 pm.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Acting Chair – Councillor McIntosh

The floor was open for members to volunteer for the position of Acting Chair in the event that the Chair is unable to attend a scheduled meeting. Mr. Ken Wilkinson volunteered for the position.

Moved and Seconded

THAT Mr. Ken Wilkinson be appointed as Acting Chair of the Access Ability Advisory Committee during any unscheduled absences of the Chair.

CARRIED

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

5.2 Election of Representative to be appointed to the Advisory Committee for Transit, Bicycles and Pedestrians (ACTBiPed) – Councillor McIntosh

Members were invited to submit their name to act as a representative on the Advisory Committee for Transit, Bicycles and Pedestrians (ACTBiPed) to attend meetings and provide information updates back to this Committee. As there were no volunteers, it was decided that this issue would be tabled to the next meeting.

5.3 Election of Representative to be appointed to Master Transportation Plan Advisory Committee – Councillor McIntosh

The floor was open for members to volunteer for the position of Committee Representative on the Master Transportation Plan Advisory Committee. Mr. Ken Wilkinson volunteered for the position.

Moved and seconded

THAT Mr. Ken Wilkinson be appointed as Access Ability Advisory Committee representative on the Master Transportation Plan Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

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

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Information Update – Councillor McIntosh, Chair

- Anvil centre construction winding down in early Summer and opening in September
- Wait for Me Daddy memorial will be unveiled in October at Hyack Square
- Truck Route Open House well attended by residents. Member asked if input could still be submitted and although the website is closed, comments can still be submitted to Engineering staff.
 - One member commented on the increased traffic now running through Victoria Hill and along most streets of the City. Engineering staff have met with Victoria Hill Stratas and have prepared options for those Stratas to take to their residents.
 - A complaint on U-turns being made in the Fourth Street Parking Lot, but in accordance with the Motor Vehicle Act, a driver can turn so as to proceed in the opposite direction, as long as he does not interfere with other traffic; and
 - Royal Avenue truck checks have been conducted regularly

Engineering Services Information Update:

- Accessible improvement program and 2013 program completed.
- 2014 program proposed and once the budget has been approved, details will be provided at next meeting. The City installs approximately 70 curb cuts per year and if any member knows of locations that they would like to bring to the attention of staff they can submit those locations to the Committee.

- In general, members spoke of improvements needed in the Victory Heights neighborhood.
- Fourth Street Overpass construction to Westminster Pier Park will start in March with completion by September.

Parks Culture & Recreation Information Update:

- 8th award presented to Westminster Pier Park;
- Recreation Association of BC hosted a curling event;
- Off-leash dog area public consultation process underway;
- Focusing on planning and preparation of community space within the Anvil Centre;
- Pink shirt support celebration yesterday; and
- Looking at opportunities at the Sapperton Green 38 acre parcel by Braid Skytrain Station for potential recreation amenities.

A member commented that Herbert Spencer School has recently been having problems with student drop-offs infringing on disabled parking stalls. A general discussion took place regarding the issue including parking enforcement. In the United States, disabled parking spaces are clearly identified and specify what the fine is, which could be considered a deterrent.

Moved and seconded:

WHEREAS there is an ongoing problem around the City with vehicles parking in disabled parking stalls without displaying a disabled permit;

WHEREAS Seattle, Washington fines are \$450 for vehicles parking in a disabled parking stall without displaying a permit;

WHEREAS members of this Committee would like to see an increase in the fine charged for parking in a disabled parking stall without displaying a disabled permit;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Access Ability Advisory Committee recommends:

That Council direct staff to review the amount being fined for those illegally parking in a designated disabled parking stall without a disabled permit, with consideration given to increasing the fine from \$80 to a more significant penalty.

CARRIED

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

Councillor McIntosh recognized Mr. Don McCuiston who is going to be travelling to Japan to investigate the issue of ostomy toilets in support of his request that consideration be given to the installation of an ostomy toilet in the Anvil Centre. Mr. McCuiston will attend the next meeting to update members on his trip.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE (received by members for information)

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the following correspondence circulated to members be received:

- 7.1 Committee Orientation Package
- 7.2 Terms of Reference – Access Ability Advisory Committee
- 7.3 2014 Meeting Dates
- 7.4 Update on Waste and Ostomy Toilet
- 7.5 Abilities Article - 12 Things Every Business Can Do Right Now
- 7.6 Vancouver Sun “Disabled BCers frustrated by able-bodied drivers” & follow-up letter
- 7.7 BCCPD – BC Ombudsperson releases report on review
- 7.8 BCCPD – Swing into Spring 2014
- 7.9 BCCPD/Sparc bc – Inclusive Practice in Healthcare
- 7.10 BCCPD/Sparc bc – Our Health Matters
- 7.11 Access Transit Newsletter; February 2014
- 7.12 How will your organization participate in the 2014 International Summit on Accessibility?

CARRIED

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

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 3 @ 3 pm
Council Chamber, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm

COUNCILLOR BETTY MCINTOSH
CHAIR

KATHY PROTHERO
RECORDING CLERK