



## MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY MEETING

January 5, 2023

1:00 pm

5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room of City Hall  
1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC

**PRESENT:** Ms. Brandy Stiles <Vice-Chair> <via Zoom>  
Ms. Roberta Chartrand  
Ms. Laura Grafton  
Mr. Ken Biron <via Zoom>  
Ms. Kia Johnsen <via Zoom>  
Ms. Furqana Khan <via Zoom>

**REGRETS:** Ms. Kalena Steiniger  
Ms. Lydia Troc

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Catharine Sikobe, Legislative Services Assistant

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### A. COMMENCEMENT

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. with the reading of the following Land Acknowledgement: "We respectfully acknowledge the unceded ancestral lands of the Lheidli T'enneh, on whose land we live, work, and play".

### B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Sikobe advised that the Access Award of Merit would need to be discussed during the meeting and recommended an amendment to the agenda to include this discussion.

**Moved By** Ms. Johnsen

**Seconded By** Ms. Khan

*That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility AMENDS the January 5, 2023 agenda by adding Item D.3 – Access Award of Merit, and that the agenda for the January 5, 2023 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility, BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.*

**Carried Unanimously**

### C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

#### C.1 Minutes from the Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting held November 3, 2022

**Moved By** Ms. Steiniger

**Seconded By** Ms. Troc

*That the minutes of the meeting held November 3, 2022 for the Advisory Committee on Accessibility, BE ADOPTED.*

**Carried Unanimously**

**D. NEW BUSINESS****D.1 Letter from Andy Beesley, Director of Civic Facilities and Events regarding Civic Facility Audits (Work Plan Item 1A)**

Ms. Sikobe advised that letters were sent to Mr. Wade Loukes, Manager of Operations, Mr. Dale Martens, Manager of Facilities Maintenance, Mr. Glen Mikkelsen, Manager of Entertainment, and Mr. Andy Beesley, Director of Civic Facilities and Events. Mr. Beesley's response addresses all components of the Civic Facilities Audit and responses from the remaining managers will not be necessary.

Discussion commenced regarding Mr. Beesley's response. The committee addressed questions arising from the response and requested clarification from Mr. Vliegenthart at a subsequent meeting.

The Committee also discussed visiting the sites to see the improvements and provide further comments and suggestions if needed. The committee further discussed writing a response letter to appreciate the work that has been done and to request site visits.

Ms. Grafton will draft the letter and forward to the Committee via email for comment.

**Moved By** Ms. Johnsen

**Seconded By** Ms. Khan

*That the Committee DRAFTS a letter of response to Mr. Beesley to appreciate the completed work and request site visits.*

**Carried Unanimously**

**D.2 Standing Item: Accessibility Week 2023**

Ms. Grafton advised that a meeting of the Accessibility Working Group took place in November which included a brainstorming session for the event. The Working Group plans to confirm if any other Accessibility Week initiatives are being planned by the City.

Ideas for the event include inviting Council, Senior Administration, and Planning staff to participate in a scavenger hunt throughout the City with the use of mobility devices provided by MEDChair North BC which would highlight some of the everyday accessibility issues that face residents of Prince George. The Working Group also discussed the possibility of having media coverage of the event.

Ms. Sikobe will request Mr. Gobbi to organize a working group meeting before the February 2, 2023 meeting of the Committee.

**D.3 Access Award of Merit**

Ms. Sikobe provided information on the Access Award of Merit and advised that discussion should include setting the nomination period and reviewing the nomination form. Ms. Sikobe recommended the nomination period take place from Monday, January 9, 2023 to Monday, January 23, 2023 at the earliest or Monday February 20, 2023 at the latest to ensure time for the nominations to be considered at a Closed Committee session in March and in advance of the Civic Appreciation event tentatively scheduled for April 19, 2023.

Ms. Stiles provided background on the award and advised that in the previous few years the award was not presented due to the pandemic and underqualified nominees.

The Committee agreed that a longer nomination period is favourable to allow for more participation and reviewed the nomination form. Minor edits to the nomination form to improve readability and grammar were made.

Ms. Sikobe will post the nomination package on the City's website and contact the City's Communication Division to arrange social media coverage for the campaign running January 9, 2023 to February 20, 2023.

The Committee also discussed inviting the award recipient to participate in the Accessibility Week 2023 events as a guest of honour and honouring the award recipient on social media.

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**E.1 Age-Friendly Presentation**

The Committee advised that due to an error in scheduling, a practice session for the Age-Friendly Presentation did not take place. Ms. Sikobe will request Mr. Gobbi to organize a practice session before the February 2, 2023 meeting of the Committee.

**F. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**F.1 Next Committee Meeting: February 2, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

**THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:53 P.M.**

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**Ms. Brandy Stiles, Vice-Chair**

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**Ms. Catharine Sikobe, Legislative Services Assistant**

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**CERTIFIED CORRECT**