



MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION MEETING

May 4, 2023

1:00 pm

5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room of City Hall

1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC

*We respectfully acknowledge the unceded ancestral lands of the Lheidli T'enneh,  
on whose land we live, work and play.*

**PRESENT:** Ms. Kia Johnsen <Chair> <via Zoom>  
Ms. Laura Grafton  
Ms. Kaitlyn Vecchio  
Mr. Ken Biron <via Zoom>  
Ms. Vivian Martin  
Ms. Kalena Steiniger <via Zoom> <1:20 p.m. to 2:26 p.m.>  
Ms. Roberta Chartrand

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Ron Polillo <1:03 p.m. to 2:07p.m.>  
Mr. Chris Vliegthart, Supervisor of Transportation/Staff Liaison  
Ms. Catharine Sikobe, Legislative Services Assistant  
Ms. Elisha Leclair, Legislative Services Assistant  
Ms. Maria Paulson, Civic Initiatives Coordinator (Presenter) <1:00 p.m. to 1:33 p.m.>  
Ms. Sarah Brown, Supervisor of Community Well-Being and Partnerships <1:00 p.m. to 1:33 p.m.>

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**A. COMMENCEMENT**

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m.

**B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Moved By** Ms. Vecchio  
**Seconded By** Ms. Martin

*That the agenda for the May 4, 2023 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion, BE ADOPTED.*

**Carried Unanimously**

**C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**C.1 Minutes from the Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting held April 6, 2023**

**Moved By** Ms. Grafton  
**Seconded By** Ms. Vecchio

*That the minutes from the Advisory Committee on Accessibility held April 6, 2023, BE ADOPTED.*

**Carried Unanimously**

## **D. NEW BUSINESS**

### **D.1 Overview of Accessible British Columbia Act**

Ms. Maria Paulson, Civic Initiatives Coordinator, and Ms. Sarah Brown, Supervisor of Community Well-Being and Partnerships, provided a presentation regarding the *Accessible BC Act* (“the Act”) including information on definitions within the Act, regulations requirements for local government organizations, and the work being currently conducted by the City to meet the regulations. Ms. Paulson presented a flexible timeline of the organization environmental scan being conducted and preparation and review of a draft Accessibility Plan.

Ms. Steiniger joined the meeting via Zoom at 1:20 p.m.

Discussion commenced regarding the timelines. Ms. Paulson, Ms. Brown, and Mr. Vliegthart responded to questions of the Committee.

The Committee requested the Whistler Accessibility Plan be emailed to the members for their information.

Ms. Paulson and Ms. Brown exited the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room at 1:33 p.m.

### **D.2 Jumpstart Accessible Sports Facility (Work Plan Item 1B)**

Mr. Vliegthart invited comments and suggestions from the Committee regarding the Jumpstart Accessible Sports Facility. Discussion commenced regarding the new site location replacing the existing tennis courts on Massey Drive across from the Firehall No. 1 which will be more accessible from the parking lot to the facility and bathroom facilities currently exist.

Discussion commenced regarding maintenance and evaluation of site accessibility by the Committee. Mr. Vliegthart indicated that the City will be responsible for maintaining the completed site and that he will inquire if the existing bathrooms are accessible and will report back to the Committee.

### **D.3 Sidewalk Rehabilitation (Work Plan Item 2C)**

Mr. Vliegthart distributed lists and a map of the planned sidewalk rehabilitation and new connection locations for 2023. The Committee inquired about the following sites:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East
  - Was considered but not selected for installation in 2023
- 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue adjacent to snow dump
  - Will be addressed after the snow dump drainage has been permanently addressed
- Ospika to McGowan
  - Due to the low pedestrian numbers, this site was not evaluated as high a priority as other site locations.

The committee discussed the criteria considered by Civic Operations when determining installation of new connection locations and repairs of existing infrastructure including the condition of the existing sidewalk, availability of alternate pedestrian routes, public input via service requests, and distribution of work and funds throughout the municipality.

Discussion commenced regarding considerations for a crosswalk between the parking lot at Prince George Conference and Civic Centre and the Canfor Leisure Pool.

#### **D.4 Standing Item: Accessibility Week 2023**

Discussion commenced regarding the plans for the Accessibility Week 2023 event including timing, invitations, and accessibility scenarios that depicts both good and challenging experiences in terms of accessibility.

Discussion commenced regarding forwarding invitations to Mayor, Council, Lheidli T'enneh, media, and City representatives from the Development Services division and Roads division.

**Moved By** Ms. Vecchio

**Seconded By** Mr. Biron

*That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion APPROVES the Accessibility Week 2023 event be scheduled for May 31, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at Veteran's Plaza cenotaph and that an invitation to the event be distributed to Mayor, Council, Chief Logan, media, and City representatives from the Development Services division and Roads division.*

**Carried Unanimously**

Ms. Vecchio left the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room at 2:18 p.m.

Councillor Polillo departed from the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

Ms. Vecchio returned to the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room at 2:20 p.m.

### **E. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **E.1 Age-Friendly Presentation**

Discussion commenced to schedule delivering the presentation to Planning and Development department. The presentation will be distributed to the committee via email for their review.

Further discussion regarding scheduling of the first presentation was postponed to a future meeting of the committee.

#### **E.2 2023 Work Plan Review**

Mr. Vliegenthart advised that work plan items 1B and 2B have been completed on the 2023 Committee Work Plan.

Discussion commenced regarding the timeline for item 2C being changed to October/November 2023.

### **F. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### **F.1 Next Committee Meeting: June 1, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**

Ms. Johnsen requested committee members forward agenda items for the June 1, 2023 meeting by May 23, 2023 to Ms. Johnsen and Mr. Vliegenthart.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

**THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION MEETING ADJOURNED  
AT 2:26 P.M.**

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**Ms. Kia Johnsen, Chair**

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**Mr. Chris Vliegthart, Supervisor of Transportation/ Staff Liaison**

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**Ms. Elisha Leclair, Legislative Services Assistant**

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**CERTIFIED CORRECT**