

DATE: March 1, 2024

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Ken Biron, Vice-Chair, Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion

SUBJECT: Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion 2023 Annual Report

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Advisory Committee on Accessibility 2023 Work Plan
2. Advisory Committee on Accessibility 2024 Work Plan
3. Terms of Reference for Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council APPROVES the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion 2024 Work Plan attached to the report dated March 1, 2024 from the Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion titled “Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion 2023 Annual Report”.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the activities and achievements of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion and to provide the Committee’s proposed 2024 work plan for Council’s consideration.

BACKGROUND:

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion is a Council Committee guided by its Council-approved Terms of Reference mandate to advise Mayor and Council and City Staff on the identification, removal, and prevention of physical, social, and attitudinal barriers to individuals in or interacting with the City of Prince George as an organization or which impedes the full participation of all citizens in every aspect of community life.

WORK OF COMMITTEE DURING 2023:

In 2023, the committee held four meetings to address items included within its 2023 work plan. The committee was provided the opportunity to review and provide feedback regarding the following items:

- an update from Civic Facilities and Events regarding the recommendations provided during the committees’ 2016 Facility Audit;
- the Jumpstart Multi-sport Accessible Facility;
- the planned sidewalk rehabilitation and new connection locations planned for 2023; and
- guiding principles in the City’s creation of an Accessibility Work Plan related to the BC Accessibility Act.

During 2023, the committee's terms of reference underwent two revisions. First, in March 2023, Council approved amendments to the committee's name, purpose, and mandate to better align with the regulations under the Accessible BC Act. Second, in December 2023, in addition to some housekeeping amendments, Council approved to amend to the committee's meeting frequency to align with the work the committee will be undertaking regarding their review of feedback from the City's Feedback Tool related to accessibility within the organization.

In September, Administration placed a temporary hold on the meetings of the committee until completion of the Accessibility Work Plan and implementation of the City's Feedback Tool. The committee reconvened its meetings on a quarterly basis in January 2024.

OVERVIEW OF 2024 WORK PLAN:

Attached to this report is a copy of the proposed 2024 work plan which takes into consideration the committee's primary focus of reviewing feedback on accessibility barriers in and interacting with the City of Prince George and feedback on the City's Accessibility Work Plan. It is anticipated that the committee will review these service requests and identify and advise on future actions to be included in the updated plan.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion respectfully requests Council approve its 2024 work plan as noted in the recommendation section and looks forward to its ongoing work to identify, prevent, and remove barriers that impede the full participation of individuals in or interacting with the City of Prince George.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Ken Biron, Vice-Chair
Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2024/03/11