

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 2022-FEB-23, AT 3:58 P.M.

Present: Councillor Z. Maartman, Chair
A. Breen, At Large Member
S. Cameron, At Large Member
S. Hamel, At Large Member (joined 4:03 p.m.)
R. Harlow, At Large Member
J. Maffin, At Large Member
R. Pike, At Large Member
E. Williamson, At Large Member

Absent: Councillor S. Armstrong
T. Davenock, At Large Member
D. Hollins, At Large Member

Staff: R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
L. Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development
L. Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture
J. Rose, Director, Transportation
L. Clarkson, Manager, Recreation Services
K. Macdonald, Parks and Open Spaces Planner
L. Stevenson, Active Transportation Project Specialist
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
A. Mac Coll, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING TO ORDER:

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting was called to order at 3:58 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting held electronically Monday, 2022-JAN-12 at 4:01 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

S. Hamel joined the electronic meeting at 4:03 p.m.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Accessibility Legislation

Introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development.

1. Presentation:

Sam Turcott, Executive Lead, Accessibility Directorate, Ministry of BC Social Development and Poverty Reduction provided a presentation. Highlights included:

- The Accessible BC Act (ABA) which is the first formal statutory framework in British Columbia (BC) for accessibility received Royal Assent June 17, 2021
- The goal of the ABA is for identification, removal and prevention of barriers as well as full and equal participation of people with disabilities in BC
- BC was the largest Province by population in Canada that did not have a statutory framework in place for accessibility
- The Federal Government passed the Accessible Canada Act in 2019
- The ABA legislation is an enabling legislation scheme with a broad objective, to achieve the objective it requires continual work, introduction of policies, and implementation will be used
- The ABA provides the legal basis for the Province of BC to develop and adopt accessibility standards as well as the ability to bring the standards into law by regulation of the Lieutenant Governor and Council
- The ABA provides the ability to create a Provincial Accessibility Committee which would develop recommendations of accessibility standards for the Province
- Part 3 of the ABA Legislation gives local governments three requirements to fulfill:
 1. Develop an accessibility plan
 2. Create an accessibility committee
 3. Develop a mechanism for feedback regarding government programs and services
- The statutory maximum penalty for non-compliance is up to \$250,000
- As the legislation is implemented, future regulations developed will have details regarding different penalties for different offences
- Honorable Minister Simons has announced the appointment of members to the Inaugural Provincial Accessibility Committee (IPA) on 2021-DEC-03 with it's first meeting held in January 2022
- The current priorities of the IPA Committee are how the standards will be prioritized and sequenced when creating the regulations
- In September 2022, work will begin to engage and identify public sector organizations that would be responsible under part 3 of the ABA, and allotting them a minimum of 1 year to complete those requirements

- Public sector organizations currently includes Local Governments, School Districts, and certain Crown Corporations that deliver day to day front-line services to communities
- Part 4 of the ABA will provide the adoption and development of accessibility standards with those standards outlining who it applies to
- Province-wide public consultations with the relevant stakeholders were started in the fall of 2019 based on the direction of the Honorable Minister Simpson
- Organizations have different capacities and abilities to support internal and external committees.
- Flexibility will be exercised by the Province for organizations to meet the requirements of the ABA
- The implementation of the legislation should be embedded from the lived experiences of those with disabilities

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Public sector organization requirements and how it will relate to the work the ACAI Committee is already conducting
- ABA legislation is based consultations conducted across the Province of BC with persons with disabilities
- Rules in the legislation and how they could apply to committees being created or committees that are already created

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, advised the Committee that the Draft REIMAGINE NANAIMO City plan (City Plan) have been reviewed by the Province's team led by Sam Turcott. The team helped clarify to Staff that the work the City of Nanaimo (the City) and the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (the Committee) have been doing will help meet the requirements in the ABA legislation.

5. REPORTS:

(a) Transit Stop Accessibility Working Group – Verbal Update

Introduced by Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works and Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation. Highlights included:

- Staff have received representatives from the Committee, the Regional District of Nanaimo, and BC Transit to create the Transit Stop Accessibility Working Group
- Staff will be meeting with the working group to confirm the project schedule and will be looking at what items need to be addressed and modified for accessibility at transit stops
- The intent is to complete the project prior to the summer of 2022

(b) 2022 Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Work Plan

Introduced by Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture. Highlights included:

- Staff advised Linda Derksen has resigned and would like to thank her for her work with the Committee
- An internal process for how to proceed after a member has resigned directed by Council will be followed
- Senior Leadership team members are working on gender language recommendations
- The following items were added to the 2022 work plan:
 - Outstanding gender diversity and inclusion recommendations
 - Accessible parking
 - Accessible programs and services for Parks, Recreation and Culture
 - Presentation by City Staff regarding accessible housing
 - Accessibility regarding snow events

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness approve forwarding the 2022 Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Work Plan to Council for review and approval. The motion carried unanimously.

(c) Draft City Plan Accessibility and Inclusiveness Policies

Introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development.

Kirsty Macdonald, Parks and Open Spaces Planner provided a presentation. Highlights included:

- An Empowered Nanaimo's goal contains 10 items within the City Plan with the Committee receiving the following 3 items:
 1. Equity and Inclusivity;
 2. Political Voice and Engagement; and,
 3. Access for all
- Equity and inclusivity is one of the 12 key themes that emerged from public engagement and is a desired outcome of the City Plan
- Civic engagement will be accessible to all residents to help create an informed and aware community for residents to meaningfully participate and shape city decision
- A special meeting will be held in March for Staff to receive feedback and direction on policies
- The City Plan will help create options for people of all ages, abilities, and incomes to freely move throughout the City and to have easy access to services and spaces without barriers
- The City Plan integrated with the Action Plan will be shared with this Committee after Council has received it 2022-FEB-28
- Phase 3 of the City Plan will commence 2022-MAR-01 with an engagement period of 6 weeks
- The draft policies received in the information report have been reviewed by the Accessibility Directorate and fulfills the legislation requirements

- The Action Plan will be a document that is updated every three years on all topic areas
- The City will close the City Plan engagement in April, and will move forward with government to government referrals and bylaw processes in May and June
- The City will show residents how the City Plan is reflecting the community's ideas they provided throughout the engagement process
- The online story map of the City Plan will integrate information across the geography of our City to help readers have a better visual understanding
- The City will be mailing out a statistically-valid surveys to residents at random, and public workshops will be run in the month of March regarding Phase 3 of the City Plan

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Accessibility regarding gender diversity and specific language used in the City Plan
- Relying on outreach groups for engagement with people experiencing different types of homelessness, for feedback about the City Plan
- Consideration of working groups to reach residents who are gender non-conforming, incarcerated, First Nation's, and other ethnicities and cultures in the City
- The Health and Housing Task Force completed work that included outreach to residents with lived experience of homelessness in Nanaimo
- Snuneymuxw First Nation engaged with groups who did not feel comfortable with City Staff to help receive feedback regarding the City Plan
- Access to internet is a barrier and a challenge during COVID-19 for engagement and feedback from vulnerable groups, but meetings have been more accessible when using virtual methods
- The City has received feedback through trusted third party organizations and community stakeholders for those not comfortable with providing direct feedback to City Staff
- The glossary document in the City Plan will provide terminology and definitions which will be helpful regarding evolving language and interpretations of words

Sam Turcott, Executive Lead, Accessibility Directorate, Ministry of BC Social Development and Poverty Reduction commented on the draft policies. Highlights included.

- The City is ahead in terms of work underway regarding the City Plan, accessibility, and the Committee, to begin to align with the ABA
- The ABA includes provisions about intersectionality to signal that diverse and lived experiences are acknowledged in legislation
- Lived experienced of a disability is shaped by each persons diverse background, culture, and ethnicity

6. QUESTION PERIOD:

There was no one in attendance.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:14 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER