

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY MEETING

Minutes of the City of Prince George Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting, held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room of City Hall, 1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC, on January 9, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

### PRESENT:

Ms. Andrea **Palmer** (Chair) <4:08 p.m. to 5:38 p.m.>; Mr. Chris **Gobbi** (Vice-Chair); Mr. Shane **Bunce**; Ms. Heather **Lamb**; Ms. Brandy **Stiles**; Mr. Kanoa **Robinson**; Ms. Caroline **Parker**; and Mr. Justin **Turner**.

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Tristin **Deveau**, Planner/Staff Liaison; Mr. Ian **Sinclair**, Engineering Assistant/Staff Liaison; Mr. Leland Hanson, Manager of Civic Facilities <4:05 p.m. to 4:48 p.m.>; Mr. Jay Lin, HCMA Architecture and Design <4:05 p.m. to 4:48 p.m.>; Mr. Alan Tse, HCMA Architecture and Design <4:05 p.m. to 4:48 p.m.>; Councillor Cori **Ramsay**; and Ms. Leslie **Kellett**, Legislative Coordinator.

#### **A. Commencement**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

#### **B. Adoption of Agenda**

- B.1** Moved by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mr. Bunce, that the agenda for the January 9, 2019 Advisory Committee on Accessibility, BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

#### **C. Adoption of Minutes**

- C.1** Minutes from the Advisory Committee on Accessibility Meeting held December 12, 2018

Moved by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Bunce, that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility minutes from the meeting held December 12, 2018 BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

Ms. Palmer entered the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room at 4:08 p.m.

#### **D. New Business**

- D.1** Guest Presenter: Leland Hanson, Manager of Civic Facilities – Fire Hall Replacement Project

Mr. Leland Hanson, Manager of Civic Facilities, City of Prince George, Mr. Jay Lin, HCMA Architecture and Design, and Mr. Alan Tse, HCMA Architecture and Design, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the replacement of Fire Hall No. 1 to be relocated to Massey Drive included design rationale of the proposed three (3) storey facility.

Discussion commenced regarding accessibility and universal design features including a barrier-free design for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors, and healthy design features regarding indoor environment (air quality, thermal design features and acoustic performance), mental health (patio garden, access to light and viewscape, and private and semi-private social spaces) and active occupants (main stairway located at entrance to encourage use, fitness space and bike facilities).

The Committee was advised that the final design will receive a peer review for best practices of accessibility features by an individual with Rick Hanson Foundation Accessibility Certification.

Discussion commenced regarding pre-emption lights for vehicle traffic on Massey Drive which can be triggered by an active call out by the Fire Hall and approximately fourteen (14) metres long apron for the rescue trucks leading to the Massey Drive entrance, providing ample warning to oncoming pedestrian traffic.

The Committee inquired why the main floor suppression area is not fully accessible and how that would affect public tours.

The suppression area (main floor) is reserved for the fire crew required to access the apparatus bays, trucks, gear and dormitories. There are some necessary features, which would not meet the definition of universal design, implemented in these areas to aid for the department in meeting the required call-out

time. Any fire crew individual who is injured or put on light duty will be relocated to the barrier-free zones on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> floor until they are able to return to full duty.

Mr. Hanson, Mr. Lin and Mr. Tse exited the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room at 4:48 p.m.

#### **D.2 Committee Work Plan 2019**

The Committee reviewed the draft 2019 Work Plan. Minor wording changes were applied to items F.1 and G.1.

**Moved by Ms. Lamb, seconded by Mr. Gobbi, that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility Work Plan 2019, as presented at the January 9, 2019 Committee meeting, BE ADOPTED.**

**Carried Unanimously**

#### **D.3 New Development and Minimum Standard of Accessibility**

Ms. Stiles raised concerns that minimum accessibility standards, as defined in the BC Building Code, are not being followed in new construction development. Mr. Deveau requested some examples to be provided for reference in a conversation with the building inspection department in order to determine how this part of the code is assessed. Mr. Deveau will report back to the Committee.

Ms. Kellett exited the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room at 5:04 p.m.

#### **D.4 Accessible Parking Requirements at Residential and Commercial Buildings**

Ms. Stiles advised that the BC building code is being modified to pull parking requirements and regulations out and shift responsibility to the local government. The Committee discussed concern that regulations pertaining to accessible parking may be neglected during the change in responsibility. Mr. Deveau advised that most of the City's parking regulations are defined within the Zoning Bylaw, however, he will have a conversation with Development Services to ensure that anything that might be pulled out of the BC Building Code is covered elsewhere in municipal regulations and bylaw. Mr. Deveau advised he would email, to the Committee members, the current parking regulations as noted within the City's Zoning Bylaw.

Mr. Deveau advised that the parking section of the Zoning Bylaw is currently under review by the City. This process was started over a year ago and a previous planner had presented to the Committee of the time regarding the Accessible Parking requirements. Mr. Deveau will inquire about the timeline for these changes and whether an additional check-in with the Committee, by the Planning Department, is possible.

#### **D.5 Para Nordic Games Update**

Mr. Gobbi, who participates on the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of the World Para Nordic Skiing Championships, provided an update on the work that has been completed to date by the LOC. The focus, related to accessibility, has largely been focused on the venue and athletes. Mr. Gobbi advised that accessibility for spectators and volunteers has recently come onto the LOC's radar.

Ms. Lamb advised that she signed up as a volunteer for the event under the belief that there would be transportation provided to the venue for volunteers and spectators. Recently, Ms. Lamb was advised that this was not the case and transportation could not be accommodated.

Discussion commenced regarding the concern that an event with a strong emphasis on accessibility was not generally accessible.

Mr. Gobbi informed the committee that the LOC has begun looking for a solution and is working with the City.

Discussion commenced regarding the Committee writing a letter to Council expressing concern on the lack of accessible transportation to the event for spectators and volunteers.

**Moved by Ms. Lamb, seconded by Ms. Stiles, that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility APPROVES submitting a letter to Council regarding transportation for spectators and volunteers for the World Para Nordic Skiing Championships.**

**Carried Unanimously**

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**E.1 Civic Facilities and Parks Update**

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

**E.2 Representation on the Accessible Transit Advisory Committee (ATAC)**

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

**E.3 Accessible Parking Working Group**

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

**E.4 Pedestrian Access at Construction Sites**

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

**F. Informational Items**

**F.1 Access Award of Merit: Nomination deadline is 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 8, 2019**

Nominations will be accepted starting January 10, 2019 – nomination packages will be available on the website (<http://www.princegeorge.ca/Committees>)

To encourage public submission of nominations, the Committee requested social media posts be made regarding the Access Award of Merit nominations.

**F.2 Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

The next regular committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room. All agenda items and supporting materials must be submitted to Ms. Kellett before 12:00 p.m. on Friday, February 1, 2018.

**G. Adjournment**

**THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:38 p.m.**

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**Andrea Palmer, Chair**

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**Leslie Kellett, Legislative Coordinator**

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