



MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY MEETING

June 02, 2022

1:00 pm

2nd Floor Conference Room of City Hall
1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC

PRESENT: Mr. Chris Gobbi <Chair>
Ms. Kalena Steiniger <via Zoom> <1:03 p.m. to 2:02 p.m.>
Ms. Laura Grafton <via Zoom>
Ms. Roberta Chartrand <via Zoom>
Ms. Furqana Khan <via Zoom>
Ms. Brandy Stiles <via Zoom>
Ms. Kia Johnsen <via Zoom>
Ms. Lydia Troc

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Susan Scott <1:40 p.m. to 2:02 p.m.>
Mr. Chris Vliegenthart, Supervisor of Transportation/Staff Liaison
Ms. Leslie Kellett, Deputy Corporate Officer
Ms. Catharine Sikobe, Legislative Services Assistant
Ms. Sarah Brown, Supervisor of Community Well-Being and Partnerships
(Presenter) <1:00 p.m. to 1:33 p.m.>

A. COMMENCEMENT

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved By Ms. Johnsen
Seconded By Ms. Troc

That the agenda for the June 2, 2022 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility, BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

C.1 Minutes from the Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting held May 5, 2022

Moved By Ms. Johnsen
Seconded By Ms. Khan

That the minutes of the meeting held May 5, 2022 for the Advisory Committee on Accessibility, BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

D. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kalena Steiniger joined the meeting 1:03 p.m.

D.1 Age Friendly Action Plan

Ms. Brown provided an overview of the development, implementation, and use of the Age Friendly Action Plan and advised that the Plan is intended to be used as a guiding document for City staff and municipal projects to be inclusive of all ages. The Plan contains four (4) key elements and seventeen (17) action items within eight (8) focus areas.

Since its adoption, the plan has been used in a number of City initiatives and is noted within the City's 2022/2023 Corporate Workplan for a number of projects in various City departments.

Following discussion that included questions regarding comparisons to other municipalities, reporting, and the Committee's involvement in various projects utilizing the Plan, the Committee requested annual updates on the implementation of the action items within the Age Friendly Action Plan. Ms. Brown advised she could provide updates on the items specific to her work when appropriate, however, would be unable to speak to the work of other City departments.

The Committee re-iterated their willingness to be involved in projects involving age-inclusion and identified several instances where the Plan may be implemented. Ms. Kellett and Mr. Vliegthart advised that specific requests and recommendations should be made prior to the next year budget preparations with the end of August as a general timeline. Ms. Kellett also agreed to provide the link to the Plan to the committee via email for review.

Ms. Brown departed from the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

D.2 CN Centre Accessible Seating

Ms. Grafton provided some background on this matter advising of recent events held at the CN Centre and Kin Centres where available accessible seating was only offered at prime seating location resulting in an increased ticket cost and noted concerns that companions and/or caretakers attending an event were not offered complimentary or discounted ticket pricing potentially posing financial barriers to some members of the community.

Following discussion which included past civic facility audits, the Committee agreed to invite Mr. Andy Beesley, Director of Recreation & Events and/or Mr. Glen Mikkelsen, Manager of Entertainment, to speak to the Committee regarding accessible seating for events held in the CN Centre and Kin Centres.

Councillor Scott entered the 2nd Floor Conference Room at 1:40 p.m.

D.3 Civic Facilities Audits (Work Plan Item 1A)

Mr. Vliegthart inquired of the Committee whether there is any specific information they are seeking for this item and will provide a more detailed update on Civic Facilities Audits (Work Plan Item 1A) at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee requested a status update on the implementation of recommendations made in all Civic Facility Audits conducted by the committee and/or on behalf of the committee.

D.4 Sidewalk Closure Procedures and Compliance (Work Plan Item 2C)

Mr. Vliegenthart will provide a more detailed update on Sidewalk Closure Procedures and Compliance (Work Plan Item 2C) at the next meeting of the Committee.

Members of the Committee raised concern over various projects throughout the City that have closed sidewalks in such ways that creates hazardous conditions for pedestrians. Mr. Gobbi and Mr. Vliegenthart emphasized the importance of taking photos and submitting Service Requests to the City when these issues are noticed to ensure timely action.

D.5 Accessibility Presentation (Work Plan Item 3A)

Ms. Stiles advised that she has a copy of the draft Presentation and will provide the Presentation to the Committee via email. The Committee is invited to make comments and suggest updates to the Presentation via email. Mr. Gobbi will organize an informal Zoom call to finalize the Presentation prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

E. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

E.1 Next Committee Meeting: July 7, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Grafton inquired of the letter sent to Council regarding Accessibility Week 2023. Ms. Kellett advised that the letter was received by Council at the regular meeting held on May 30, 2022 and Council is looking forward to next year’s events. Ms. Grafton suggested that in order to keep the event as a Committee focus a work team be implemented. Mr. Gobbi and Ms. Kellett recommended that the event be made a standing item on the Committee agenda and that the event be considered as a work plan item for the 2023 Work Plan.

F. ADJOURNMENT

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:02 P.M.

Mr. Chris Gobbi, Chair

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

Ms. Catharine Sikobe, Legislative Services Assistant

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