

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY

Minutes of the City of Prince George Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting, held in the 2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC, on October 7, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Ms. Brandy **Stiles**, Vice-Chair; Ms. Heather **Lamb**; Mr. Ken **Biron**; Ms. Gillian **Wigmore**; Ms. Furqana **Khan** <via telephone>; and Mr. Bruce **Siddall**.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Susan **Scott** <1:00 p.m. to 1:56 p.m.>; Mr. Chris **Vliegenthart**, Supervisor of Transportation/Staff Liaison; and Ms. Leslie **Kellett**, Legislative Coordinator.

A. Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

B. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Ms. Lamb, seconded by Mr. Siddall, that the agenda for the October 7, 2021 Advisory Committee on Accessibility, BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

C. Adoption of Minutes

C.1 Minutes from the Advisory Committee on Accessibility Meeting held August 5, 2021

Moved by Mr. Biron, seconded by Ms. Wigmore, that the minutes for the Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting held August 5, 2021, BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

D. New Business

D.1 Committee Introductions

A roundtable of introductions was held to introduce the new staff liaison, Mr. Chris Vliegenthart, Supervisor of Transportation.

D.2 Update re: Report to Council on Pedestrian Accommodation in Work Zones

The committee was advised that the report to Council was received at the August 16, 2021 regular Council meeting with direction given to administration to review existing City policies, procedures, and permitting processes regarding accessibility of safe pedestrian access to the pedestrian network in work zones to ensure the City aligns with best practices in promoting pedestrian safety and accommodation in construction activity areas.

This work is anticipated to take place over the coming months.

D.3 Committee Participation

The committee was reminded that members who miss three (3) meetings in calendar year without notice or leave of the committee may be recommended to Council for removal from the committee. Committee members are asked to respond to the meeting emails requesting confirmation of the members' availability and intention to attend the upcoming committee meeting. Failure to respond to the email and subsequently missing the meeting is considered an unexcused absence.

D.4 Parks Accessibility Improvements Update

Mr. Vliegenthart provided a verbal update on the recent parks accessibility improvements including:

- installation of accessible outhouses at Forest for the World, Wilson Park, and Ferguson Lake;
- installation of accessible picnic tables at Forest for the World and Ferguson Lake; and
- Repair to ramps, service roads and trail grading.

D.5 20th Ave Sidewalk Replacement Letdown Clearances

Mr. Vliegenthart provided a verbal update on the recent improvements made to the curb letdown clearances along 20th Avenue and further advised of curb improvements made to Ospika Blvd, Domano Blvd, and ongoing work taking place along 1st Avenue.

Discussion commenced regarding the placement of BC Hydro poles in proximity to some ramps and/or in the middle of the sidewalk. Mr. Vliegenthart responded to questions of the committee noting that should BC Hydro undertake improvements or replacement of hydro poles, improvements regarding placement of the new pole would take into consideration.

The committee inquired about budget allocation to sidewalk maintenance versus sidewalk rehabilitation and repair and asked if budget is set aside for regular review/maintenance of sidewalks and curb let downs as one-off repairs based on service requests.

The committee inquired if the City could better coordinate with the province when improvements are made to provincial infrastructure that intersects with City infrastructure to ensure that sidewalks, curb let downs on the City-side are improved at the same time.

D.6 UpLift Seating/Entry Way

The committee advised that the concept of providing accessible full line-of-sight seating is a great idea, however, requested the City incorporate previously provided suggestions as part of the CN Centre facility audit recommending embedded accessible seating that is readily available for guests' use as part of a universal design.

Concerns were raised regarding UpLift Seating including:

- Maintenance cost and provisions when the device is out of order;
- Storage consideration for the device and ease of access when a user requests its use;
- User comfort "floating above" other patrons;
- Possibility of obstructing view of patrons behind the UpLift Seating section; and
- Responsiveness and availability of staff who can access the device, set it up, and operate it when needed.

D.7 2021 Access Award of Merit

The committee reviewed the Access Award of Merit nomination form and requested that a text box be added for the nominator to explain why or how the nominee has demonstrated a commitment to increase accessibility above and beyond what is required by law or regulation.

Tactile Surfaces

Mr. Vliegenthart inquired if the committee had any resources they could share regarding guidelines and standards on the use of tactile surfaces in various settings.

The committee discussed adding the creation of a City-guideline document recommending specific types of tactile surfaces to the 2022 Work Plan.

E. Old Business

E.1 Patricia Boulevard Student Housing Project

Ms. Kellett advised that committee members, individually or as a group, are welcome to contact the Veda Living student housing on-site manager for a tour.

Ms. Stiles advised that she recently went on a tour and noted that while the common area appears to be accessible, there are no accessible apartment units nor when questioned was the representative able to confirm the adaptability of any units.

Councillor Scott exited the 2nd Floor Conference Room at 1:56 p.m.

Discussion commenced regarding approaching Administration and/or Council to request bylaw changes addressing requirements for providing accessible and/or adaptable units in multi-family residential developments.

E.2 Extended Restaurant Patios on Accessible Parking Stalls

Ms. Kellett advised that allowance for temporary expansions is over and members of the public and/or committee members are encouraged to call 311 to report any accessible stalls impacted by business activities.

Mr. Vliegthart inquired if the committee was aware of any best practices from other communities regarding patio expansions into sidewalks. Ms. Lamb and Ms. Stiles will email information to Mr. Vliegthart.

Zoning Bylaw – Parking Update

Ms. Kellett advised that Development Services will liaise with the committee regarding parking requirements when work commences on the Zoning Bylaw update. This work is not expected to take place in 2021.

F. Working Group Reports Business

F.1 Accessibility Barriers and Best Practices re: City Services and City-Owned Infrastructure

There were no updates provided.

F.2 Pedestrian Barriers re: Sidewalks, Trails, and Walkways

The Pedestrian Barriers re: Sidewalks, Trails, and Walkways Working Group will address other issues after the City responds to the Committee Report to Council regarding Sidewalk Obstructions in Construction Zones.

F.3 Advice and Guidance to other Council Committees

There were no updates provided.

F.4 Outreach and Education

There were no updates provided.

F.5 Review Terms of Reference

The working group recommended removal of this item from the standing list of agenda items and that it be rescheduled for review on an annual basis. The next review is scheduled for Fall 2022.

Ms. Kellett requested that all working groups submit before 12pm, Tuesday, October 26, a written summary of informal meetings held and recommendations for committee consideration.

G. Business for Future Consideration

G.1 Fall 2021: Report to Council re: Accessibility Committee Update

There were no updates provided.

H. Informational Items

H.1 Next Committee Meeting: November 4, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Kellett advised that agenda items, background documents, and working group reports are due by 12pm, Tuesday, October 26.

H. Adjournment

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:20 P.M.

Ms. Brandy Stiles, Vice-Chair

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

Ms. Leslie Kellett, Legislative Coordinator

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