

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY

Minutes of the City of Prince George Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting, held via Zoom, City Hall, 1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC, on June 3, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mr. Chris **Gobbi**, Chair; Ms. Brandy **Stiles**, Vice-Chair; Ms. Heather **Lamb**; Mr. Ken **Biron**; Ms. Kia **Johnsen**; Ms. Furqana **Khan**; and Mr. Bruce **Siddall**.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Alfiya **Battalova**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of British Columbia <1:00 p.m. to 1:16 p.m.>; Mr. Ian **Sinclair**, Engineering Assistant/Staff Liaison; Mr. Tristin **Deveau**, Planner/Staff Liaison; and Ms. Leslie **Kellett**, Legislative Coordinator.

A. Commencement

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

B. Adoption of Amended Agenda

Moved by Mr. Biron, seconded by Mr. Siddall, that the agenda for the June 3, 2021 Advisory Committee on Accessibility, BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

C. Adoption of Minutes

C.1 Minutes from the Advisory Committee on Accessibility Meeting held May 6, 2021

This item was deferred to the next committee meeting.

D. New Business

D.1 Presentation – Research Project Regarding “Mobility and Participation”, Guest: Alfiya Battalova, Faculty of Medicine University of British Columbia

Ms. Alfiya Battalova, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of British Columbia, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Mobility and Participation Project including information on the project, organizations and municipalities involved, subprojects, methods by which data will be collected, and anticipated project findings.

Discussion commenced and Ms. Battalova responded to questions of the committee.

Moved by Ms. Lamb, seconded by Mr. Biron, that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility INVITES Alfiya Battalova to attend to observe a future committee meeting.

Carried Unanimously

Ms. Battalova left the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

D.2 2021 Accessibility Improvements

Mr. Sinclair reviewed the correspondence dated April 29, 2021 from the Civic Operations Division detailing the 2021 description of works proposed under the accessibility improvements budget for 2021.

The committee commented favorably on the parks accessibility improvements taking into account related pieces of accessibility such as trail improvements, outhouses and picnic areas.

The committee inquired if there is an outhouse at Ferguson Lake and if so, if it will be made accessible. Mr. Sinclair will return to a future meeting of the committee with a response.

Mr. Sinclair advised he will email photographs of the doors at the CN Centre and Kin Centres for committee members to comment on relocation of the door actuator and buttons.

E. Old Business

E.1 Sidewalk Obstruction During Construction Follow-Up

The committee reviewed the correspondence dated April 6, 2021 from the Supervisor of Transportation Services and commented on the variability of signage posted at various construction sites where sidewalk access is obstructed.

The committee inquired why sidewalk closures are not included in the daily notification that advises motorists of road closures noting that having the ability to pre-plan a walking route around sidewalk closure would be beneficial for all residents.

Discussion commenced regarding the importance for consistency in signage and notification of sidewalk closure for all construction sites. The committee will document positive and negative signage at construction sites over the coming weeks including the location, date, and time and will compile this information in preparation for a response to Civic Operations.

E.2 Downtown Replacement Pool

There were no updates provided.

E.3 Follow Up re: Patricia Boulevard Student Housing Project

There were no updates provided.

E.4 Follow Up re: Extended Restaurant Patios on Accessible Parking Stalls

The committee noted concerns with patio extensions impeding sidewalk access. Mr. Deveau requested the committee email locations of patio extensions where sidewalk access is obstructed.

F. Working Group Reports

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 working group provided a verbal report noting the group is researching best practices on prioritizing which sidewalks are improved each year and is looking at other municipalities for examples of improvements that regarding sidewalk curb cuts.

The working group noted an ongoing concern with the MyPG App noting that service requests are closed without any follow up documentation on the service request or contact with the submitter.

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

There were no updates provided.

G. Business for Future Consideration

G.1 July/August 2021: Parking requirements within the City of Prince George Zoning Bylaw No. 7850, 2007

An update will be provided in August 2021.

G.2 Fall 2021: Report to Council re: Accessibility Committee Update

An update will be provided in Fall 2021.

H. Informational Items

H.1 Next Committee Meeting: July 8, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

I. Adjournment

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:56 P.M.

Mr. Chris Gobbi, Chair

**Mr. Ian Sinclair, Engineering Assistant
/Staff Liaison**

Mr. Tristin Deveau, Planner/Staff Liaison

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