

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 December 17, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mr. Chris Gobbi, Chair, <via Zoom> <2:36 p.m. to 3:23 p.m.> Mr. Ken **Biron** <via Zoom>; Ms. Kalena Steiniger <via Zoom>; Ms. Heather **Lamb**; Ms. Nancy **Harris**; Mr. Bruce **Siddall**; Ms. Brandy **Stiles**; and Ms. Gillian **Wigmore**.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Susan **Scott**; Mr. Blake **McIntosh**, Acting Director of Civic Operations <2:00 p.m. to 2:47 p.m.>; Mr. Ian **Sinclair**, Engineering Assistant/Staff Liaison; Mr. Tristin **Deveau**, Planner/Staff Liaison <via Zoom>; and Ms. Leslie **Kellett**, Legislative Coordinator.

A. Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Moved by Ms. Harris, seconded by Ms. Lamb, that the Committee APPOINTS Ms. Brandy Stiles as Chair Pro Tem.

Carried Unanimously

B. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Ms. Harris, seconded by Ms. Lamb, that the agenda for the December 17, 2020 Advisory Committee on Accessibility, BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

C. Adoption of Minutes

C.1 Minutes from the Advisory Committee on Accessibility Meeting held November 26, 2020

Moved by Ms. Stiles, seconded by Ms. Lamb, that the minutes for the November 26, 2020 Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting, BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

D. New Business

D.1 Guest Speaker: Blake McIntosh, Acting Director of Civic Operations

Mr. Sinclair introduced Mr. Blake McIntosh, Acting Director of Civic Operations, who was in attendance to discuss Committee concerns regarding sidewalk accessibility in construction zones and in the winter months.

Discussion commenced regarding obstruction of sidewalks that may occur during construction or roadwork and the impediment of that obstruction to the accessibility of the pedestrian network. The committee discussed the lack of a mechanism by which the City could impose fines or penalties on contractors who fail to maintain a connected pedestrian network in their construction area. Mr. McIntosh advised that the City, where possible, receives the complaint regarding the possible infraction, educates the contractor on ways in which they could make improvements and repair the situation. It was noted that there are times when the impact to the accessibility of the pedestrian network cannot be avoided due to the nature of the work.

The Committee requested that the City consider the Council-approved age-friendly plan when involved in work that may result in sidewalk obstructions that impede accessibility of the pedestrian network.

D.2 Snow and Ice Control on Pedestrian Routes

Discussion commenced regarding snow removal on the sidewalk on Queensway and if there was a way to improve delivery of service to the west side of Queensway.

Mr. McIntosh advised that sidewalks are cleared in a similar timeframe as the priority routes for road snow removal, and that he would take the request into consideration when reviewing the routing for sidewalk clearing services coming in and out of the downtown core.

Discussion commenced regarding the clearing of snow and the build-up of ice and debris at curb cuts and light controlled intersections.

Mr. McIntosh discussed some limitations of the equipment in the City's fleet to clear snow at the curb cuts and wheelchair ramps and agreed that improvements can always be made and that consideration on improving design of the wheelchair ramps and curb cuts could be something that is considered in future changes to City design standards.

Mr. Gobbi joined the meeting via Zoom at 2:36 p.m.

Mr. McIntosh exited the 2nd Floor Conference Room at 2:47 p.m.

D.3 Nomination and Appointment of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

Ms. Kellett advised that at the November 26, 2020 Committee meeting, Mr. Gobbi was nominated as Chair of the Committee. Mr. Gobbi accepted the nomination. Ms. Kellett called for any further nominations.

Moved by Ms. Harris, seconded by Ms. Lamb, that Mr. Chris Gobbi BE APPOINTED for the position of Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting for the term beginning April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2021.

Carried Unanimously

Ms. Kellett called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Committee. Ms. Stiles expressed her interest in being considered for the position of Vice-Chair.

Moved by Ms. Lamb, seconded by Ms. Harris, that Mr. Brandy Stiles BE NOMINATED and APPOINTED for the position of Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting for the term beginning April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2021.

Carried Unanimously

D.4 Accessibility Improvements in City-owned Facilities Capital Projects

Mr. Sinclair advised that a recommendation to Council as part of the 2021 Capital Plan is a budget of \$150,000 for accessibility work in civic facilities and parks. Budget deliberations will commence on January 25, 2021 and the Committee will be apprised of the final approved budget at the February or March 2021 meeting.

The Committee was asked to bring, to the January Committee meeting, a list of projects for the betterment or replacement of civic infrastructure that they would like considered in 2021 or future years.

E. Old Business

E.1 Masich Place Accessibility Update

The Committee reviewed photos of accessibility upgrades made to Masich Place Stadium and commended the City on implementation of the accessibility improvements.

Discussion commenced regarding the need for contractors to recognize the minimum accessibility standards detailed in the BC Building Code and implementation of these accessibility standards should not be considered extras but requirements and budgeted as such.

The Committee expressed interest in continuing to be involved in accessibility reviews of civic facility projects earlier in the design and implementation phase as they were with Masich Place Stadium.

E.2 Signage Options for the New Pool

There were no updates for this item.

E.3 Standing Item: Select Committee on Poverty Reduction

Ms. Smith was not in attendance to provide an update. Ms. Kellett advised the committee that the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction continued to meet in a workshop format over the summer and will be presenting to Council at their January 11, 2021 Council meeting their preliminary recommendations and engagement strategy regarding poverty reduction.

E.4 Standing Item: Advisory Committee on Development Design

Ms. Stiles advised that the Advisory Committee on Development Design has not yet resumed their meetings.

E.5 Standing Item: Sidewalk Obstructions

This item was discussed at agenda item D.1 and D.2.

E.6 2020 Year End Report and 2021 Workplan

Mr. Deveau asked that the Committee review the 2020 Workplan and come to the January Committee meeting with suggestions for items that should continue, be removed, or be added to the 2021 Workplan.

Committee annual reports will be presented to Council at the March 8, 2021 regular Council meeting.

F. Informational Items

F.1 Next Committee Meeting: January 7, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

G. Adjournment

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:33 p.m.

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

Mr. Tristin Deveau, Planner/Staff Liaison

CERTIFIED CORRECT