

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 4, 2024
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Meeting Room 5

Members Present Paul Clark (Chair), Michelle Hewitt (Vice Chair), Beth Flynn, Randy LeBlanc
Hana Cairns, Jeff Bourne, Celynne Hurst, Karine Veldhoen

Staff Present Mariko Siggers, Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Robert Parlane, Parks & Buildings Planning Manager; Michael Jud, Deputy
City Clerk

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order by at 4:00 p.m.

Opening remarks, including territorial acknowledgement, were provided.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Moved By Michelle Hewitt /Seconded by Beth Flynn

THAT the Minutes of July 4, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

3. Reports

3.1 Accessibility Plan

Staff:

- Provided an update on community engagement regarding the Kelowna Accessibility Plan.
- Engagement will also feed into the Transportation Accessibility Plan.
- Engagement will start in September and will include focus sessions with staff.
- The draft plan is expected to be available in late 2024 with revisions possible in early 2025.
- Showed “Get Involved” webpage and an overview of engagement events. Both pop-up events and focus groups are included in the engagement.
- Concern expressed by the Committee that the pop up engagement events are all in the afternoon. Some people interested in participating may need to sleep in the afternoon.
- Staff will investigate moving some events to the morning and will discuss changes with the project team.
- ASL translation will be available via an application onsite.
- The Committee will receive the ways to get involved flyer electronically to help with getting the word out.
- News release and email out planned for next week. The Committee expressed a desire to help out with publicizing the engagement process.

3.2 Report to Council

- The Terms of reference indicate an annual report is to be received by Council.
- Staff liaisons will work with the committee to draft a report to Council.
- Staff will coordinate to select a contact person.
- The Chair requested a committee member be assigned to work on the report. Requested that they be provided with copies of previous Council reports from Committees.

3.3 Kelowna.ca webpage profiles

- The Committee would like to add information on committee membership to the accessibility webpage on kelowna.ca.
- Staff will look into what can be done to add names and possibly short bios and photographs. Hana offered to write the bios to reduce workload on staff.

3.4 Accessibility service requests – August requests – review

- Staff provided a summary of recent accessibility SRs.
- Discussion ensued regarding lime scooters being improperly parked and blocking people's way.

4.0 New Business

Selection of new AAC members (Chair)

- Raised question regarding the process for appointing new committee members. Committee is interested in participating in process of appointing committee members.
- Staff explained that this is not the normal process for appointing committee members.

Other

- Chair asked what is the evidence that accessibility is being considered in City infrastructure?
- Staff explained currently in the process of adopting Rick Hansen standards for accessibility as part of the BSK project (Parkinson Rec and new Activity Centres).
- Vice Chair asked to include in the minutes a statement about impact of technology on people's ability to participate in the meeting.

The Vice Chair left the meeting.

5. Meeting Termination

Moved By Celynne Hurst /Seconded by Randy LeBlanc

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting terminated at 5:40 p.m.

Paul Clark, Chair