

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Date:	Thursday, March 7, 2024
Time:	4:00 pm
Location:	Meeting Room 5
Members Present	Paul Clark (Chair), Beth Flynn
Members participating Remotely	Karine Veldhoen, Randy LeBlanc, Michelle Hewett, Jeff Bourne, Cody Petrone
Members Absent	Celynne Hurst, Hana Cairns, Lisa Watson
Staff Present	Mariko Siggers, Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager; Robert Parlane, Parks & Buildings Planning Manager Clint McKenzie, Legislative Coordinator (Confidential)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

The Chair provided opening remarks including territorial acknowledgement. Jeff Bourne was introduced as the new alternate for the committee.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Moved By Randy Leblanc/Seconded by Beth Flynn

THAT the Minutes of February 1, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

3. Old Business

Staff asked the Committee for their feedback during the meeting in relation to the new technology, the OWL video/speaker tower, being used for remote participation.

3.1 Accessibility Plan

Staff:

- Advised they are working with the City Purchasing department on the request for qualifications.
- Partner organizations will be added, specifically those that have leases with the City. The Kelowna Curling Club is an example.

The Committee discussed the opportunity to encourage those applying on the RFQ to utilize student resources at UBCO (Action Lab) as part of plan methodology.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the built environment being prioritized in the RFQ parameters and the need to review policies and procedures around accessibility.
- the prioritization of items to be reviewed in the development of the Accessibility Plan.
- transportation and the impact on the disabled in the community, specifically parking. Examples of short term parking concerns at YLW and Kelowna Community Theatre were reviewed.
- significant disabled parking concerns at private businesses; the Kelowna Blood Bank public parking was identified.
- the building code being a significant review unto itself with other levels of government needing to be involved.
- sustainability being one of the key scoring criteria.

Staff:

- Outlined the process to issuing the RFQ with the invite going out by the end of March to proponents.
- A group of reviewers will be established in the Bonfire program. The Chair will ask for volunteers from the Committee to assist in the review with City staff.

3.2 Council priorities, policies, plans and program implementation

Staff:

- Provided an update to on-street disabled parking. A policy is being drafted by the Parking Services branch and a draft will be shared with the Committee in the fall for input.

3.2.1 Identifying Barriers

Discussion ensued regarding concerns with the ongoing enforcement of the misuse of disabled parking stalls, including expired passes. The Committee reviewed an example of a parking pass from California and noted the viability and durability of the card compared to those issued in Kelowna. Examples were shared where disabled parking stalls are being misused.

3.2.2 Process for receiving comments (the Feedback Tool)

Staff provided an update on the website page being completed that will feature the feedback tool. Staff will invite Communications to the next meeting to provide a progress report.

3.2.3 Other matter as referred by Council

No other matters were referred to the Committee by Council at this time.

3.2.4 New Business

Discussion ensued regarding reporting out to Council with a progress report regarding progress to date, specifically on the accessibility plan, in conjunction with the upcoming National Accessibility Week from May 10-16th, 2024.

Moved By Paul Clark/Seconded by Michelle Hewett

“THAT the committee prepare a report to present to City Council within a month regarding the work accomplished to date and difficulties moving forward.”

Carried

Discussion ensued regarding the message that the Committee would want to convey to Council.

Staff:

- Reviewed the various avenues of communicating with Council.
- Reviewed how Council meeting agendas are created and prioritized.
- Attending a Council meeting as a delegation occurs when there is a call to action, a decision is being made or there is a milestone to update Council on.

The accessibility of parking at Kelowna Airport was further discussed in relation to Ride Share. An update by the committee will be provided at the next meeting.

4. Meeting Termination

The meeting terminated at 5:33 p.m.

Chair

DRAFT