

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Date:	Thursday, July 4,
Time:	2024
Location:	4:00 pm Meeting Room 5
Members Present	Paul Clark (Chair), Michelle Hewitt (Vice Chair), Beth Flynn, Hana Cairns
Members participating Remotely	Cody Petrone
Members Absent	Randy LeBlanc, Celynne Hurst, Jeff Bourne
Staff Present	Mariko Siggers, Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager; Mike Kittmer, Transit Programs Manager; Brittany Hallam, Integrated Transportation Department Manager; Robert Parlane, Parks & Buildings Planning Manager; Clint McKenzie, Legislative Coordinator (Confidential)
Guests Present	Kathryn Douglas, UBCo; Mitchell Reardon, Director of Urban Planning, Happy Cities and Urban Systems, Mariah Van Zerr, Regional Planning Manager, RDCO

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 Paul Clark

THAT the Minutes of June 6, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

- Committee member, Cody Petrone, thanked the Committee and advised he is tendering his resignation due to other commitments.
- The Committee thanked him for his work on accessibility in the community.

3. Reports

3.1 UBCo Accessibility - Pilot Training Module

- Guest, Kathryn Douglas, displayed a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Disability Affinity Group (DAG) a group, a collective, a community of disabled folks associated with both UBC campuses. They support each other, share stories and resources, and take positive action to improve the lives of past, current and future UBC colleagues (disabilityaffinitygroup@ubc.ca).
- Spoke to partnerships with the Professional school of Engineering and Dr. Janik Eikenaar.
- Reviewed the design of the course at UBCo. Spoke to the pilot course being launched in early Fall.
- Responded to questions from the Committee.

3.2 Accessibility Plan Update - Happy Cities/Urban Systems

- Guest Mitchell Reardon introduced the project team from Happy Cities that will be leading the development of the Kelowna Accessibility Plan.
- Email to reach out to the team with any questions was provided (mitchell@happycities.com).
- Reviewed the process for completing the plan with a final draft back to the Committee for review estimate in six months.
- Spoke to the process for stakeholder engagement.
- The project team asked committee members their initial thoughts around what an accessible Kelowna means to each of them.
- Themes highlighted by Committee members included:
 - Ongoing challenges with attitudinal barriers
 - Continuous process of reinventing the wheel for accessibility (e.g. building structures)
 - Short term attention to an accessible Kelowna and then accessibility is forgotten over and over again
 - Only a small percentage of community organizations have a DEI policy
- Project Team summarized Committee comments and advised that this will be one of several touch points during the course of the plan being developed.
- Project Team thanked Committee members for their initial thoughts.
- Responded to questions from the Committee.
- The Chair requested more information around the methodology of collecting input from those living with a disability.
- A PowerPoint was displayed outlining the Transportation Mobility Access Strategy and the purpose of the study was reviewed. The study is tasked with recommending actions to improve the experience of people with disabilities in navigating Kelowna's transportation network.
- The timeline of the plan was reviewed. The final report is expected to be completed by the Fall of 2025.

4. Old Business / New Business

- Discussion ensued regarding the shared folder for the Committee. Staff will re-establish access for Committee members as some are having difficulty accessing files in the shared electronic folder.

- Discussion ensued regarding standardizing the title of emails circulated amongst the Committee to start with “AAC” for ease of review by members and staff.
- ASL service providers were discussed.
- Discussion ensued regarding which upcoming events/venues the development of the Kelowna Accessibility Plan could be a part of to gather community input. Walking and rolling as a type of session were discussed.
- The pros and cons of simulation training and engaging the public were reviewed.
- The importance of integrating other plans in the community with the developing Accessibility Plan was reviewed.
- The upcoming webinar regarding the Province’s draft accessibility standards was highlighted and copies of the review document completed by Untapped Accessibility identifying major themes in the standards was circulated to the Committee.
- There will be no meeting in August. The next meeting will be Thursday, September 5th.
- The provincial draft plan for accessible housing is now completed and available for review.

5. Meeting Termination

The meeting terminated at 5:40 p.m.

Paul Clark, Chair