

## Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Date:	Thursday, February 6, 2025
Time:	4:00 pm
Location:	Meeting Room #1
Members Present	Luke Jukes, Kent Stewart (Alternate), Paul Clark (Chair), Karine Veldhoen, Beth Flynn
Members Participating Remotely	Michelle Hewitt (Vice Chair), Hana Cairns, Randy LeBlanc
Members Absent	Jeff Bourne, Celynne Hurst, Rachael Hanna (Alternate)
Staff Present	Mariko Siggers, Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager; Robert Parlane, Parks & Buildings Planning Manager; Clint McKenzie, Legislative Coordinator (Confidential)
Staff Participating Remotely	Michael Jud, Deputy City Clerk

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

The Chair acknowledged the meeting is taking place on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the sylix/Okanagan people.

### 2. Welcome New Members!

The Chair welcomed new members Luke Jukes and Kent Stewart to the meeting. New member and Alternate, Rachael Hanna, sends her regrets and will be introduced at a future meeting.

### 3. Confirmation of Minutes

Moved By Beth Flynn/Seconded By Michelle Hewitt

THAT the Minutes of the December 5, 2024 meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried

### 4. Reports

#### 4.1 Draft Accessibility Plan

Staff:

- Provided an update on the drafting of the Accessibility Plan.
- Approximately 300 respondents completed the survey.
- The draft report and recommendations were shared with the Committee.
- A reminder was provided that the shared draft is not ready public review.
- Staff with responsibilities identified in the plan have not all had a chance to review the draft. Changes are anticipated to some of the estimated action timelines.

- The completed draft is proposed to go to Council in a morning workshop format and then request adoption by Council at a subsequent afternoon Council meeting. The February 24, 2025 meeting is being targeted for the workshop. The final report for Council adoption is expected to be presented in a Council meeting in late April.
- The Committee was asked for feedback on the upcoming process to take the plan to Council.

Discussion ensued regarding the ability of the Chair and Vice Chair to participate in the AM workshop to Council.

Discussion ensued regarding the timelines of some of the recommendations being too far out in the long term category versus midterm and short term categories.

A current gap in the draft recognized was the connectivity with international legislation regarding disabilities and recognizing dignity as a key component.

Staff advised that approximately 90 organizations were communicated with during the draft and will be advised of the adoption of the final report by Council. The City's projects page *Get Involved*, will also feature the Accessibility Plan on kelowna.ca and encourage ongoing access and feedback from the community.

Discussion ensued regarding the recent presentation to West Kelowna Council regarding their draft accessibility plan. The plan was not adopted by Council and will be taken back by staff for additional work and then be forwarded again to Council for adoption.

The Committee recognized the addition of statistics on the number of disabled in the community as an addition to the background in the Kelowna Accessibility Plan.

Housing accessibility is mentioned in the report and discussion ensued as to what actions within the plan could be undertaken and the ongoing advocacy that will need to take place.

The Committee would like to see the following wording captured in the plan to reflect the return to the community by investing in Accessibility:

- *"Unleashing the potential return on investment towards a more accessible and inclusive community in a meaningful and authentic way."*

#### **4.2 Meeting schedule - 2025**

Staff:

- Shared the results of the meeting survey distributed to the Committee and the top three options selected by members were outlined.

Moved By Randy LeBlanc/Seconded By Luke Jukes

THAT 12:00 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month becomes the standard meeting time for the Committee in 2025.

**Carried**

#### **4.3 Service requests**

The previous month's accessibility related service request types were shared with the Committee.

### **5. New Business**

Discussion ensued regarding the lack of wheelchair accessible dog parks in the community. The opportunities with the redevelopment of City Park were discussed.

Staff advised that the UBCO Accessibility Training module is ready, and a focus group is planned for the morning of February 24th. Testers are required and an invitation is extended to Committee members who are interested.

Discussion ensued regarding accessible charging stations in the community for electric vehicles.

**6. Meeting Termination**

The meeting terminated at 5:08 p.m.

Staff will confirm the availability of accessible parking in the City Hall parking lot for the new Tuesday meeting times.

Paul Clark, Chair

DRAFT