

Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Knox Mountain Meeting Room

Members Present Luke Jukes, Kent Stewart (Alternate), Paul Clark (Chair), Michelle Hewitt (Vice Chair), Karine Veldhoen, Beth Flynn

Members Participating Remotely Hana Cairns, Randy LeBlanc, Rachael Hanna (Alternate)

Members Absent Jeff Bourne, Celynn Hurst

Staff Present Mariko Siggers, Community & Neighbourhood Services 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 12:00 p.m.

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

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Moved By Michelle Hewitt/Seconded By Randy Leblanc

THAT the minutes of February 6, 2025 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as circulated.

Carried

3. Reports

3.1 Accessibility Plan – update

Staff:

- Advised that the draft plan will be going to Council March 17, 2025.
- Received good feedback from staff and members of the public.
- Feedback has been received by the consultants.
- The final draft is expected March 10th back to staff.

Discussion ensued regarding the feedback of the final plan.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee.

Staff confirmed that Closed captions services will be available for the Council webcast of the draft plan in Council Chambers and Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) services will not be available.

Discussion ensued regarding the West Kelowna Accessibility and Inclusion Plan and the draft plan going back to staff for more refinement versus being adopted by their Council.

Staff reviewed the format changes to the draft plan.

3.2 Accessibility Service Request

Staff provided an update on the previous month's accessibility type service requests.

Discussion ensued regarding the opportunity to ask for a tour with Council and the Committee in the future of areas in the community that are well done in terms of accessibility and those that face challenges.

The Deputy Clerk advised the Committee that a majority of Council constitutes an official meeting of Council. The business of Council needs to be conducted as a scheduled meeting and take place during a scheduled Monday, unless otherwise voted on by Council.

3.3 UBCO Accessibility Training Module

The Chair spoke to giving input in the focus group for the module on February 28, 2025, along with other Committee members and staff.

Rachael left the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

Staff confirmed that there is no commitment to adopting the module for the City at this point.

4. New Business

Discussion ensued regarding Rick Hansen Foundation sensitivity training being offered in the community.

The Vice Chair confirmed that the Canadian Disability Benefit (\$200) will now be paid starting in July for those who are low income and complete the tax return showing they are a recipient of the Disability Tax Benefit.

The Chair:

- Advised that MP Tracy Gray reached out to meet with the Committee.
- Advised they had met with City staff to discuss the future of the Housing Strategy and accessibility.

Moved By Paul Clark/Seconded By Luke Jukes

THAT the Committee informs Long Range Planning of the concern that accessible housing needs to be a pillar in housing planning and the City of Kelowna Housing Strategy.

Carried

5. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is Tuesday, April 8th.

6. Meeting Termination

The meeting was terminated at 1:04 p.m.

Paul Clark, Chair