



Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

October 29, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
15322 Buena Vista Avenue, White Rock, BC, V4B 1Y6

PRESENT: Alex Michaels, Community Member
Colleen Turnley, Community Member
Kathleen Ware, Community Member
Kelly Douglas, Community Member
Leanne Utendale, Community Member (arrived at 4:15 p.m.,
left at 4:35 p.m.)
Marissa Hadland, Community Member (arrived at 4:11 p.m.)

COUNCIL: Councillor Christopher Trevelyan, Chairperson (non-voting)
Councillor Michele Partridge, Vice-Chairperson (non-voting)

STAFF: Jim Gordon, Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations
Anne Berry, Director of Planning and Development Services
(left at 5:00 p.m.)
Janessa Auer, Committee Clerk

PUBLIC: 7

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion Number 2024-AAC-001: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee adopts the agenda for the October 29, 2024 meeting as circulated.

Motion CARRIED

3. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Roundtable introductions took place.

M. Hadland arrived at 4:11 p.m.

4. **REVIEW OF COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MANDATE**

The Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations provided a brief overview of the Committee's Terms of Reference and mandate.

L. Utendale arrived at 4:15 p.m.

5. **2024/2025 COMMITTEE ORIENTATION SESSION**

The Committee Clerk provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining general information about advisory committees, member roles, and meeting processes.

6. **PRIORITIES FOR COMMITTEE'S TERM**

The Chairperson introduced this item and invited members to provide suggestions for potential priorities the Committee may choose to focus on for this upcoming term. No suggestions were provided at this time, so members were encouraged to bring forward ideas to the next meeting, or to share them by email with the Chairperson or the Committee Clerk.

L. Utendale left the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

7. **UPDATE REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY AND RAILWAY**

The Chairperson introduced this topic, confirming that the City currently has eight (8) pedestrian crossings over the railway tracks along the waterfront. He advised that he has reached out to Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) about the crossing near the Pier needing accessibility improvements.

The Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations explained that improvements to these crossings can be complicated, due to the fact that the City is responsible for a section of each crossing, but BNSF is responsible for the portions closer to the rails. He noted that the City has provided documentation to Transport Canada confirming that the sections of all eight (8) crossings which are overseen by the City have been designed to meet accessibility standards. This documentation will enable Transport Canada to encourage BNSF to bring their portions of the crossings up to the same accessibility standards.

Although there is not a known timeline for when BNSF will complete this work, the Chairperson noted that updates will be shared with the Committee when they become available.

8. BEACH ACCESS RAMP(S) AND BEACH WHEELCHAIRS

The Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations provided a brief overview regarding the City's existing beach access ramps and advised that a new ramp for Marine Drive and Finlay Street is currently in the design phase, expected to be completed in 2026.

An update was also provided in regard to the beach wheelchairs that were previously stored near the waterfront for community members to use. The Chairperson confirmed that the Self Advocates of Semiahmoo (SAS) organization is currently storing the wheelchairs, and that they have expressed an interest in seeing the wheelchairs stay in White Rock so they can be accessed by members of this community.

The Committee engaged in a roundtable discussion about potential approaches the City could use to store and sign out these beach wheelchairs going forward, and how this information could be shared with the community.

Motion Number 2024-AAC-002: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves that a member of public speak to this topic.

Motion CARRIED

A member of the public provided feedback regarding the importance of ensuring the process to sign out a beach wheelchair is realistic for those who need them.

Motion Number 2024-AAC-003: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves that a member of public speak to this topic.

Motion CARRIED

A member of the public inquired about who maintains the beach wheelchairs and whether they are currently in safe condition for use. The Chairperson noted this was a great question and a good reason to start looking into this situation now, with the goal of having the wheelchairs ready for public use by next summer.

Motion Number 2024-AAC-004: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that Council direct staff to bring forward a report outlining options for beach wheelchair storage locations, potential types of storage facilities, cost required, as well as outlining options for how this could work from a procedural perspective.

Motion CARRIED

The Committee engaged in further roundtable discussion regarding potential beach access ramp improvements.

Motion Number 2024-AAC-005: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that Council approve that making the Finlay Street beach access ramp accessible is a high priority.

Motion CARRIED

The Director of Planning and Development Services left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Motion Number 2024-AAC-006: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves a working group being formed for the purpose of gathering information about the current accessibility conditions at each of the beach access ramps along the waterfront, comprised of the following members:

- A. Michaels;
- C. Turnley; and,
- K. Douglas.

Motion CARRIED

9. **COLUMBIA / FINLAY INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**

The Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations provided an overview of planned accessibility improvements to be completed at the intersection of Columbia Avenue and Finlay Street. Staff are seeking the Committee's support for this project, which would accompany their grant application submission.

During discussion, members provided suggestions for additional traffic calming measures that could be incorporated in this area. Staff noted that any additional upgrades would need to be formally assessed through a traffic calming study.

Motion Number 2024-AAC-007: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves that a member of public speak to this topic.

Motion CARRIED

Motion Number 2024-AAC-008: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that Council support the proposed Columbia Avenue and Finlay Street intersection improvements, as presented by staff at the Committee's October 29, 2024 meeting.

Motion CARRIED

Motion Number 2024-AAC-009: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that Council direct staff to complete a traffic calming study for this location (areas around Columbia Avenue and Finlay Street).

Motion CARRIED

10. **REVIEW OF ACCESSIBLE PARKING SIGNAGE STANDARDS**

The Chairperson introduced this topic, confirming with staff that the City's current accessible parking signage meets the appropriate standards. Staff also noted the conversion of some of the City's accessible parking stalls into larger, van-accessible stalls that have been completed over the last few years.

Action Item: Staff to email the previous corporate report(s) regarding van-accessible parking stalls and accessible parking improvements to the Committee for reference purposes.

Action Item: Committee Clerk to include “Improving Public Awareness of Van-accessible Parking Stall Locations” as an agenda item for the next scheduled meeting.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

11.1 **REVIEW OF ACCESSIBILITY WEBPAGE FEEDBACK SUBMISSIONS**

The Chairperson provided a brief overview of the Accessibility webpage feedback submissions included in the meeting’s agenda package.

The Committee engaged in a roundtable discussion regarding a submission in which the sender noted they found the Pier Accessibility Mat to be slippery when it was initially installed. Staff confirmed that this issue is expected to improve over time, and the City has not received any reports of slippery conditions more recently. Suggestions for signage options at the Pier Accessibility Mat were discussed.

Action Item: Committee Clerk to include "Pier Accessibility Mat Signage" as an agenda item for the next scheduled meeting.

12. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

13. **INFORMATION**

13.1 **COMMITTEE ACTION AND MOTION TRACKING**

The Committee Clerk provided a brief overview of the purpose of the action and motion tracking document, which will be updated on a regular basis and included in each meeting's agenda package for reference.

A cancelled action item shown on the previous Accessibility Advisory Committee’s action tracking document, regarding bus stop accessibility, was noted.

Motion Number 2024-AAC-010: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves a working group being formed for the purpose of gathering a list of bus stops

in the City that are in need of accessibility improvements, comprised of the following members:

- Vice-Chairperson Partridge; and,
- K Ware.

Motion CARRIED

14. **2025 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Motion Number 2024-AAC-011: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves the 2025 schedule of meetings (taking place in person from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.) as follows:


- January 21, 2025;
- April 22, 2025;
- July 29, 2025; and,
- October 28, 2025.

Motion CARRIED

15. **CONCLUSION OF THE OCTOBER 29, 2024 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

The meeting was concluded at 5:35 p.m.

Councillor Trevelyan, Chairperson



Janessa Auer, Committee Clerk