



**MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE CKF BOARDROOM LANGLEY
CITY HALL
20399 Douglas Crescent**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2024
AT 4:30 P.M.**

Chair: Councillor Delaney Mack

Vice Chair: Councillor Rosemary Wallace

Committee Members:

Zosia Ettenberg, Representative of a Person with Disabilities
Kirsten McKitterick, Representative of a Person with Disabilities
Kim Bucholtz, Inclusion Langley Representative
Ron Burgen, Senior Representative
Elizabeth Keurvorst, Member at Large
Anthony Ormrod, Representative of a Person with Disabilities
Diane Sugars, Member Representing Indigenous People
Jaclyn Edwards, Member at Large

Staff:

Kim Hilton, Director, Recreation, Culture & Community Services
Beckett Zeller, Manager, Human Resources,
Dawn Ponte, Committee Clerk

Guests:

Carl Johannsen, Director, Development Services
Scott Kennedy, Fire Chief

Regrets:

Cherise Okeymow, Representative of a Person with Disabilities

The Chair began by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is on the traditional unceded territory of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui and Semiahmoo First Nations.

1) AGENDA

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the February 1, 2024, agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2) MINUTES

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the November 16, 2023, Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3) FOR DISCUSSION

- a) Review January 4, 2024, Meeting Notes

Kim Hilton, Director of Recreation Culture and Services reviewed the January 4th, 2024, meeting notes.

4) **PRESENTATIONS**

a) Carl Johannsen, Director, Development Services, provided an overview of his department's responsibilities including:

- Policy planning, legal issues, and non-negotiables as they relate to buildings and building codes
- OCP goals and objectives for the City of Langley
- Planning for Skytrain and affordable living
- Ensure the community is safe and inclusive
- Guidance around the built environment
- Creating an environment that omits barriers
- Housing options for a wide range of groups
- Ensuring there is enough housing for aging population and accessible needs

Mr. Johannsen reported that BC Building Code 2023 proposed changes to harmonize with the National Building Code 2020 and provide additional BC requirements. Proposed variations include requiring 100 per cent of dwelling units to be adaptable in new, large apartments and condos, and requiring the first-floor dwelling units to be adaptable in new, smaller apartments and condos.

The following discussion took place:

There was a general discussion about the concerns of retrofitting and renovating existing buildings that do not meet building codes.

Review of the requirements that are in place to ensure that developers are adhering to the requirements.

Discussion on working with Translink to identify barriers to Skytrain such as the gap that exists between the train and the ramp and ensuring that washrooms are accessible for power chairs.

Discussion on accessible parking width and best practices.

ACTION: Send a link to the [BC Building Code Accessibility](#), [OCP](#), [Housing Needs Report](#) and [Building Accessibility Handbook 2020](#) to committee members.

b) Scott Kennedy, Fire Chief, Langley City Fire Rescue Service

Langley City Fire Rescue Service is committed to creating safe communities through fire prevention and inspections, public education, and suppression.

There was a discussion on the fire protection issues that exist for older buildings. The fire department works with owners, strata councils and property managers to mitigate the risks and develop fire safety plans. An example of this is Langley Lodge that has residents with different needs and having an evacuation plan in

place. This may include shelter in place, and/or moving residents to other areas of the building.

A discussion on single access buildings followed. The BC government is looking into relaxing requirements so that apartments taller than two storeys, and shorter than six storeys, can be built with just one staircase which is similar to many European countries. Chief Kennedy commented that there has not been enough information put forward on this topic to date and it is still under review.

Carl Johannsen and Scott Kennedy left the meeting at 6:02pm.

5) 2024 Work Plan

The Chair reviewed the Committee Terms of Reference and Mandate which states that the committee's role is to assist the City of Langley in identifying accessibility and inclusion barriers that City staff and community members experience, or may experience, in the course of interacting with the City in the following areas:

- Employment
- Delivery of Service
- The built environment
- Information and Communications
- Transportation
- Procurement

With that in mind, there are three main objectives for the 2024 Work Plan:

- a) Accessibility Audit
- b) Feedback mechanism as per Legislation
- c) Develop an organizational accessibility plan

6) **ROUNDTABLE**

The following discussions took place.

- Consider the creation of designated parking at City facilities for Uber or cab drivers offering a safe area for those with accessibility challenges.
- Create Accessible washrooms in transit locations such as Skytrain.
- Consider creating a newsletter that informs the public on power chair procedures during fire evacuations.
- Create training and documentation for staff on invisible disabilities.
- Suggestion that a mental health advocate be included in Accessibility Advisory Committee.

It was MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourns at 6:18 pm

CARRIED

CHAIR

Certified Correct:

COMMITTEE CLERK

Next Meeting – March 7, 2024