

CITY OF
LANGLEY



MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
LANGLEY CITY HALL
20399 Douglas Crescent

JUNE 5, 2025
AT 4:30 P.M.

- Present:** Councillor Delaney Mack, Chair
Councillor Leith White, Co-Chair
Kirsten McKitterick, Representative of a Person with Disabilities
Ron Bergen, Senior Representative
Ty Ankerholm, Inclusion Langley Representative
Paul Dostal, Support of a Person with Disabilities
Wendy Rachwalski, Member at Large
Andrea Castro, Support of a Person with Disabilities
- Staff:** Kim Hilton, Director of Recreation, Culture & Community Services,
Michele Payne, Recreation Supervisor
- Guest:** MLA Jody Toor
- Regrets:** Beckett Zeller, Manager of Human Resources; Ardee Sharma, Member at Large;
Jaclyn Edwards, Member at Large; Diane Sugars, Shawn Peters, Support 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.

Prior to the meeting, a welcome and introduction of new committee members took place.

1. AGENDA

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the June 5, 2025 agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. MINUTES

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the April 3, 2025, Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes be deferred to the next meeting to confirm if the time that guests leave a meeting need to be noted in the minutes.

MLA Jody Toor arrived at 4:36pm

CARRIED

3. GUEST SPEAKER

When MLA Toor was made aware of the situation regarding the elevator repairs at the Lions Housing Society, she reached out to ask how she could advocate for assistance.

MLA Toor wrote, and hand delivered a letter requesting assistance from MLA Hon. Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs. MLA Kahlon replied that this is not a BC Housing location, but rather a private society and therefore, the Province was unable to provide additional assistance.

After receiving the reply, MLA Toor reached out to Mayor Pachal, Councillor Mack and connected with the Langley Lions Housing Society CEO who denied there was an issue that needed intervention.

MLA Toor did source a stair chair that she felt would assist those who were home-bound due to mobility issues and offered to rent it for the building. This offer was initially declined due to WorkSafe and union requirements however, the society did say they would consider it at a future meeting. The CEO said that if a person wanted to get one of the chairs and then have one their family members assist them that would be fine.

A letter is now posted at The Fir building that the elevator part has come in and work would begin on June 2nd and expected to take three weeks to repair. MLA Toor inquired whether financial support would be needed for current or future repairs and again, her offer was declined.

Councillor Mack discussed a possible standard of maintenance policy that council is considering that prescribes standards for the maintenance and occupancy of rental residential properties to ensure that the buildings are free from hazards and are maintained continuously in conformity with accepted health, fire, and building requirements. Building owners would be responsible for carrying out the work or having the work carried out in accordance with the by-law or face fines.

Mr. Bergen spoke about the treatment of the residents who reside in this building as he feels they are afraid to speak out in fear of losing their housing. It is Mr. Bergen's belief that the City of Langley needs to change our bylaws to so there is something that can be done to put pressure on these housing providers to change.

Councillor White spoke that it is challenging in these situations to keep these comments to the scope and focus of this committee. He recognizes that there is more to be done in the community to address these issues.

In term of advocacy, Councillor Mack has done some research on the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner that could be another avenue to research in the future.

MLA Toor distributed her contact information to committee members.

4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

- a) PECS Chart – Ms. Castro explained that she has a 12-year-old daughter who is non-verbal, and to help her and other individuals with communication difficulties express their wants and needs, she created the Forever Kind Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) board.

Images can be customized, and she is working with Henderson Playgrounds and Landscape Structures Inc to develop the charts. There is interest from BC Children's Hospital, Vancouver Aquarium, and many local municipalities. The Township of Langley will be installing one in August.

Ms. Castro would love to see these installed in our parks and washrooms. The committee discussed the benefit of having these charts available to create a more inclusive experience at our parks and facilities.

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend that council direct staff to consider the installation of Forever Kind PECS boards at City parks and facilities.

CARRIED

- b) Indigenous Consultation Task Group – Diane Sugars – Deferred to the next meeting
- c) National AccessAbility Week – May 25-31 Review. The Director of Recreation, Culture and Community Services reviewed the activities that were offered during National AccessAbility Week. Inclusion Langley attended and we had open gym time, Sparc BC had boccia and curling, Fraser Valley Wheelchair Basketball attended, as well as information tables from You've Gotta Have Friends and Ron Cares Society. It was a good start, and we formed some great partnerships to build on. Inclusion Langley is running programs this summer, and we are looking at additional programming for the Fall.

The Director also reviewed the website and the accessibility page that we are building. The Co-Chair asked about adding braille components to printed materials

for those who are visually impaired. This would be an additional cost that would have to be determined.

Mr. Bergen suggested BC Blind Sports and Recreation as another resource for National AccessAbility Week.

Mr. Ankerholm asked about the suggestions that were left during the week. Staff will send them out to the committee once they have been compiled.

- d) Changing Places Tour. The committee discussed organizing a tour and arranging transportation. Committee members in attendance agreed to drive themselves to the location and are open to taking others. It was decided to go on Tuesday, July 8th at 4pm. Details will be provided closer to the date.
- e) Temporary Lift – Lions Housing. This item was discussed.
- f) Participation at Community Day and National Indigenous People's Day. Ms. Payne will send an email to members to see if there is any interest in attending.

5. 2025 WORKPLAN

- a) Develop an Accessibility Strategy
- b) Public Feedback. Working on the form, survey, website. Boards on easel-pull up banner at community events.
- c) Education
- d) Advocacy
- e) Indigenous Consultation
- f) Communication Strategy

SUBCOMMITTEE BREAK OUT SESSION (If needed)

Accessible Advocacy Subcommittee

Ty Ankerholm, Wendy Rachwalski, Paul Dostal

6. ROUNDTABLE

Celebration of life for Anthony is on June 27th from 2:00pm-3:30pm at Peace Arch Park. The Chair offered to drive anyone who would like a ride. She will be leaving at 1:00pm from City Hall.

Zosia Ettenberg passed away on April 5th and her memorial was held on May 4th. It hits home how the people we represent and advocate for are vulnerable. Zosia was highly regarded in the community and will be missed.

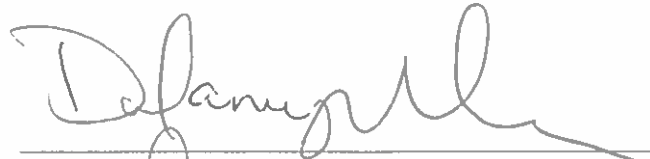
7. ADJOURNMENT

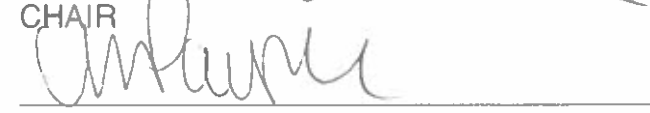
It was MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourns at 6:10pm

CARRIED

Certified Correct:
mlp



CHAIR


RECREATION SUPERVISOR

