



MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
LANGLEY CITY HALL
20399 Douglas Crescent

MARCH 6, 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
Diane Sugars, Member Representing Indigenous People
Ty Ankerholm, Inclusion Langley Representative
Paul Dostal, Support of a Person with Disabilities
Ardee Sharma, Member at Large
- Staff: Kim Hilton, Director of Recreation, Culture & Community Services,
Michele Payne, Recreation Supervisor
- Regrets: Beckett Zeller, Manager of Human Resources
Zosia Ettenberg, Representative of a Person with Disabilities
Wendy Rachwalski, Member at Large
Shawn Peters, Support of a Person with Disabilities
Jaclyn Edwards, Member at Large
- Guests: Mayor Nathan Pachal
Councillor Rosemary Wallace
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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 March 6, 2025, agenda be adopted as amended to add item 3f) Langley Seniors in Action letter on the loss of affordable rental housing.

CARRIED

2. MINUTES

It was MOVED and SECONDED

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

CARRIED

3. FOR DISCUSSION

a. Accessibility in the City of Langley

Mayor Pachal spoke to the committee on the tour that he and Anton Metalnikov, City Planner, took of Ms. Ettenberg's apartment to view the challenges with adaptable housing. Committee members acknowledged the importance of the tour and expressed how important it is for people to view and experience the challenges that our residents face.

b. Langley City website accessibility feature update

The Director, Recreation, Culture and Community Services, advised the committee that the icon was able to be enlarged, however, it was not able to move to the centre of the screen. A discussion on having the words 'accessible menu' pulse/highlight and adding a banner to the page highlighting the new feature should be considered. After continuing discussion, it was determined that we should be asking end users for their opinions. The Communication and Promotion Sub-Committee will take this piece and incorporate it as part of their strategy when attending events and other community connection opportunities.

c. BC Building Code – new build requirements

The Director, Recreation, Culture and Community Services, confirmed that municipalities can require developers to go above and beyond the BC Building Code for accessibility.

d. SD35 Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement

The Chair shared the SD35 Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement that was created in partnership with Kwantlen, Katzie and Matsqui First Nations and is an example of positive relationships that can be formed. It was also noted that culturally specific programming is an indicator of success and is encouraged outside of school and should be offered within the community. It was also noted that First Nations languages are not included on our website at this time.

e. 2025 Workplan

2025 Workplan was discussed and approved.

Objective 1: Accessibility Strategy. It was requested that the preferred proponent has lived experience representation.

Objective 2: Public Feedback. Other municipalities have an email and/or phone number that is assigned to staff to monitor and respond. It was discussed that this item be added to future agendas under completed.

Objective 3: Education. There are several events coming up including Accessibility Week. Ms. Payne will send out a list of upcoming events and ask if there is any interest from committee members in attending.

Objective 4: Advocacy.

Accessible versus Adaptable Housing.

- Priority tenancy
- Percentage of accessible and adaptable housing in the City of Langley
- Define accessible versus adaptable
- Review tenancy rights
- Advocate to the Province for grants to have renovations done to make units adaptable

Objective 5: Indigenous Consultation. Deferred to the May meeting for further discussion.

Objective 6: Communication Strategy. Create a flyer to promote accessibility in Langley City that can be handed out at events. To be completed in May 2025.

f. Loss of Affordable Rental Housing – Langley Seniors in Action Letter

Mr. Bergen spoke about the letter from Langley Seniors in Action (LSA) regarding the challenges around affordable rental housing and the redevelopment of older rental buildings. The committee is asking that when the city approves redevelopment, they consider inclusionary zoning principles which require a minimum percentage of subsidized units, and that these units be rent geared to income. This letter has been sent to council, and they will be meeting with the LSA committee.

Mayor Pachal spoke and explained that council has had robust discussions on policy CO-84 and a motion on researching inclusionary zoning has been passed and staff are currently working on a policy that is expected to be presented to council in the coming months.

Discussion followed and it was requested that council consider other disabilities when discussing these policies including developmental delays. City of Richmond, Vancouver and Burnaby are all examples of municipalities that have adopted similar policies.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee endorse the following motion from the Langley Seniors in Action Committee:

WHEREAS current market housing rates are often out of reach for those receiving Disability Benefits; AND

WHEREAS the redevelopment of affordable purpose build rental stock slowing erodes affordable housing within the community, making it harder for those on a fixed income to attain 'affordable housing' (30% or below household income before taxes) when displaced by said redevelopment; AND

WHEREAS the letter released by Langley Seniors in Action outlines policies which can be implemented by the City of Langley to promote the creation of below market housing, and offer greater compensation for individuals with a disability who are disproportionately negatively affected by displacement during this redevelopment process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Langley Council consider honouring all requests made within the Langley Seniors in Action (LSA) letter to ensure that City practices and policies are implemented in such a way to reduce barriers and ensure the full and equal participation in society of any person with an impairment, with the understanding that the Accessibility Advisory Committee endorses all LSA requests.

LSA letter requests:

1. Relocation policy CO-84 be applied to all applications that are currently in the approval process to include but not be limited to the existing Eastleigh Crescent and Michaud Crescent sites.
2. Prior to approving any redevelopment permit for affordable sites, that great care and consideration be given to maintaining the current affordable housing on site, if and when possible.
3. If redevelopment is to proceed under these circumstances, that Council applies inclusionary zoning principles under a framework requiring a minimum percentage of subsidized rent geared to income units within the redevelopment process.

BEFORE THE QUESTION WAS CALLED there was a discussion on whether the motion exceeds the mandate of the committee.

CARRIED

4. ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Bergen shared a letter from Judy Toor, MLA, Langley-Willowbrook, to The Honourable Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, regarding the non-functioning elevator at the Fir Building, operated by the Langley Lions Housing

Society. It was noted that the building has a history of elevator failures and there is a lack of safety and systems in place to support mobility challenged residents.

Council is committed to working with community partners including the Langley Lions Housing Society and BC Housing and is appreciative of the MLA for advocating on behalf of the residents. Council looks forward to the Ministers response.

Ms. Sugars shared that two other people have been recruited to be a part of the Indigenous Consultation Sub-Committee and they would like to meet with Councillor Mack and then attend the next committee meeting to sit in and dialogue with committee members.

The Chair shared that sadly Committee Member Ormrod has passed away. Mr. Ormrod's advocacy and contributions to the community as well as this committee were remembered.

TASK GROUP BREAK OUT SESSION – deferred

Communication and Promotion Task Group

Ron Bergen, Jaclyn Edwards, Kirsten McKitterick

Accessible Advocacy Task Group

Zosia Ettenberg, Jaclyn Edwards, Ty Ankerholm, Wendy Rachwalski

Indigenous Consultation Task Group

Diane Sugars, Kim Hilton

Survey Task Group

Wendy Rachwalski, Kirsten McKitterick, Kim Hilton

5. ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourns at 6:45pm

CARRIED

CHAIR

Certified Correct:
mlp

RECREATION SUPERVISOR

