

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY MEETING

Minutes of the City of Prince George Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting, held in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of City Hall, 1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC, on March 15, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Ms. Andrea **Palmer**, Chair; Mr. Ken **Biron**; Mr. Vincent **Sherry** <5:45 p.m. to 6:29 p.m.>; Ms. Debby **Hall**; Ms. Carmen **Nutter**, and Mr. Alan **Kavanaugh**.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Jillian **Merrick**; Ms. Hillary **Morgan**, Planner/Staff Liaison; and Ms. Katy **Fabris**, Planner.

A. Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

B. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Ms. Hall, seconded by Mr. Biron, that the March 15, 2017 Advisory Committee on Accessibility agenda be amended by adding item D.2. "New Members", and that the agenda BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

Carried Unanimously

C. Adoption of Minutes

C.1 Meeting Minutes from February 8, 2017

Moved by Ms. Nutter, seconded by Mr. Kavanaugh, that the February 8, 2017 Advisory Committee on Accessibility minutes BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

D. New Business

D.1 Accessible Parking Zoning Bylaw Update

Ms. Morgan introduced Ms. Fabris, Planner and explained that Ms. Fabris is seeking the Committee's feedback regarding the proposed changes to the accessible parking regulations in the parking section of the Zoning Bylaw. Ms. Morgan explained the scope of the Zoning Bylaw and highlighted elements of parking that the Zoning Bylaw does and does not regulate. Ms. Fabris provided an overview of the proposed changes, which included reducing the trigger for including an accessible stall from 25 parking spaces to 10 parking spaces. Ms. Fabris requested the Committee's recommendations for terminology, as the Zoning Bylaw currently uses the terminology "parking for the disabled".

The Committee was pleased to see that more stalls that are accessible will be mandatory for smaller-scale developments with a minimum of 10 parking stalls required. The Committee discussed the most appropriate terminology for the Zoning Bylaw and decided that people-centred language is the most appropriate, recommending the term "parking for persons with disabilities".

Moved by Ms. Palmer, seconded by Ms. Nutter that the Committee SUPPORTS the Planning and Development Department changing the language in the Zoning Bylaw from "parking for the disabled" to "parking for persons with disabilities".

Carried Unanimously

D.2 New Members

Ms. Morgan reported that the new Committee members appointed by Council are Brandy Stiles (Coordinator, Spinal Cord Injury B.C.) and Chris Gobbi (Owner/General Manager of MEDChair Northern B.C.). Committee materials will be provided to the new members at the terms' inaugural meeting to be held in April 2017.

Mr. Sherry entered the 2nd Floor Conference Room at 5:45 p.m.

E. Old Business

E.1 Age-Friendly Action Plan

Ms. Morgan reported that the draft Age-Friendly Action Plan will be made available for review by all stakeholders, including the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in April.

E.2 City-Owned Buildings and Infrastructure

Ms. Morgan reported that Administration is seeking feedback on proposed projects to fund through the 2017 Capital Budget that identifies \$50,000 for accessibility improvements in civic facilities. Ms. Morgan presented the proposed projects and recorded the Committee's feedback. Ms. Morgan advised the group that she would share their comments with Administration and report back at the April meeting to confirm which projects were selected.

E.3 Communication

This item was postponed for discussion at a subsequent meeting.

E.4 New Development

Ms. Harris was not present to provide an update from the Advisory Committee on Development Design. Ms. Morgan shared a copy of a draft "accessibility guide for developers" that the Committee prepared in 2016 and reported, that as part of the 2017 Work Plan the Committee will be finalizing this guide and presenting it to the Advisory Committee on Development Design in addition to sharing it with the local construction community.

E.5 Transportation

Mr. Biron provided an update on the accessible, affordable transportation options available at the Prince George Airport. Mr. Biron reported that he has worked with the Airport Authority to ensure that their procedures are aligned with provincially legislated requirements. The Committee commended Mr. Biron for his good work on this initiative.

E.6 Accessibility 2024

Mr. Kavanaugh reported that the provincial Accessibility 2024 website has changed significantly and a lot of content is missing. No further updates.

E.7 Accessible Housing

Ms. Morgan reported that one of the new narrow lot houses on 6th Avenue includes a secondary suite on the main floor with a concrete ramp providing access from the sidewalk to the main entrance. The group commended this work and Ms. Morgan stated that she will contact the builder for more information and to find out if the suite meets the City's visitable housing criteria.

E.8 Grants

The Committee discussed the idea of utilizing their grant database to identify funding opportunities for specific action items identified in the Age-Friendly Action Plan. Ms. Morgan noted that this could be accommodated through the review of the draft Age-Friendly Plan in April.

F. Informational Items

F.1 Next Meeting: Ms. Morgan advised the Committee that she is not available for the next scheduled meeting date on April 12, 2017. The Committee agreed to change the meeting date to April 19, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Sherry, seconded by Mr. Biron that the Committee SCHEDULES their next meeting for Wednesday, April 10, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

F. Adjournment

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:29 p.m.

Ms. Andrea Palmer, Chair

Hillary Morgan, Planner/Staff Liaison

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