

City of Chilliwack
ACCESSIBILITY and INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 24, 2023 – 4:00 pm
DOGWOOD ROOM / Held Electronically

Council Members:

Councillor Jason Lum, Chair
Councillor Jeff Shields, Vice-Chair

Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Members:

Julia Lamb, Community Advocate and Chair of Disability Alliance BC
Anya McRae, Community Member
Debbie Denault, Plain Language Specialist
Katie Bartel, Chilliwack District Parent Advisory Council
Matt Yeomans, Chilliwack People First, President
Leah Kelley, Writer/Consultant, UBC Faculty of Education
Sheralie Taylor, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Zeeshan Khan, Educational Assistant, SD33
Alyson Seale, Associate Professor, University of the Fraser Valley

City Staff: Jamie Leggatt, Director of Communications, Staff Liaison
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary

Guests: Misty-Jo Crawford, Co-Advisor, Chilliwack People First
Gregory Wees

Regrets: Glenda Standeven, Author and Motivational Speaker
Jim Ryan, Certified Accessibility Professional and Rick Hansen Foundation Ambassador

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Lum was Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and provided territorial acknowledgement.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Agenda for the Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory
Seconded (Committee of Monday, July 24, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved /) That the Minutes for the Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory
Seconded (Committee of Monday, May 29, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously

4. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

Chair Lum informed the group that a member recently stepped down from the committee.

Chair Lum polled the committee to see if the current meeting start time of 4:00 pm is still favourable; there was a general consensus to retain the 4:00 pm start time for the remainder of the 2023 meetings.

a) Committee Values – Review and Discussion

J. Lamb provided the final feedback received from members of the committee with respect to committee values. A draft copy was provided at the meeting and a digital copy will be emailed to committee members. Additional activities that could support the committee's values include:

- Connecting outside of scheduled meetings in order to foster connection
- Using social media to support connections
- Collaborating to engage with the community (part of the Accessibility Plan)

Staff encouraged members to try the private group page that is available at engagechilliwack.com/aiac as a tool to communicate outside of the regularly scheduled meetings. Staff provided direction on how AIAC members can log on and participate. Further exploration can be considered for connecting outside of regularly scheduled meetings, if necessary.

4. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS (continued)

The committee members had a brief discussion with respect to the draft committee values and provided the following recommendation:

Moved /) That the Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee adopt the
Seconded (committee values as presented.

Carried unanimously

b) Code of Conduct – Discussion

Chair Lum led the committee in a follow-up discussion regarding a Code of Conduct. A copy of the Respectful Workplace Policy (D-21), which is a policy currently in place for City of Chilliwack employees was reviewed by the Committee at the May 29, 2023 meeting. The committee referred the document back to staff for further review and requested additional information regarding other municipal code of conduct policies for committees as examples. Examples were provided.

At the June 20, 2023, Council meeting, Council approved an amended Respectful Workplace policy, which now applies to all employees, elected officials, students working for the City, and volunteers, including committee members.

A suggestion was made to create a plain language version of the Respectful Workplace Policy (D-21) for committees; this will be considered as a future action item in the Accessibility Plan.

The following recommendation was made:

Moved /) That the Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee adopt the
Seconded (Respectful Workplace Policy (D-21) as presented.

Carried unanimously

5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATION

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Establish a Framework for Chilliwack's Accessibility Plan

J. Leggatt, Director of Communications, Staff Liaison, provided a presentation with respect to the first step in identifying which accessibility standards the committee would like the Accessibility Plan to address. These accessibility standards will form the guiding framework for the Accessibility Plan.

An overview was provided below:

Guiding Frameworks and Accessibility Plans

- Plan Development Guides (available on engagechilliwack.com)
- Process
- Step One (Guiding Framework / Accessibility Standards)
- Municipal Departments
- Examples of Accessibility Plans
 - Victoria, Whistler, Vancouver, Nanaimo, and Kingston, ON

The committee recessed at 4:30 pm and returned to the meeting at 4:40 pm.

Discussion

Committee members provided comment with respect to which plan(s) they preferred and why; this included partial sections of some or all of the plans.

A query was raised as to whether accessibility standards would apply to contracted-out services; staff noted the accessibility standards would apply to any contracted City-owned facilities such as the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre and the Cheam Centre.

As the City of Vancouver's Accessibility Plan was discussed, it was noted that Vancouver operates under its own provincial legislation, the *Vancouver Charter*. The *Community Charter* is the provincial legislation that provides the statutory framework for all other municipalities in B.C. An example of differences under the charters was provided.

6. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Several themes from the accessibility plan examples were similar, such as Built Environment, Design of Public Spaces, Employment, Information and Communication, Governance and Services, and Advocacy.

The committee discussed which guiding frameworks should be included in the City of Chilliwack's Accessibility Plan and considered the following:

- Built Environment (facilities, parks, public spaces, sidewalks, wheelchair parking, transportation, public transit, event standards)
- Employment
- Delivery of Services
- Transportation
- Procurement
- Advocacy (affordable housing, commercial building requirements, WorkSafe BC)
- Capacity and Collaboration (equitable consultation)
- Information and Communications (both internal and external, with transparency in communication)
- Recreation and Culture - Civic Facilities (falls under Built Environment)
- Event standards (accessible events and ticketing for events in civic facilities and parks)
- Infrastructure (falls under Built Environment)
- Business standards/business licensing (*BC Local Government Act*)
- Education (For City staff and elected officials)
- Social isolation and social inclusion

Next Steps:

Staff will summarize the suggestions noted above and will bring back a draft guiding framework for the committee's review at the next meeting in September.

7. INFORMATION

a) Local Community Accessibility Grant

This initiative provides one-time funding for local governments, of up to \$25,000, to support the implementation of projects or priorities identified in their Accessibility Plan or in partnership with their Accessibility Committee (AIAC).

Staff provided an overview of the Local Community Accessible Grant Program (LCAG) and information with respect to the two different funding streams. The creation of a second accessible universal changeroom, washroom and shower area, with an adult sized change table and ceiling track lift at the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre was identified as a good fit for grant funding.

Letters of support from Mayor Popove, Councillor Jason Lum, Chair (AIAC), as well as School District 33, have been submitted to the Province as part of the grant application package. Copies of these support letters were provided to the committee for information.

a) People First Summer BBQ

Matt Yeomans, Chilliwack People First, President, met with Cllrs. Jason Lum, Chair, Jeff Shields, Vice-Chair, and Mayor Popove last month. One of the items M. Yeomans brought forward was the idea of the Chilliwack People First partnering with the City of Chilliwack for a community BBQ. Consultation with Chilliwack Society for Community Living (CSCL) will be required before moving forward as Chilliwack People First falls under the umbrella of CSCL. Chair Lum has offered to help assist M. Yeomans through the Neighbourhood Grant application process should CSCL approve Chilliwack People First's request.

b) Universal Accessible Toilet/Bathroom

A. McRae, Community Member, provided photos of a universally accessible toilet/bathroom at Dublin Trinity University during a recent trip to Dublin, Ireland. A video is available at <https://youtu.be/59Zk7mZSiww>. Chair Lum thanked A. McRae for providing the photos and information.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 4:00 pm in the Dogwood Room and via zoom.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Chair