



**CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT**

**MINUTES  
ACCESS AWARENESS COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, October 15, 2008  
4:00 P.M.**

**Wurtele Room, Esquimalt Municipal Hall**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Barbara Desjardins (Chair)  
Councillor Don Linge (Vice Chair)  
Joe Buczkowski, Community Representative  
Brian Gray, Community Representative (Arrived 4:07 p.m.)  
Meagan Duncan, Community Representative  
Emmy Labonté, Community Representative  
Walter Gattinger, Esquimalt Legion Representative  
Barbara Amberstone, Community Representative

**STAFF:** Andy Katschor – Parks Manager (Staff Liaison)  
Deborah Liske – Recording Secretary

**REGRETS:** Gilbert Coté – Director of Engineering and Public Works (Staff Liaison)  
Mia Shinbrot, Community Representative

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Desjardins called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

**2. LATE ITEMS**

The following late items were introduced:

Add to Agenda item **6. NEW BUSINESS** (2) Blue Bird Cabs

Add new Agenda item **6. NEW BUSINESS** (3) Sidewalks in Parson's Place Shopping Plaza

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor Linge, seconded by Walter Gattinger, that the agenda of the Access Awareness Committee meeting of September 17, 2008 be approved with the inclusion of the late agenda items.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Emmy Labonté, seconded by Meagan Duncan that the minutes of September 17, 2008 be approved as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

- (1) Report on Meeting with Darin Ramsey at BC Transit, April 8, 2008

Barbara Amberstone reported that the new buses purchased by BC Transit lack accessible improvements. Ms. Amberstone also reported on the high level of accessibility of Vancouver transit buses. The Committee discussed their concerns over the lack of verbal signal stop indicators, the location of poles and the discomfort associated with the hard, flip-up seats. It was requested that Darin Ramsey of BC Transit be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the Committee's concerns.

- (2) Proposed New Sidewalk Construction Program for Next Five Years  
(a) Esquimalt Pedestrian Charter

Chair Desjardins reviewed the draft list for the proposed new sidewalk construction program followed by a review by Committee members on the input they provided to the Director of Engineering and Public Works. A Committee member noted an overhanging bush that impedes the view of vehicular traffic. The Manager of Parks advised the Committee to contact him in cases such as this in order to contact the homeowner.

The Committee discussed additional areas of the municipality that require sidewalk improvements. Sidewalks are needed in the following areas:

- Craigflower Road /Panhandle
- Foster Street between Esquimalt Road and Lyall Street
- Lampson Street and Wordsley Street
- Pathway from Drake Avenue to Rockcrest Avenue
- Garthland Road
- West Bay Terrace

The Committee also discussed the walkway into and lighting in Highrock Carin park; the area of sidewalk in Saxe Point Park where roots have pushed up the pavement; and the rut worn into the path on the Westsong walkway. It was also noted that the Westsong walkway is not wide enough to allow for a person to walk alongside a wheelchair. The Manager of Parks noted that he is aware of the noted issues and addressed the committee's concerns.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

- (1) Letter from the Director of Parks and Recreation Services dated October 6, 2008, Re: Appointment to Parks and Recreation Commissioner to the Access Awareness Committee

The Committee discussed the merits of having a representative from the Parks and Recreation Commission on the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Linge, seconded by Barb Amberstone that the letter be received.  
The motion **CARRIED**.

- (2) Blue Bird Cabs (**Late Item**)

Councillor Linge reported that Blue Bird Cabs has made an application to the Transport Commission to increase their number of accessible vehicles (wheelchair vans). Councillor Linge requested input from the Committee on this issue. The Committee discussed and it was noted that the community is in dire need of more accessible transportation options.

Moved by Walter Gattinger, seconded by Joe Buczkowski, that the Access Awareness Committee write a letter to the Transport Commission supporting the issuance of new licenses for accessible taxi vans.  
The motion **CARRIED**.

(3) Sidewalks in Parson's Place Shopping Plaza (**Late Item**)

Emmy Labonté reported that the sidewalks in Parson's Place Shopping Plaza are extremely high and lack accessibility. The Committee discussed.

Moved by Emmy Labonté, seconded by Walter Gattinger, that a letter be sent to the owner of the plaza, noting the sidewalk accessibility issues along with a copy of the Esquimalt Pedestrian Charter.

The motion **CARRIED**.

**7. REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES**

(1) Measuring – Up Sub-Committee Update  
(a) Funding Application Report

Andy Katschor, Parks Manager, reported he recently attended the joint municipal Measuring Up – 2010 Legacies Now Initiative meeting. It was noted that this was the last meeting prior to the funding deadline and due to the fact that each participating municipality was at a different point in the application process, the Committee determined that each municipality would submit individual applications.

Mr. Katschor noted that he has submitted the application on behalf of the Township and all the pieces came together to create a wonderful application. Mr. Katschor will keep the Committee apprised of the outcome of the application, noting that if successful, the funds will be utilized to complete an accessibility audit.

Councillor Desjardins thanked Mr. Katschor for coordinating and submitting the application.

Moved by Emmy Labonté, seconded by Barbara Amberstone that the report be received.  
The motion **CARRIED**.

(2) Access Awareness Day Sub-Committee

It was noted that the Committee has not met recently.

(3) Buccaneer Days Sub-Committee

Nothing to report.

**8. COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS**

Brian Gray noted that the Committee needs to discuss bikes on sidewalks / in crosswalks and how they conflict with individuals in wheelchairs.

Meagan Duncan noted that the garbage can at the bus stop at Lampson Street and Esquimalt Road has been moved.

Barbara Amberstone suggested that the local media be contacted to write about the Committees accomplishments and goals.

Moved by Barb Amberstone, seconded by Meagan Duncan that at a future meeting, the Committee discuss opportunities to publicize the Committees accomplishments.  
The motion **CARRIED**.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Access Awareness Committee will take place in 2009.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Barbara Amberstone, seconded by Meagan Duncan that the meeting adjourn at 5:26 p.m.

The motion **CARRIED**.

---

Don Linge, Vice Chair

This 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April , 2009