



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT
MINUTES
ACCESS AWARENESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 12, 2010
4:00 P.M.
Council Chambers, Esquimalt Municipal Hall

PRESENT: Brian Gray – Chair
Lorne Argyle – Vice-Chair
Councillor Meagan Brame
Councillor Don Linge (Arrived 4:25 p.m.)
Emmy Labonté
Eleanor Calder
Paul Newcombe
Barbara Amberstone
Daniel Jenkins
Bob McKie – Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Representative
Wanda Le Roux – BC Transit

STAFF: Andy Katschor – Parks Manager (Staff Liaison)
Jeff Miller – Director of Engineering & Public Works (Staff Liaison) (Departed 5:12 p.m.)
Deborah Liske – Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

The following late items were introduced:

1. Add to Agenda item **5. OLD BUSINESS** (1) (c) MIA Grant Funding
2. Add **9. COMMUNICATIONS** and renumber agenda accordingly
3. Add to Agenda item **9. COMMUNICATIONS** (1) Success in Access Article from Esquimalt Review

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Bob McKie, seconded by Barbara Amberstone that the agenda of the Access Awareness Advisory Committee meeting of May 12, 2010 be approved as amended with the inclusion of the late agenda items.
The motion **CARRIED**.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Vice Chair Argyle that the minutes of the Access Awareness Advisory Committee meeting of April 14, 2010 be approved as presented.
The motion **CARRIED**.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

- (1) From the April 14, 2010 Access Awareness Advisory Committee Meeting
(a) Accessibility Walking Tours

Chair Gray enquired if the committee would like to consider organizing accessible walking tours once the committee resumes discussion on accessible tourism in September.

Committee members discussed the committee work plan and whether they were interested in taking on additional work plan items. It was suggested the committee consider introducing a campaign, similar to the campaign for overhanging branches, to highlight accessibility for mobility of sidewalk, paths, etc.

Moved by Bob McKie, seconded by Paul Newcombe that this item be brought back to the September meeting for further discussion.
The motion **CARRIED**.

- (b) Letter of Support for Late Night Transit Service

Councillor Brame reported the Victoria Regional Transit Commission will be reviewing late night transit service at its May 25th meeting. Councillor Brame suggested the committee note its support of the continuation of the late night service.

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Paul Newcombe that the Access Awareness Advisory Committee recommends that Council consider writing a letter to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission conveying support for the continuation of the # 6 Esquimalt / Royal Oak and # 14 UVic / Vic General late-night transit service.
The motion **CARRIED**.

- (c) MIA Grant Funding (**Late Item**)

Councillor Brame reported grant funding, to a maximum of \$ 12,000.00, is available through the Municipal Insurance Authority to assist in financing risk management initiatives to reduce liability claims.

Councillor Linge arrived at 4:25 p.m.

Andy Katschor, Staff Liaison noted decision making for determining a liability is an operational decision and would be determined by staff. Mr. Katschor and Jeff Miller, Staff Liaison, will review the funding opportunity and report back on any grant funding awards and projects resulting from the funding.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- (1) Centennial Celebrations Select Committee, Centennial Memorial Walkway

The committee discussed the Centennial Celebrations Select Committee Centennial Memorial Walkway project noting the accessibility and potential vandalism of the pavers. It was noted the company supplying the pavers will be completing the installation as per the specifications of the product.

7. REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES / WORK PLAN ITEMS

(1) Measuring-Up Gold Star Program

Andy Katschor, Staff Liaison reported the certificates have been created and letters of invitation to the ceremony have been sent out to recipients.

Councillor Brame noted the recognition of businesses awarded a certificate for accessibility (Gold Star Program) will need to be included on the Council Agenda following the Access Awareness Day presentation.

(2) Access Awareness Day

- (a) Letter from UBCM, dated April 14, 2010, Re: Access Awareness Day – Saturday, June 5, 2010

Andy Katschor, Staff Liaison complimented committee members for their hard work and dedication in organizing this year's Access Awareness Day event. Mr. Katschor reported the sub-committee met yesterday and reviewed logistics for the event. Thirteen groups have confirmed attendance; BC Transit will be attending and bringing a bus; posters will be distributed shortly; survey will be available and SPARC has provided an array of informational material for handouts. Mr. Katschor noted volunteers are needed to assist with manning the table on the day of the event.

A copy of the accessible housing survey was distributed to committee members for their review. Committee members discussed amendments to the survey including adding a definition for accessibility.

Moved by Barbara Amberstone, seconded by Councillor Brame that the survey be approved with the following noted amendments:

1. Add the following definition after the first paragraph:

In the context of people with disabilities, accessibility refers to a variety of practical and concrete measures which assist people with disabilities to access the community, including, making building, housing and infrastructure accessible, making civic services and programs accessible, making information available in alternative formats and providing various accessible transportation options.

2. Add Please turn over on the bottom of page 1.

The motion **CARRIED**.

(3) Buccaneer Days

Vice Chair Argyle reported the committee will have three tables at Buccaneer Days which will be shared with the Celebration of Lights Committee and the ETAG Committee.

(4) Accessible Housing

Chair Gray reported he was unable to obtain presentation material on accessible housing as CMHC has relocated their office to Vancouver. Chair Gray noted the accessible housing survey will assist in collecting information to move forward with the issue of accessible housing.

(5) Bylaw Violation Education

Andy Katschor, Staff Liaison noted articles reminding homeowners about maintenance of overhanging branches and shrubs have appeared in the Active Living Guide, the municipal website and community newsletter. The Engineering and Public Works Department will highlight snow removal responsibilities later in the year in a similar manner.

8. REPORT FROM BC TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE

Wanda Le Roux, representative for BC Transit provided the committee with an update on items arising from the previous meeting.

Bus Pullouts – Pullouts are an exception. A number of factors including, safety, number of lanes, speed and traffic flows are assessed prior to a recommendation being forwarded to the municipality.

Jeff Miller, Staff Liaison department the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

Transit Services – Starting in September the #6 route will have an increase in frequency during the morning peak and between the hours of 10:00 pm and midnight. Ms. Le Roux further noted the late night service is extremely expensive to operate. Hours allocated to Handy-DART will also increase with a focus on increasing customer service.

Marketing Material for Access Awareness Day / Buccaneer Days – BC Transit marketing material is currently being redesigned and availability date is unknown.

Olympic Buses for Access Awareness Day / Buccaneer Days – Hydrogen buses cannot be brought to Victoria to display as the buses are part of the fleet that services Whistler and cannot be refueled in Victoria.

Audible Stop Signals – Implementation is eighteen months to two years away.

Committee members provided feedback to Ms. Le Roux.

A committee member expressed concern over BC Transit changing their branding when services are being cut.

Councillor Brame noted she had an accessibility issue brought to her attention in the form of individuals with strollers being asked to vacate the bus if a wheelchair needed to board. Ms. Le Roux noted wheelchairs have a priority and drivers follow the policy. Ms. Le Roux further noted there have been difficulties associated with the large three wheeled strollers as they take up an extremely large amount of space. Councillor Brame suggested an educational campaign to provide additional information to users. Ms. Le Roux noted BC Transit has visited retail outlets that sell these types of strollers to advise of the large amount of space the strollers take up on buses.

Ms. Le Roux noted BC Transit will be getting five newly designed community low floor Handy-DART buses with a mechanical ramp that loads from the side.

Andy Katschor, Staff Liaison enquired if it is possible to move the bus stop located on Esquimalt Road in front of Memorial Park to assist in accommodating the large number of individuals, including veterans who attend Remembrance Day services at the park. Mr. Katschor will forward his enquiry to Ms. Le Roux.

Ms. Le Roux noted advertising on the bus is outsourced and needs to be provided a year in advance. Ms. Le Roux will provide pricing to Mr. Katschor for consideration for advertising Access Awareness Day for 2011.

Chair Gray raised a concern over at-risk situations and how to contact BC Transit in the evening and on weekend to lodge complaints. Ms. Le Roux noted a complaints line is available and all calls are logged. Customers can also log a complaint on the transit website. BC Transit has a policy to respond to complainants if they request to receive a response. Ms. Le Roux also noted current Handy-DART need outstrips availability and is working on increasing this service. Chair Gray noted he would like to see an increase in Handy-DART service.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

(1) Success in Access Article from Esquimalt Review (**Late Item**)

Councillor Brame circulated a copy of an article in the Esquimalt Review about Success in Access. The article applauded the efforts the Township of Esquimalt has made to make Esquimalt an accessible community.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Access Awareness Advisory Committee will take place on Wednesday, June 9, 2010.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Brian Gray, Chair

This 9th day of June, 2010