



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MINUTES

ACCESS AWARENESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 10, 2010
4:00 P.M.
Pioneer Room A, Recreation Centre

PRESENT: Brian Gray – Chair
Lorne Argyle – Vice-Chair
Councillor Meagan Brame (Arrived 4:15 p.m.)
Councillor Don Linge (Arrived 4:54 p.m.)
Eleanor Calder
Emmy Labonté
Daniel Jenkins
Paul Newcombe
Bob McKie – Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Representative –
(Departed 5:18 pm)
Danielle Harriott – BC Transit (Arrived 4:17 p.m.)

STAFF: Jeff Miller – Director of Engineering & Public Works (Staff Liaison)
Deborah Liske – Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Andy Katschor – Parks Manager (Staff Liaison)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

The following late item was introduced:

1. Add to Agenda item **7. NEW BUSINESS** (2) Review of Sidewalks – Vice Chair Argyle and Atilla Szabo

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Vice Chair Argyle, seconded by Paul Newcombe that the agenda of the Access Awareness Advisory Committee meeting of November 10, 2010 be approved with the inclusion of the late agenda item.
The motion **CARRIED**.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Bob McKie, seconded by Vice Chair Argyle that the minutes of the Access Awareness Advisory Committee meeting of October 13, 2010 be approved as presented.
The motion **CARRIED**.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- (1) Scent Free Environment

Eleanor Calder and Emmy Labonté provided the committee with an overview of the research compiled on scent free environments. Key points included:

- Environmental sensitivities are adverse reactions to the environment
- 40% of Canadian population is affected by environmental sensitivities
- Environmental sensitivities are an immune problem
- Canadian Human Rights Commission recognizes environmental sensitivities as a disability (www.environmentalhealth.ca/summer07humanrights.html)
- Several Canadian universities have scent free policies
- Public Service Alliance of Canada adopted a scent free policy
- Canada Post will not accept or deliver scented advertising that is not sealed
- UVic and BC Transit have internal scent free policies
- BC Lung Association is a great resource for information on creating scent free environments (www.bc.lung.ca)
- The Vancouver Island Health Authority's Occupation Health and Safety Committee has a scent free policy
- The District of Saanich has started an educational campaign through their community newsletter

Councillor Brame arrived at 4:15 p.m. and Danielle Harriott, BC Transit representative arrived at 4:17 p.m.

Ms. Calder noted education is key to awareness and made the following suggestions:

- Educate ourselves as committee members about environmental sensitivities
- Invite the Environmental Health Association of BC make a presentation (www.ehabc.org)

Committee members discussed environmental sensitivities and how the population is effected by them.

Committee members also discussed how they would like to proceed on this topic. Ms. Calder made the following suggestions:

- Ms. Labonté and Ms. Calder will continue to research liability issues
- Consult with the municipal Occupational Health and Safety Committee on awareness
- Survey committee members to determine awareness of environmental sensitivities and their effect

6. REPORT FROM BC TRANSIT REPRESENTATIVE

Danielle Harriott, BC Transit did not have anything to report.

Councillor Linge arrived at 4:54 p.m.

7. NEW BUSINESS

(1) Centennial Celebrations Committee Invitation

Chair Gray suggested the committee consider including or highlighting a theme for Access Awareness Day in 2012 that will complement the centennial celebrations which will be taking place throughout the year.

Councillor Linge will advise the Centennial Celebrations Committee the Access Awareness Advisory Committee plans to host Access Awareness Days on June 2, 2012. Committee members also requested the Centennial Celebrations Committee keep in mind the need to ensure all activities are accessible to everyone.

(2) Review of Sidewalks – Vice Chair Argyle and Atilla Szabo (**Late Item**)

Vice Chair Argyle and citizen Atilla Szabo completed a tour of Esquimalt compiling a list of sidewalk ramps and curbs that require repair or modification. Vice Chair Argyle noted the tour was very informative. The detailed list and highlighted map was provided to Jeff Miller, Director of Engineering and Public Works. The Director of Engineering and Public Works noted a specific amount of money is budgeted for sidewalk improvements each year and suggested the list be reviewed and prioritized.

Moved by Paul Newcombe, seconded by Councillor Brame that Vice Chair Argyle and Mr. Atilla Szabo create a numbered prioritized list of sidewalk ramp lips for repair and / or improvement for Jeff Miller, Director of Engineering and Public Works to utilize in designating repairs.

The motion **CARRIED**.

This item to be brought back to the January meeting.

8. REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES / WORK PLAN ITEMS

(1) Measuring-Up Gold Star Program

No report.

(2) Access Awareness Day

(a) Difficulty in Opening Doors – Follow-up by Jeff Miller

Jeff Miller, Staff Liaison noted he will have a follow-up report for the January meeting.

Councillor Brame noted the entrance doors to the curing rink and ramp to curling ice is fabulous.

Bob McKie departed the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

(3) Accessible Housing

(a) Accessible Building Checklist – Research by Chair Gray

Chair Gray distributed information from the housing registry which provides a list of housing opportunities for seniors and adults with disabilities. Chair Gray noted an extreme shortage of units available in Esquimalt.

Chair Gray recommended the committee continue to discuss accessible housing and make recommendations to Council to consider actions that will encourage increasing accessible housing in future development.

Discuss this item further at the January meeting.

(4) Accessible Tourism

Councillor Brame requested committee members continue to suggest areas of Esquimalt that are accessible for notation in the tourism section of the website.

(5) Accessible Employment

Nothing to report.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

- (1) Letter from Helen Martin, dated October 20, 2010, Re: Sidewalks

Jeff Miller, Staff Liaison reported he has been in communication with Ms. Martin to discuss her letter.

Moved by Vice Chair Argyle, seconded by Eleanor Calder, that the Communications item be received.

The motion **CARRIED**.

- (2) Letter from Andy Katschor, Manger of Parks Services, Township of Esquimalt, dated October 25, 2010, Re: Outdoor Fitness Equipment Grant

Moved by Vice Chair Argyle, seconded by Paul Newcombe, that the Communications items be received.

The motion **CARRIED**.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Access Awareness Advisory Committee will take place on Wednesday, January 12, 2011.

Chair Gray thanked committee members for their work on the committee.

Committee members thanked Chair Gray for his participation in the activities of the committee.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Eleanor Calder, Chair

This 9th day of February, 2011