



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MINUTES ACCESS AWARENESS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 21, 2008
4:00 P.M.

Council Chamber, Esquimalt Municipal Hall

- PRESENT:** Councillor Barbara Desjardins (Chair)
Councillor Don Linge (Departed at 5:06 p.m.)
Barbara Amberstone, Community Representative
Walter Gattinger, Esquimalt Legion Representative
Emmy Labonté, Community Representative
Joe Buckzkowski, Community Representative
Mia Shinbrot, Community Representative
- STAFF:** Gilbert Côté – Director of Engineering and Public Works (Staff Liaison)
Andy Katschor – Parks Manager (Staff Liaison)
Deborah Liske – Recording Secretary
- REGRETS:** Maureen Mitchell-Starkey, Parks and Recreation Commission Representative
Brian Gray, Community Representative
Meagan Duncan, Community Representative

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Desjardins called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Linge, seconded by Walter Gattinger that the agenda of the Access Awareness Committee meeting on May 21, 2008 be approved as presented
The motion **CARRIED**.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mia Shinbrot, seconded by Barbara Amberstone that the minutes of April 21, 2008 be approved as amended with the correction under 6. **NEW BUSINESS** (2) a) Paragraph 2 – It was suggested that prizes be dispensed on the day of the event.
The motion **CARRIED**.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- (1) Access Awareness Community Survey Results

The Director of Engineering and Public Works reviewed the survey results with input from Committee members. It was suggested that Committee members review the survey results and

provide a priority list of general suggestions that can be provided to Council for review and possible implementation.

The Committee discussed Municipal signage. It was requested that Committee members provide their suggestions on font size, letter color and background color to Mia Shinbrot who will correlate the information and report back at the next meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

(1) Access Town Website

Councillor Desjardins reviewed the information on Access Town provided by Brian Gray who could not attend the meeting. The Access Town website is available at www.accesstown.com. It was requested that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

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

The Committee discussed the next steps to take in discussions with BC Transit. It was requested that a copy of the report be forwarded to Darin Ramsey at BC Transit. This item will be discussed further at the September meeting.

(3) Street Parking – Designation for Residents with Disability Stickers

The Committee determined that they will revisit this item again in the future.

A Committee member noted that the Esquimalt Public Safety Building does not have designated handicapped parking spaces, a elevator to reach the second floor (Fire Department) and a handicapped door push button with automatic door opener for the main entrance. The Director of Engineering and Public Works will coordinate the placement of a designated handicapped parking space at the Public Safety Building.

It was also noted that the doors leading to the washrooms in the library are not equipped with a push button or a automatic door opener.

(4) Esquimalt Pedestrian Charter

Councillor Desjardins reviewed the Esquimalt Pedestrian Charter with the Committee.

(5) Bus Stops Requiring the Installation of Benches

Barbara Amberstone provided the Committee with a list of bus stops that require the installation of benches.

Councillor Linge departed the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

It was also noted that a bench is needed at the entrance to Captain Jacobson Park. The Committee also discussed new bus shelters.

Andy Katschor, Parks Manager provided an overview of the walking routes developed by Parks and Recreation. The Committee discussed the accessibility of the routes. It was noted by Mr. Katschor that the accessibility issues will be reviewed in the future.

Councillor Desjardins reviewed the list of bench requirements provided by Brian Gray.

Councillor Desjardins requested that Committee members review areas of Esquimalt that require benches that have not been reviewed. Joe Buczkowski will review the Parklands area and report back at the next meeting.

A Committee member requested that the bus stop on Tillicum Road be relocated closer to McNaughton Avenue to allow for easier access to the beach access at the end of McNaughton Avenue. The Director of Engineering and Public Works will review this request.

7. REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

(1) Measuring – Up Sub-Committee Update

Councillor Desjardins reported on a Measuring Up – 2010 Legacies Now Initiatives meeting that she attended on April 29, 2008 at Gordon Head Recreation Centre. Councillor Desjardins reported that the Esquimalt Access Awareness Committee has completed more of the steps in the grant process than other Committees who are also working on the grant process. The next meeting of the group will take place on June 10, 2008. It was noted that the application deadline has been changed from June 30th to September.

(2) Access Awareness Day Sub-Committee Update

- (a) Staff Report No. EPW-08-020 from Gilbert Cote, dated May 7, 2008 Re: Access Awareness Day (Proclamation attached)

Andy Katschor, Parks Manager reported that the sub-committee met and discussed the following items:

- Requested Council to proclaim June 7, 2008 as Access Awareness Day.
- Mayor and Council will be invited to attend and participate in activities.
- Banner(s) will be purchased and displayed the week of the event.
- Event will be promoted in the free community calendars and on the municipal website one week prior to the event.
- Posters will be posted throughout the Community.
- Event will take place in the atrium of the Recreation Centre from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- The following organizations have been invited to participate with many providing informational displays:
 - Disability Resource Centre
 - BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities
 - BC Paraplegic Association
 - Community Living Victoria
 - MacDonald House
 - Namaste Transition to Community Society
 - Orillia House
 - Canadian Red Cross
 - CNIB
 - Recreation Integration Victoria
 - Disabled Sailing Association
- Simulation exercises.
- Live music, healthy refreshments and prizes.

Mr. Katschor provided the Committee with a sample of the poster that will be utilized to promote the event and also reviewed a letter from the Victoria Disability Resource Centre who regretfully will not be able to attend the event. Committee members can contact Mr. Katschor if they would like to assist on the day of the event.

- (b) Letter from Susan Gimse, President, UBCM, dated April 30, 2008, Re: Access Awareness Day – Saturday, June 7, 2008
- (c) Letter from Nancy Henderson, Executive Director, SPARC BC, received May 9, 2008, Re: Access Awareness Day – June 7, 2008

Moved by Joe Buckzkowski, seconded by Barbara Amberstone that the letter from Susan Gimse and the letter from Nancy Henderson be received for information.
The motion **CARRIED**.

8. COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS

Barbara Amberstone reported that the westbound section of Esquimalt Road in Victoria West, near Bowlsby Place, where the road merges from two lanes to one lane is very hazardous. Sufficient signage is not displayed and merge lane markings are not adequately placed.

Joe Buckzkowski noted that the Committee may be able to apply for the BC 150 Celebration Grant Program. Andy Katschor, Parks Manager will research qualification requirements.

Councilor Desjardins reported that during the Tall Ships Festival (June 26 – 29, 2008), events and fun activities will be taking place all day (June 27th) at the West Bay Marina. It was also noted that the harbour ferries will be half price, there is the possibility of a double decker bus travelling through Esquimalt (still to be determined), walking tours and a displays of hydrogen powered vehicles including a hydrogen fuel cell powered sailboat.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Access Awareness Committee will take place on Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Esquimalt Municipal Hall.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Walter Gattinger, seconded by Emmy Labonté that the meeting adjourn at 5:47 p.m.
The motion **CARRIED**.

Councillor Barbara Desjardins, Chair

This day of , 2008