

MINUTES

Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, May 27, 2026, 2:00 p.m. Council Chambers, District of Metchosin

The Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT:

District of Sooke	Susan Dyble (Chair), Citizen Representative
Township of Esquimalt	Madison Sutcliffe, Citizen Representative (Teams)
Town of View Royal	Elena Bolster, Corporate Officer (Teams)
City of Colwood	Marcy Lalande, Corporate Officer
City of Langford	Marie Watmough, Corporate Officer
District of Metchosin	Tina Hansen, Deputy Corporate Officer

REGRETS:

District of Highlands	Amanda Irving, Corporate Officer
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ATTENDING:

Township of Esquimalt	Deb Hopkins, Corporate officer and Victoria McKean, Committee Coordinator (Teams)
District of Metchosin	Thomasina Barnes, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

THE Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

- All Committee representatives and staff in attendance gave a brief introduction.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

- No new agenda items were brought forward.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and Seconded by: Marie Watmough, City of Langford and Tina Hansen, District of Metchosin

THAT the May 27, 2026, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a. February 25, 2026, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

Moved and Seconded by: Marie Watmough, City of Langford, and Madison Sutcliffe, Township of Esquimalt

THAT the February 25, 2026, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting minutes be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. Westsong Sensory Garden Club

Maria Hendrikx, Michael Moore, Jeremy Hendrikx, and Laurie Ponsford, of the Westsong Sensory Garden Club, presented the Committee with information on a proposed sensory garden at the entrance to the Songhees Walkway in Esquimalt. Their presentation included information on:

- Inclusive garden design, for people with vision loss and to encourage others to discover their surroundings with a different perspective;
- Showcase of native botanicals;
- Creation of a tourist destination;
- Phase one of construction to include:
 - Accessible hardscaping;
 - Raised garden beds;
 - Bog/bubble garden with touching stones;
 - Mint garden; and
 - Shade cloth.
- Creation of a wayfinding experience;
- Grant opportunities;
- Lived experience in park space and need for accessibility; and
- Inclusion.

Committee Discussion:

- Westsong Sensory Garden Club presented to the Esquimalt Parks Committee without concern; and
- Clarification was sought on municipal awareness and possible replication.

Moved and seconded by: Madison Sutcliffe, Township of Esquimalt, and Marie Watmough, City of Langford

THAT the Committee provide a letter to the Council of the Township of Esquimalt stating that the Capital West Advisory Committee supports the proposed sensory garden in its proposed location.

AND THAT the Committee provide a letter of support for any grant applications made by the West Song Sensory Garden Club in furtherance of this garden.

Carried

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Joint Accessibility Plan

- Marie Watmough, Corporate Officer, Langford, outlined the background of the Joint Accessibility Plan.

Committee Discussion:

- Acknowledgment for the work done;
- Joint training opportunities; and
- Public awareness and Committee recruitment strategy.

b. Membership Update

- Marie Watmough, Corporate Officer, was appointed as the City of Langford Committee Representative for 2026.
- Elena Bolster, Corporate Officer, was appointed as the Town of View Royal Committee Representative for 2026.

c. District of Metchosin Accessibility, Correspondence received

- Tina Hansen, Deputy Corporate Officer, District of Metchosin, summarised the received correspondence regarding updates to Accessibility Standards Canada.

d. City of Langford Accessibility, Feedback Received

- Marie Watmough, Corporate Officer, Langford, summarised the received feedback regarding a Memory Keepers Event, Starlight Stadium Seating Accessibility, and City Centre Park Accessibility Concerns. All correspondence has received staff response.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Vice Chair Appointment

- The Chair called for nominations for Vice-Chair.
- Madison Sutcliffe, Citizen Representative for Esquimalt, put her name forward.
- No other nominations came forward.

Moved and Seconded by: Marie Watmough, City of Langford, and Marcy Lalande, City of Colwood

THAT the Committee appoint Madison Sutcliffe as the Vice-Chair of the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2026.

Carried

b. Marie Watmough, Director of Legislative and Protective Services, City of Langford, Accessibility for Municipal Elections

At the February 25, 2026, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting, Marie Watmough, Director of Legislative and Protective Services, City of Langford, made a request for Committee feedback on accessibility barriers to municipal elections.

- The Committee had no feedback, and no other feedback was received.

8. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

- **Marie Watmough, Langford, reported on:**

- Hearing Loop activation in the City of Langford Council Chambers;
- Accessible washroom and bandshell upgrades to Veterans Memorial Park.
- Installation of accessible washroom at Landing Lane;
- Accessibility upgrades to Bear Mountain and Millstream Stream intersection; and
- Peat and Hawksley intersection, accessible button, has been fixed.

- **Susan Dyble, Sooke reported on:**

- Lived experience at a municipal facility where accessibility tools are available, but staff training is needed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and Seconded by: Marcy Lalande, City of Colwood, and Marie Watmough, City of Langford

THAT the May 27, 2026, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting be adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Certified Correct

Mayor

Corporate Officer