



Accessibility Committee – Orientation - Minutes

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 7:00 PM

Prestige Hotel Prince Rupert (118 6 St, Prince Rupert BC)

Chair V. Stewart, City of Prince Rupert

Members: V. Wiley
A. Falvo
E Landrath
K. Millar
S. Small
G. Barthe
E. Skelton

Regrets:

Staff: H. Tsang, North Coast Regional District

Public Media: 0

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1. *The Accessibility Committee acknowledges the traditional territory of the Ts'msyen on which this meeting takes place.*
- 1.2. Call to Order at 7 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 2.1. Committee members and staff introduced themselves and provided a reason for joining the Accessibility Committee.

3. DISCUSSION OF INTENT OF COMMITTEE; REVIEW OF PROVINCIAL MATERIALS/REQUIREMENTS

3.1. (Temporary) Chair Stewart presented and answered questions relating to Accessible BC Act requirements, including the September 1, 2023 deadline to:

- Develop an Accessibility Committee;
- Develop an Accessibility Plan; and
- A process to receive comments from the public.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

4.1. (Temporary) Chair Stewart reviewed the Terms of Reference and noted:

- That the Port Edward Council is considering appointing a member to the Accessibility Committee;
- The Prince Rupert Library is considering joining the Accessibility Committee; and
- That a Chair and Vice Chair will be elected at the next Committee meeting.

The Committee requested that staff amend the Terms of Reference to include:

- 'Caregivers' to be eligible to join the membership of the Accessibility Committee.

Further, the Committee requested that:

- Virtual attendance, such as via Zoom, be an option for future Committee meetings; and
- An updated Terms of Reference be delivered to Committee members.

5. REQUEST TO FORWARD PRIORITIES IN ADVANCE OF NEXT SESSION

5.1 The Committee discussed the following priorities:

- Gender as an accessibility issue, such as washrooms being open to all genders;
- A map for family accessible washrooms be provided to cruise passengers;
 - o The City to explore a virtual overlay to their electronic map;
- A future session be dedicated to strategic planning;
- Explore the City's previous "Measure Up" committee that was meeting about twelve or thirteen years ago;
- Explore best practices of other committees and better define accessibility;
- Identify what the City is doing right, so that the Committee is not starting from zero.

Staff will circulate questions before the next meeting and any further priorities can be forwarded Veronika Stewart or Howard Tsang.

6. QUESTIONS

6.1 The Committee had a discussion on the following topics:

- Focusing the Committee on action;
- Obtaining the recommendations from the “Measure Up” committee that were not implemented;
- Wheelchair accessible areas, such as sidewalk dips (or “curb let downs”), ramps, and cross walks;
- Public education about road and sidewalk accessibility;
- Trail accessibility;
- The City’s Transportation Plan’s accessibility component;
- Public education around expenses involved with being disabled;
- Further time on crosswalk timers (working with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure);
- Online accessibility and accessibility standards on websites:
 - o Consider audio component / speech program such as NVDA;
- Accessibility of City Council meetings, including closed captions and oral interpreters;
- City’s recreational facilities:
 - o Wheelchair lift protocols;
 - o Handicap buttons at the City’s gymnasium and arenas;
 - o A bathroom on the top floor of the arena building;
 - o Accessibility of the City’s hot tub, sauna, and steam room;
- Accessibility at the Lester Centre;
- Accessibility at Cedar Housing; and
- Consultation with an Operational Therapist to make recommendations.

7. ADJOURNMENT

7.1. Adjournment

“That the Accessibility Committee adjourns the Accessibility Committee meeting held May 16, 2023, the time being 8:26 p.m.”

Approved and adopted:

Certified correct:

Chair

Corporate Officer