



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 28th, 2019

Date: February 26th, 2019

From: Councillor Potts and Councillor Loveday

Subject: Recommendations from the Accessibility Working Group

Background:

The Accessibility Working Group currently operates without a direct path for their recommendations to be considered by Council other than through Council Member Motions brought forward by the Accessibility Working Group's Council liaisons.

The following recommendations were passed by the Accessibility Working Group and are being brought forward by the Accessibility Working Group's Council liaisons for Council's consideration. It is recommended that Council receive and consider these recommendations.

Recommendations:

That Council receive the following recommendations from the Accessibility Working Group and request a verbal update from City Staff on the progress on each item:

The AWG recommends that Council direct staff to report back with financial implications, within the 2019 budget, of addressing barriers, as defined by the Accessibility Working Group, in Council documents, webcasting services, and system/page. Such barriers include but may not be limited to:

1. Inaccessibility of webcasts to people with hearing impairments.
2. Unreliability of webcasts for people who cannot attend City Hall,
3. Navigation issues on the page for people using screen readers (very difficult to find and play the webcast or access documents associated with agenda items)
4. Lack of process for people who cannot attend City Hall to address Council.

The AWG recommends that Council direct staff to plan, scope, cost and look at options to resource a project for 2019 to consult, research, analyze and develop a long-term, phased plan and policies for addressing accessibility of the planted environment, to remove barriers for people with environmental disabilities, consistent with the accessibility objectives of the Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan.

The AWG recommends that staff report back, as part of Financial Plan, with resource estimates for AWG recommendations, and that staff consider combining the AWG's recommendations

regarding conducting a parking study for City-provided parking, with the scope of the accessible parking study for privately-provided parking, to determine any efficiencies that might be gained.

The AWG recommends that Council direct staff to develop and implement a plan to install APS/audible signals at all existing controlled intersections/crossings, to be completed by 2021 and that staff work with the AWG to determine priority intersections/crossings to be addressed each year. That the new standard be that APS or audible signals be installed whenever a new pedestrian signal is installed.

The AWG recommends that Council direct staff to provide an estimate for the cost of completing analysis of the AWG Accessibility Survey which closed May 2017, on a priority basis, and report the results to the AWG and Council. The analysis should include theory-based quantitative analysis to help understand who said what and a summary of write-in responses, to aid in understanding the reasons behind tick box answers. The qualitative analysis should be done in a way that protects privacy of respondents (e.g., analyzed by an independent third party).

The AWG recommends that Council direct staff to include in criteria for making City Hall accessible, accessible artificial lighting, particularly in public areas.

The AWG recommends that Council direct staff to consider and bring forward proposals and scenarios for providing ongoing operational funding for accessibility, consistent with the AWG recommendation of December 2016 that accessibility funding be allocated annually.

The AWG recommends that Council direct staff that one of the first quarterly Town Hall meetings be on the topic of improving accessibility, that food barriers to access not be introduced for this event, that the event be held in as accessible a forum as possible and with accessibility procedures and features.

The AWG recommends that Council direct staff to enforce the sandwich board provisions of the portable sign bylaw in the name of pedestrian safety.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeremy Loveday



Sarah Potts