



Council Member Motion

For the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting of August 20, 2015

Date: August 13, 2015

From: Councillor Jeremy Loveday, Councillor Marianne Alto and Councillor Ben Isitt

Subject: Accessibility Working Group

Background:

The City of Victoria's Strategic Plan identifies the strategic objective to "facilitate social inclusion and community wellness." To help give effect to this objective and harness the expertise of people in the community with experiential knowledge of Accessibility issues, we are proposing that Council form an Accessibility Working Group, as outlined in the 2015 Actions of the Strategic Plan, to provide advice to Council and staff on accessibility improvements to City infrastructure, facilities and policies.

Motion:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the formation of an Accessibility Working Group.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council adopts the attached Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Working Group and directs staff to convene a meeting of the working group as soon as practicable.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Loveday".

Councillor Jeremy Loveday

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marianne Alto".

Councillor Marianne Alto

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Isitt".

Councillor Ben Isitt

Terms of Reference - Accessibility Working Group

City of Victoria – 2015

Mandate:

To provide policy recommendations, expertise and experiential knowledge to Victoria City Council on accessibility issues with the aim of making City of Victoria infrastructure and facilities more accessible for all by:

- Identifying barriers for persons with disabilities created by current City of Victoria infrastructure;
- Making recommendations as to how to remove these barriers;
- Establishing criteria by which barrier removal can be prioritized and the allocating of funding can be determined; and
- Working with the City of Victoria to draft policies and procedures to prevent the creation of barriers in the future.

Composition:

The working group will be comprised of:

- Up to 12 Community Members appointed by Council with experiential knowledge of Accessibility issues, one of whom will be elected by the Working Group to serve as Chair.
- City Staff Liaison (Non-Voting)
- 2 City Council Liaisons (Non-Voting).

Timeline:

The Working Group will meet monthly for a year, engage the public and stakeholder groups as appropriate to develop recommendations, and then be convened semi-annually until the approval of a new Strategic Plan in 2018. Special meetings of the Working Group after the first year may also be convened at the call of the chair.

Responsibility of Members

This is a working group and members are expected to attend all meetings and come prepared having completed the tasks they have agreed to perform.

If a member misses more than two meetings without providing notice of their absence, their position on the working group may be declared vacant. Members are expected to apprise themselves of decisions taken at meetings they are unable to attend, so they can come prepared to the next meeting.

Guiding Principles:

- To consider the needs of persons with a diverse range of abilities including, but not limited to, physical, sensory, developmental, learning and mental health challenges.
- To recommend solutions which best meet the “wants” of all without compromising the

“needs” of any.

Goals:

To complete the following in the next six to twelve months:

- Review of the current City of Victoria audit of facilities through the “accessibility” lens and make comments on the findings as well as make recommendations if required.
- Create a list of immediate accessibility concerns and actions identified by the working group.
- Establish the criteria by which priority will be given to these concerns.
- Make funding recommendations for the prioritized concerns.
- Review current accessibility policy and recommend changes.

Accommodations:

- Meetings will be held at an accessible venue.
- All documents to be considered at any given meeting will be circulated electronically beforehand in Word format. If PDF format is to be used, it must be determined that all members can access the document in that format.
- American Sign Language, captioning or an Intervener will be provided if required, the cost of which will be borne by the City of Victoria.
- Members may be accompanied by an attendant at the table, but they are not considered members with voice or vote.