

Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

March 15, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

District Office, 1 Mackenzie Boulevard

Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/93635016031?pwd=RmxjRVBBWGt2SnBGT1hwVnZ4OGlrQT09>

Phone: 1-855-703-8985 (Toll-free)

Meeting ID: 936 3501 6031 Passcode: 939381

Committee Present: Chair E. Blackburn, C. Carter, D. Schindler, A. Pek, K. Grywinski

Staff Present: Economic Development Clerk R. Dumoulin, Director of
Corporate Services E. Kaehn, Councillor R. McMeeken

1. CALL TO ORDER

CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:00 pm.

Chair Blackburn acknowledged the land on which we gather is within the traditional territory of the Tse'khene People of the McLeod Lake Indian Band.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by: K. Grywinski

THAT the Agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

3.1 Access and Inclusion Age-Friendly Action Plan - Debrief Discussion

Committee members reviewed the suggestions and comments provided on sticky notes from the Winter Market and Diverse Abilities Expo.

Comments will be forwarded to Kate Milne, Cardia Health Consulting, to include in her report. A few key suggestions discussed were:

- **Benches** - more benches in town and along trails to encourage walking. Also there are a lot of benches that end up covered in snow in the winter and aren't accessible year round. Update the Memorial Bench Program to ensure new installation are more accessible. Funding is available through the New Horizon's program to establish a Men's Shed project. There could be a possible collaboration with them and the MCAC to build and install new benches.
- **Signage** - it was expressed that signage should be more clear, ie. not using the word "Handicap", and replacing the use of the static seated person for future signage installations.
- **Trails** - it was identified there is a lack of signage and emergency information along the trails.
- **Walking Track** - it was identified that a number of people want to see an indoor walking track built.
- **Environment** - it was suggested that the District start a new campaign to promote less littering. Examples provided were "Don't Mess with Texas" or "Don't Mess with the Don" (Toronto).
- **Garbage Cans** - it was mentioned that there was a lack of garbage cans or that they have been removed and not replaced.

Moved by: K. Grywinski

THAT the AIAC submit a report to Council recommending changes to the Memorial Bench Program, including, but not limited to, increasing the size of the base to add an additional 48 inches to one side to allow someone in a wheelchair to sit beside those they are with utilizing the bench.

3.2 Public Engagement

The Committee discussed ways to communicate to the public the small gains/wins that have already taken place since the committee formed.

Options suggested:

- Utilizing Let's Chat Mackenzie
- Social Media Posts
- The Macktown Buzzette

3.3 Let's Chat Mackenzie

The Committee decided to continue using the Let's Chat Mackenzie - Accessibility and Inclusion webpage for further community engagement following the action plan project. The page will include the following:

- Suggestion Box - made public, where people can like and comment on suggestions made by others
- Advisory Committee Information
- A list of actions completed to date
- Future engagement events

3.4 Accessibility and Business

The Committee discussed ways to spread awareness to businesses that require accessibility and inclusion improvements, such as:

- Provide informational hand-outs to all businesses in Mackenzie
- First person experience activities at the business owner's establishment
- After the report is complete - advertise businesses that are fully accessible (DoM Website, Let's Chat Mackenzie, or Chamber of Commerce business directory)

Rachelle will be speaking to the Chamber of Commerce directors about possibly adding a business award that celebrates accessibility.

3.5 Gantahaz Lake

Concerns were brought up about the Gantahaz Lake Outhouse door being broken again.

3.6 Swag

There is over \$200 in SPARC BC Accessibility grant funding available that needs to be spent by end of March. It was decided to order some swag for the Spring Expo table and upcoming public engagement activities.

3.7 Upcoming Public Engagement Activities

The Committee decided that it would be beneficial to host a table at the Spring Expo from May 5-6, 2023. District will make arrangements.

Accessibility Week is coming up from May 29 - June 2, 2023. Committee members are asked to bring back ideas to the next regular meeting.

4. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Next meeting will be held April 11, 2023.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by: A. Pek

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 3:35 pm.

CARRIED

Chair Blackburn

Corporate Officer