

**Municipality of North Cowichan
Accessibility Advisory Committee
MINUTES**

June 4, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Municipal Hall - Large Committee Room & Electronically

Members Present	Councillor Bruce Findlay Chair Barbara Allen Heather Touhey Ray Hedstrom Tracy Hamilton
Members Absent	Amber Woodworth Vern White
Staff Present	Neil Pukesh, Director, Parks and Recreation Shaun Mason, Manager, Forestry and Parks Tricia Mayea, Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee adopt the minutes of the meeting held December 12, 2023.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Reschedule 2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meetings

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee update the 2024 regular schedule of meetings, to be held by Electronic Means, as follows:

1. August 27, 2024, meeting to August 20, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

2. November 25, 2024, meeting to November 19, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

CARRIED

4.2 Local Community Accessibility Grant Program - Parks Update

Shaun Mason, Manager, Forestry and Parks reported that three accessible picnic tables have been purchased and will be installed at Art Mann Park, Kinsmen Beach Park and Sherman Road Park as follows:

Art Mann Park - once the new playground is near completion and the new accessible pathway is integrated into the design. The picnic table will be placed along the new pathway.

Kinsmen Beach Park - sometime in the fall after the new accessible pathway is installed connecting the parking lot to the new washroom.

Sherman Road Park - work has already begun and should be complete this summer.

The Committee suggested that North Cowichan advise the community about the accessibility upgrades to the parks by way of social media. Staff assured the members that the upgrades will be communicated to the public.

4.3 Emotional Support Animal Policy Discussion

The Accessible Advisory Committee provided feedback regarding Emotional Support Animals in Public Spaces but asked for more information about regulations and the various regulatory bodies. Neil Pukesh, Director, Parks and Recreation advised that he will research the subject and return to the next meeting with more information.

4.4 Removing Barriers to Committee Participation

The Committee suggested holding the Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings at a location that is more accessible to members of the public and suggested that the Cowichan Aquatic Centre may be a good location.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for August 20, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. be held in the upper-level admin office at the Cowichan Aquatic Centre.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend that Council amend the Council Advisory Body Policy to include an Honorarium of \$40 per meeting for persons who are not compensated by their employer to participate in Committee meetings. CARRIED

4.5 Provincial Accessibility Committee requesting Feedback

The Committee was encouraged to participate in, and to share with family and friends, the Provincial Accessibility Committees upcoming public engagement inviting British Columbians to comment on how the government can best address barriers that restrict people with disabilities from participating in the workforce and accessing community services.

Heather Touhey left the meeting at 2:17 p.m.

4.6 Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend Council amend the Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Advisory Committee by:

1. replacing the wording under the Staff Support heading with: "The staff liaison will serve the Committee and will notify Council in writing of any membership changes.", and
2. updating the Committee meetings to take place quarterly, or at the call of the Chair.

CARRIED

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 2:22 p.m.

Certified by Recording Secretary

Signed by Chair;