
TOWN OF SIDNEY
Minutes of Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 28, 2024
Sidney Community Safety Building, 2245 Oakville Avenue
10:00 a.m.

- PRESENT:** L. York (A/Chair)
C. Froom
D. Ryder
J. Van Es (SHOAL Centre)
L. Brewster (Panorama Recreation Centre)
Councillor G. Newton (District of Central Saanich)
Councillor P. DiBattista (District of North Saanich)
Councillor T. O’Keeffe (Town of Sidney)
- ABSENT:** D. Willows
V. Pettinger
T. Poole
- STAFF:** R. Dumas (Corporate Officer, District of North Saanich) (*electronically*)
S. Nelson (Corporate Officer, Town of Sidney)
P. Martin (Deputy Corporate Officer, District of Central Saanich)
A. Morton (Recording Clerk, Town of Sidney)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair respectfully acknowledged that this meeting is being held on the traditional territory of WSÁNEĆ First Nations.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor P. DiBattista, seconded by Councillor G. Newton, that the agenda be approved with the addition of item 8c - AccessAbility Week.

CARRIED

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. SPAAC Meeting of January 25, 2024

Moved by Councillor P. DiBattista, seconded by C. Froom, that the Minutes of the January 25, 2024 Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

It was acknowledged that the presenter for item 8b has logged on and the Committee agreed to move the item forward.

8. OTHER ITEMS

b. Sandown Centre - Accessibility Feedback

Stephanie Jacobs, Executive Director, Sandown Centre (electronically), requested the Committee's feedback with their experiences and insight regarding establishing pathways and raised garden beds.

The Committee made recommendations regarding varying bed heights; non-gravel surfaces; shaded areas; and to look at "Barrier Free Community Gardening" document from Waterloo Region.

5. ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

a. Sidney's Accessibility Plan - Grant Application

S. Nelson noted that the staff training would be like that of Central Saanich and North Saanich, in addition to some specific training for communications/administrative staff.

Moved by C. Froom, seconded by D. Ryder, that the Committee support the Town of Sidney's application for the SPARC BC Grant program for up to \$25,000 to assist in the implementation of Action #2 - Training and Awareness in the Town's Accessibility Plan.

CARRIED

b. North Saanich's Accessibility Grant Application

Staff noted that the North Saanich website needs work and that the grant would provide their staff with the necessary tools to do so.

Moved by D. Ryder, seconded by Councillor P. DiBattista, that the Committee support the District of North Saanich's application for the SPARC BC Grant program for up to \$25,000 to assist in the implementation of Commitment #1 - Training and Awareness in the District's Accessibility Plan.

CARRIED

6. COUNCIL REFERRALS

7. COUNCIL UPDATES (including tracking sheet)

- a. North Saanich is focused on communications accessibility. The Parks Master Plan is in the finalization process.
- b. Councillor Newton noted that Central Saanich received grant funding of over \$400,000 for the Lochside Trail connection from Mount Newton to Lochside Drive; the design process has not begun, but it will likely come to SPAAC for comment at a future date. There is a pump station grant that will include trail connectivity along Wallace Drive between Brentwood and Stelly's. The District has also received two significant housing applications.
- c. Councillor O'Keeffe provided an update on previous Council resolutions, noting that staff are working on increasing accessible parking near the Beacon bandshell; the budget item for accessible parking spaces standards was approved; accessible parking in Tulista Park and other public areas is in progress; and a consultant will be obtained to review the Town's emergency plans, and ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities are incorporated. The Town's Parks Master Plan and EV Charging Stations at the Downtown Employee Parking Lot will each be brought to SPAAC in the future. The Cedarwood development has been approved and includes a number of adaptable units.

8. OTHER ITEMS

a. Victoria Airport's Public Accessibility Forum

C. Froom and D. Ryder offered to take part in the forum.

b. Sandown Centre - Accessibility Feedback

Item was discussed after item 4a.

c. AccessAbility Week

Panorama and Beacon Community Services have events planned for the week of May 26 - June 1.

The Committee suggested that information be shared regarding Panorama events; online accessibility feedback forms be noted; accessibility-related successes highlighted on social media; and initiatives being done by the municipalities.

Moved by Councillor O'Keeffe, seconded by C. Froom, that the municipalities support National AccessAbility Week (May 26-June 1) by using their communication channels to promote awareness of AccessAbility Week and AccessAbility Day at the SHOAL Centre on Saturday, June 1.

CARRIED

9. PUBLIC FEEDBACK

a. Central Saanich - Public Feedback

The Committee noted their approval with the website and feedback form.

Discussion took place regarding challenges with being trapped indoors when in a wheelchair during snow events.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

CORPORATE OFFICER