

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE**

DATE: Wednesday, September 4, 2024

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Leo Facio, Chair
Sharon Chatenay
Stephanie Gallamore

Tyson Koch, Chief Administrative Officer
Amanda Graham, Corporate Officer
Christy Ovens, Community Services Manager
Kalie Wiechmann, Community Services Clerk Receptionist

ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Facio called the meeting to order at 10:32 am.
Chair Facio acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Stephanie Gallamore
Seconded by Sharon Chatenay

THAT the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
AC-2024-09-01

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Committee Procedure and Reporting

The Corporate Officer provided an overview of how the Committee reports to Council via written report which is then included in the next Regular Council Meeting Agenda package. Recommendations from the Committee form the content of the report to Council.

(b) Terms of Reference

Moved by Stephanie Gallamore
Seconded by Sharon Chatenay

THAT the Terms of Reference be adopted.

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**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
AC-2024-09-02

(c) Accessible BC Act

The Community Services Manager provided a summary of the Village's obligations under the Accessible BC Act which include establishing an Accessibility Committee, an accessibility public feedback mechanism and the adoption of an Accessibility Plan.

(d) Draft 2024 Accessibility Plan

The Community Services Manager provided background information on the draft plan. It was based on a template created by the Disability Alliance of BC, along with a 2018 assessment of Village facilities and community/staff feedback. The accessibility feedback mechanism has been available on the Village website for several months. Accessibility Feedback will be a standing agenda item for this Committee, and all feedback received by staff will form part of the agenda packages. The Province recommends that the plan be reviewed every three years. However, this plan was developed mostly at the staff level and ideally it would be looked at more frequently until more community feedback is received.

The Committee agreed to review the plan and come to the next Committee meeting with any recommended changes with a view toward providing a final document endorsed by the Committee for Council's consideration at the October 21, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.

The Committee discussed the possibility of looking at a model community elsewhere to potentially implement some new ideas to increase accessibility. It was suggested that a map of accessibility features in the Village be developed to be posted online so people can plan ahead of time.

(e) Short Term Free Accessible Parking

This agenda item was referred to the Committee at the April 3, 2024 Regular Council Meeting where Councillor Facio introduced the idea of free accessible parking stalls. The Village has a Parking Master Plan which indicates that there are enough accessible parking stalls, but it might help to add or move one stall closer to Rendall Park. The Committee discussed the barrier of having to pay for accessible parking, the location of the meters in relation to the stalls and the ramps up to the promenade, and the possibility of adding signage regarding the ability to pay via app to each stall. The Committee further discussed the possibility of accessible EV stall and adding more accessible stalls to Maple Street.

(f) Accessibility Grant

The Community Services Manager reported on an Accessibility Grant offered by the Province and Sparc BC. In order to apply, the Village must have an adopted Accessibility Plan posted on the website and a letter of support from the Committee.

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Current ideas for the grant application include:

- Automatic door openers at the Village Office and the accessible washrooms at the beach plaza and Memorial Hall
- Upgrades to all public washroom signage to include braille
- Running a website scan to ensure the website meets accessibility standards
- Street marking and signage to create more accessible parking stalls
- Staff courses on accessible space and policy creation

It was suggested the accessible picnic tables be added to the grant application.

Moved by Sharon Chatenay
Seconded by Stephanie Gallamore

THAT the Committee provide a letter of support for the Village's Accessibility Grant application.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY
AC-2024-09-03

5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Stephanie Gallamore
Seconded by Sharon Chatenay

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 11:28 am.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY
AC-2024-09-04


Leo Facio, Chair
Accessibility Committee


Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer