

**City of Chilliwack**  
**ACCESSIBILITY and INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023 – 4:00 pm**  
**DOGWOOD ROOM / Held Electronically**

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**Council Members:**

Councillor Jason Lum, Chair  
Councillor Jeff Shields, Vice-Chair

**Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Members:**

Debbie Denault, Plain Language Specialist  
Katie Bartel, Chilliwack District Parent Advisory Council  
Leah Kelley, Writer/Consultant, UBC Faculty of Education  
Zeeshan Khan, Educational Assistant, SD33  
Alyson Seale, Associate Professor, University of the Fraser Valley  
Jim Ryan, Certified Accessibility Professional and Rick Hansen  
Foundation Ambassador  
Sheralie Taylor, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty  
Reduction

**City Staff:** Jamie Leggatt, Director of Communications and Legislative Services,  
Staff Liaison  
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** Julia Lamb, Community Advocate and Chair of Disability Alliance BC  
Anya McRae, Community Member  
Matt Yeomans, Chilliwack People First, President

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<b>1. CALL TO ORDER</b>
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Councillor Lum was Chair, and called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm and provided a territorial acknowledgement.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved / ) That the Agenda for the Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory  
Seconded ( Committee of Monday, November 27, 2023 be adopted as  
circulated.

Carried unanimously

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved / ) That the Minutes for the Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory  
Seconded ( Committee of Monday, September 25, 2023 be adopted as  
circulated.

Carried unanimously

**4. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS**

Sheralie Taylor and Katie Bartel joined the meeting at 4:08 pm.

J. Leggatt, Director of Communications and Legislative Services, Staff Liaison, provided a brief summary regarding legislation. According to the *Accessible BC Act*, by September 1, 2023, local governments were required to have an accessibility committee, a way for people to provide feedback, and a publicly available accessibility plan. The City is in compliance with the *Act*. Currently, the Mayor's Task Force on Inclusiveness, Diversity and Accessibility (MTFIDA) Action Plan is serving as the City's Accessibility Plan until a new one is drafted.

The City of Chilliwack has accomplished many of the objectives set out within the MTFIDA Action Plan with the Accessibility Advisory Panel (AAP), such as improving City facilities, services, parks and public spaces for persons with disabilities.

### **a) Review Guiding Framework and Goals**

The committee reviewed the framework and discussed the four key focus areas which will set the goals, with objectives included under those goals. A brief overview of the committee values was presented as well as a language update.

#### Key Focus Areas

An introduction to the Key Focus Areas was provided. As directed in the *Act*, the City of Chilliwack's Accessibility Plan will be designed on the following principles:

- inclusion,
- collaboration,
- diversity,
- universal design,
- adaptability,
- self-determination.

#### Draft Goals

1. Advocacy and Education
2. Built Environment
3. Information, Communication and Engagement
4. Accessible Employment Practices and Procurement

The four (4) draft goals were discussed. Staff will gather the feedback and bring the revised goals back to the committee for review.

D. Denault, Plain Language Specialist, kindly provided a plain language version of all the goals and the introduction to the Key Focus Areas.

#### Next Steps

- develop a list of possible actions and objectives under each goal,
- conduct a group prioritization exercise on actions/objectives; and,
- public feedback and engagement.

## Homework

- develop a list of actions/objectives for each goal to review with the committee at the next meeting.

## 5. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATION

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

## 7. INFORMATION

## 2024 Meeting Schedule

The 2024 Meeting Schedule was provided. Staff noted there may be additional meetings held if necessary. The scheduled meeting for July 15, 2024 may also be moved up to sometime in June due to conflicts. The Committee will be kept apprised of any changes to the schedule.

Chair Lum checked in with the Committee with respect to whether members wish to remain on the committee for 2024 and requested staff email members for their responses.

## 8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 4:00 pm in the Dogwood Room and via zoom.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm

Chair

