



Accessibility Committee – Minutes
Tuesday, May 21, 2024 7:00 PM
Prestige Hotel Prince Rupert (118 6 St, Prince Rupert BC)

Chair: V. Stewart, City of Prince Rupert

Members: A. Falvo
E. Skelton
G. Barthe
V. Wiley
E. Landrath
K. Kowall (pending Port Ed appointee)

Regrets: H. Tsang, North Coast Regional District
E. Kivisild

Staff: M. Taylor, Prince Rupert Library

Public Media: 0

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

- 1.1. *The Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee acknowledges the traditional territory of the Ts'msyen on which this meeting takes place.*

1.2. Call to Order at 7:01 p.m.

**2. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA
(ADDITIONS/DELETIONS)**

2.1. Adoption of Agenda

That the Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee resolves to adopt the May 21, 2024 Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee agenda as provided

013-2024

CARRIED

3. BOARD MINUTES & BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

3.1. Adoption of Minutes

That the Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee resolves to adopt the April 16, 2024 Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee minutes as presented.

014-2024

**Falvo/Landrath
CARRIED**

4. PRESENTATION FROM URBAN SYSTEMS ON CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT COMPLETE COMMUNITIES PLAN

- 4.1. Jack De Sante provided an update on the Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee on the ongoing Complete Communities Plan, including the identification of opportunities for public input via an accessibility tour of downtown, next Thursday (May 29th) from 9:30 am – 11:00 am, and an open house on Wednesday (May 28th) at the Civic Centre from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Input was sought on overall feedback on downtown sidewalk accessibility to inform the tour, as well as input on who else should be contacted to participate. V. Stewart will provide the slide deck to the Committee members.

5. UPDATE ON ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY

- 5.1 **Presentation to Seniors Centre – V.**
Stewart provided an update that information shared on the plan and committee work the morning of May 16th. Feedback collected included input on challenging sidewalk condition, limited transit schedules and lack of service on Sundays.
- 5.2 **Port Ed engagement** – looking to schedule something in the evening over the next month. V. Stewart to reach out to Port Edward to determine best day/time, as well as to follow up with the Committee with additional potential in-person engagement activities.

5.3 Update on Survey responses – V. Stewart provided an update that as of May 17th, 31 online responses received, 4-5 paper surveys.

6. CURLING RINK RAMP

6.1. The City of Prince Rupert has provided a Letter of Support for a Curling Club application to AltaGas for a ramp. The Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee has also asked the North Coast Regional District and V. Stewart will put in a request with the District of Port Edward and Library for Letters of Support as well. A. Falvo to connect V. Stewart with Special Olympics BC to potentially use their charitable number if required by the application.

7. INFORMATION FROM NORTHERN BC TOURISM

7.1 Accessibility Coordinator from NBC Tourism provided two checklists from Destination BC for Attractions and Accommodations (attached to Agenda) that could be deployed locally to businesses – listings are updated in Hello BC and we can link from there. Will inquire about stickering program with them.

That the Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee contact Tourism Prince Rupert regarding the inclusion of accessibility-related questions in their visitor surveys to cruise

passengers, and that information is shared to help inform future efforts.

**Barthe/Skelton
CARRIED**

8. UPDATE ON POOL SHOWERS

8.1 V. Stewart provided an update that the City is currently finalizing the request for quotes (had waited for input from new Rec Director). Fold down seats as well as lengthwise grab bars, removable showers for sauna area as well as both changerooms. (Following BC Building Code). The intent is to make the upgrades during the scheduled summer pool closure.

9. UPDATE ON ENHANCED MOBILITY PROGRAM

9.1 V. Stewart and A. Falvo provided an update on the Enhanced Mobility Program at various locations in the community, in partnership with several community providers and funded through a grant from Northern Health.

10. FALLS PREVENTION GRANT

10.1 Northern Health has released a Falls Prevention grant for up to \$10,000. V. Stewart requested the Committee consider potential projects that might qualify, and will review the Accessibility Plan as well.

11. SPARC GRANT FOR UP TO \$25,000

- 10.1 Discussion if there are any additional priorities from the committee for this grant, Lester Centre upgrades identified as potential priority.

That the Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee contact the Lester Centre regarding the potential to consider accessibility upgrades, including accessible seating, improvements to parking markings, as well as an interior or exterior ramp to improve access to lower seating areas; and,

That the letter include reference to available grants to support the work, and offer of capacity support to apply for funds.

**Wiley/Barthe
CARRIED**

11. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- 11.1 A. Falvo brought forward the opportunity to have a table at Seafest to share the Accessibility survey and engage with the community.

That the Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee contact Prince Rupert Special Events to request to have a table outside of City Hall during Seafest, and that V. Stewart look into ordering a banner and preparing engagement materials.

**Wiley/Barthe
CARRIED**

- 11.2 A. Falvo brought forward the opportunity to have a table at the Fraser Street Block Party to share the Accessibility survey and engage with the community.

That the Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee contact the Friendship House to request to have a table at the Fraser St Block Party, and that V. Stewart look into opportunities to include enhanced mobility activity.

CARRIED

- 11.3 A. Falvo brought forward the opportunity to reach out to the Tom Rooney theatre regarding potentially having a ramp installed to access the stage for performers of all abilities.

That the Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee contact Harbour Theatre to seek interest in partnering to apply for funds to develop a (potentially removable) ramp to improve access to the stage.

**Falvo/Taylor
CARRIED**

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

- 12.1 The Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 18th, 2024.

13. ADJOURNMENT

13.1. Adjournment

That the Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee adjourns the Prince Rupert & Area Accessibility Committee meeting held May 21, 2024, the time being 8:55 p.m.

CARRIED

Approved and adopted:

Certified correct:

Chair

Secretary