



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024, 10:00 AM

Hybrid - Zoom/Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Vaida Siga, Director, Area C – Long Beach
Cindy Solda, Councillor, City of Port Alberni
Amber Severinson, Member at Large
Jamie Tattrie, Member at Large

REGRETS:

Helen Dick, Member at Large
Deanna Spencer, Member at Large
Nicole Uzelman, Member at Large
Rainie O'Connor, Member at Large

STAFF PRESENT:

Heather Zenner, Manager of Administrative Services
Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant
Sara Darling, City of Port Alberni

Note: Quorum was not achieved for this committee meeting; therefore, meeting was held for informational purposes.

The meeting can be viewed on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District website at:

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/10-12-2024/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

The Chairperson recognized this meeting is being held throughout the Nuu-chah-nulth territories.

The Chairperson reported this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District website.

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff present in the Boardroom and via Zoom.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. DECLARATIONS

4. MINUTES

5. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

6. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

- a. **Community, Conversation and Connection: Port Alberni and Surrounding Areas**
Port Alberni Association for Community Living

7. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

- a. **Sproat Lake Provincial Park Accessibility, Correspondence & Discussion**
Michael Grandbois, Clayoquot Area Supervisor, BC Parks & Owen Catherall, Recreation Services Officer, Mid/North Island, BC Parks

Heather Zenner provided an overview of the correspondence received regarding accessibility issues at Sproat Lake Park. Committee members and the public shared experiences and suggestions on how the location could be more accessible.

The committee and the representatives from BC Parks discussed the Sproat Lake Park and identified the following issues:

- Lack of accessible parking spaces, only one located at the boat launch, and is often taken by vehicles without a Disability Parking Permit displayed.
- Walking trails are uneven or have a steep grade, leaving the boat launch area as the main accessible option for those with limited mobility.
- Tables designed to accommodate wheelchairs and other mobility aids are located in an area of the park that is not accessible for those who require them.
- Communications with the park operators is difficult when there is an issue with parking.

Suggestions from the group to improve accessibility:

- Increase the number of accessible parking spaces in the boat launch area, and properly enforce.
- Increase signage to discourage overnight parking.
- Move the accessible tabletops from the park areas which are not accessible and move to the more accessible locations.
- Pave the pathway, add railings in some areas.

The committee discussed having Director Siga bring a motion forward at the December 11, 2024 Board of Directors meeting, asking the Board to submit the Accessibility Committee feedback on Sproat Lake to the Province.

BC Parks staff provided their insight into options for accommodation to allow greater access. The topography of Sproat Lake makes finding accessible locations difficult as nearly all entry points are on a steep grade. BC Parks staff were receptive and supportive having more accessible parking and accessible picnic tables installed at the boat launch area by summer 2025 and other accessibility improvements within the next three years. BC Parks staff committed to take these action items and review with other BC Parks manager will revisit the Accessibility Committee in the spring of 2025 to discuss.

8. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

- a. **Request for Decision regarding SPARC BC – Local Government Accessibility Grant**

9. REPORTS

- a. **City of Port Alberni Master Planning, S. Darling, Director of Corporate Services, City of Port Alberni.**

The City of Port Alberni recently completed the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Project (phase 1). The consultants and City staff who worked on this project will attend the February 2025 Accessibility Committee meeting to present their results.

The remaining phases of master planning include Fire Services, Storm Water, Transportation, Watershed Protection, Greenhouse Gas Management, and Wastewater/Water.

Request to the committee members to provide their input on the Let's Connect PA site.

9. LATE BUSINESS

10. QUESTION PERIOD

Questions/Comments from the public. The Administrative Assistant advised there were no questions or comments respecting an agenda topic from public:

- Participating in Person in the ACRD Board Room
- Participating in the Zoom webinar
- Submissions received by email at responses@acrd.bc.ca.

13. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am

Certified Correct:

Cindy Solda

Cindy Solda,
Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue

Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant