



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 9, 2024, 10:00 AM

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

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Cindy Solda, Chairperson, Councillor, City of Port Alberni
Vaida Siga, Director, Area C – Long Beach
Amber Severinson, Member at Large
Helen Dick, Member at Large
Deanna Spencer, Member at Large
Nicole Uzelman, Member at Large
Jamie Tattrie, Member at Large

REGRETS:

Rainie O'Connor, Member at Large

STAFF PRESENT:

Heather Zenner, Manager of Administrative Services, ACRD
Sara Darling, Deputy Director of Corporate Services, City of Port Alberni
Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant, ACRD
Cara Wilkie, Consultant, Left Turn Right Turn Ltd.
Haley Gienow-McConnell, Consultant, Left Turn Right Turn Ltd.

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

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/9-4-2024/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:02 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

MOVED: V. Siga

SECONDED: N. Uzelman

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **DECLARATIONS**

4. **MINUTES**

a. **Accessibility Committee Minutes – March 5, 2024**

MOVED: V. Siga

SECONDED: D. Spencer

THAT the minutes of the Accessibility Committee meeting held on March 5, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Correspondence April 4, 2024 from Alberni Valley News regarding article of the City of Port Alberni and ACRD wanting to improve accessibility with new survey**

Correspondence item a was received.

6. **DISCUSSION**

a. **Discussion regarding preliminary results of the Survey – Left Turn Right Turn, Ltd.**

The consultants from Left Turn Right Turn (LTRT) reviewed the Accessibility Survey results with the Committee. The survey was successfully launched and closed since the last Accessibility Committee meeting. Number of responses was typical to this type of project with approximately half of respondents identified as persons with disabilities. Age of respondents was younger than Left Turn Right Turn (LTRT) usually sees on these types of projects.

Major themes that emerged from the survey:

- Municipal facilities and infrastructure (municipal buildings)
- Outdoor spaces (parks/playgrounds and pathways)
- Attitudes and perceptions (customer service at municipal facilities & municipal employees)
- Transportation infrastructure (sidewalks and parking)

The consultants then discussed how they translate the survey results into recommendations.

Committee discussion followed regarding tracking the implementation of the Accessibility Plans, regions of respondents, and grants available to help with infrastructure costs.

b. Discussion regarding perceptions and attitudes of disabilities – Left Turn Right Turn, Ltd.

The committee members discussed their own experiences in the community, where are attitudinal barriers most prevalent and impactful, and provided thoughts on how to address these barriers.

Issues identified:

- Able-bodied persons using accessible parking spaces & accessible washrooms.
- Able-bodied persons assuming a person is not disabled, judging by their appearance only.
- Services with only one option to access, eg. Online only – would be nice to have assistance in person, if needed.
- Lack of general openness in viewing our community through an “accessibility lens”.
- Need for education for ACRD and City of Port Alberni staff to assist with addressing perceptions and attitudes in customer service related roles.
- Need to update perspectives to “how can we say yes” to request to make public spaces more accessible.

The Committee discussed how to address the barriers, change the public perspective, and provide education. Potential to extend an invitation to a representative from the Rick Hanson Foundation to attend accessibility events in the Region or assist with public engagement.

V. Siga left the meeting at 11:04 am

The Committee discussed the accessibility of the survey and utilization of the alternative options that were provided, noting improved communication is needed to highlight the ways public can access surveys in the future (phone etc.)

c. Discussion regarding next steps – Left Turn Right Turn, Ltd.

The consultants from LTRT reviewed their next steps, including bringing accessibility plan recommendations to the ACRD and City of Port Alberni for initial review. The recommendations will then be presented to the Accessibility Committee for discussion at the next meeting.

Committee discussion followed regarding the date of the next meeting. Changed to May 14, 2024 with unanimous agreement.

The meeting on May 14th is the last meeting with the consultants, LTRT. Setting dates for the remaining quarterly meetings in 2024 will be on the May 14th agenda.

7. 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.

8. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting date set for May 14, 2024.

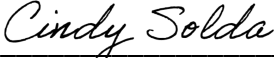
9. ADJOURN

MOVED: N. Uzelman

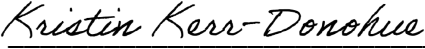
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 11:17 am.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:



Cindy Solda,
Chairperson



Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant