

April 13, 2018

Secretary, Standing Policy Committee on Finance

**Re: 2017 Annual Report – Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee
(File No. 430-1)**

The mandate of the Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee is to promote universal accessibility to ensure that the City of Saskatoon's services, facilities and infrastructure are barrier-free for citizens of all abilities.

In order for the City of Saskatoon to be a leader by example and for the Committee to advise and assist City Council within its jurisdictional options in achieving this barrier-free goal, the Committee developed an Implementation of Accessibility Action Plan in 2008 and will be undertaking a refresh on this action plan in 2018.

The 2017 membership on the Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee was as follows:

Councillor Hilary Gough
Councillor Zach Jeffries
Ms. Lynne Lacroix, Director of Recreation & Community Development
Mr. Troy Lafreniere, Director of Facilities & Fleet Management
Mr. J.D. McNabb, Chair
Ms. Janice Dawson, Vice Chair
Ms. Odette Nicholson
Ms. Gladys Kozlow
Ms. Collette Warlow
Ms. Muriel Baxter (representative of seniors' community)

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSIONS UNDERTAKEN IN 2017**Snow Clearing Program Updates and Co-Design Session**

Director of Roadways and Operations provided Committee with updates on the snow clearing status and information about the formal level of service for snow clearing service. It was noted that the Division needs to do additional work on levels of service related to accessibility in the winter. Members of the Advisory Committee also participated in the pilot project talking about the logistics around snow removal, which included a detailed engagement co-design exercise on winter mobilization, to explore ways to resolve common problems and issues.

Committee confirmed that snow clearing service levels on sidewalks and streets, related to accessibility, continues to be a priority area of focus for the Committee.

Access Transit and Conventional Transit

Access Transit staff provided updates on the Phone Notification Reminder Technology, a phone notification system provides a phone call to remind the client that they have a pick up scheduled. This system was operational in April 2017 and has helped reduce late cancellations and no shows.

Transit staff provided the Committee with regular updates throughout the year and confirmed they would be undertaking an accessibility review of bus stops. Also noted by the Committee is consideration of the walkability to corridors, like Place Riel and the Fieldhouse, which need to be considered during the development of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. The Committee was also advised that Administration will be reviewing best practices regarding braille on bus signs for 2018. The goal for voice announcing of upcoming transit stops is 100% functionality. The Committee was advised that driver training programs are being updated to include topics related to accessibility and invisible disabilities.

The Committee confirmed that both Access Transit and conventional transit will be an ongoing priority area, and wanted to ensure that as Administration progresses on the work with the BRT that accessibility is given full consideration.

Parking Zones for People with Disabilities

Transportation staff provided information on the program for establishing disabled parking zones, noting the residential parking zones and loading zones are self-regulated based on requests submitted and meeting required criteria. Enforcement on these zones are on a call-in basis.

The Committee recommended Access Transit staff could also advise Transportation where additional loading zone locations are required based on regular pick up and drop off locations. The Committee further recommended that Transportation implement a term-limit on loading zones in residential areas including follow-up tracking regarding the removal of the signs. A term-limit would assist in removing the unnecessary residential loading zones if the resident moves thus minimizing the misuse of the zone.

National Building Code Changes

Director of Building Standards, provided information on the changes to the National Building Code with respect to barrier free accessibility. The Committee was advised that home owners and building owners can become barrier free at any time. It was noted that older properties would be exempt to the new Building Code standards however, renovations or a change in use could require modifications as set out in the Code.

The Committee received correspondence on the topic of businesses and buildings in older parts of Saskatoon that are not accessible for all. The Committee confirmed it would like to have this as a priority area in 2018 related to accessibility in the already existing parts of Saskatoon and to have Administration explore ways in which to enhance barrier free accessibility in all public places.

Accessible Parking and Current Regulations

Committee received a presentation from a resident regarding the current regulations within the City of Saskatoon Zoning Bylaw No. 8770 which regulates the number and dimensions for parking spaces for disabled persons for development on a property and in the downtown. Concerns were raised related to the lack of parking in the downtown for designated disabled parking. Further, there was a request for consideration to have the design regulations and dimensions improved to ensure the requirements of the designated disabled parking stalls are sufficient in size for side loading vans and have a ramp in the area to access the sidewalk from the parking spot.

Committee asked that further consideration be given to addressing the number and dimensions of disabled parking stalls be considered in future updates to the Zoning Bylaw.

Complete Streets – Universal Design

The Complete Streets Design report was presented to the Committee for information along with an overview of the Design and Policy Guide and the 8 guiding principles. The Committee also recommended the Accessibility Advisory Committee be involved in future stakeholder discussion related to the Complete Streets Design and Policy Guide.

Administration provided an overview related to development regulations, bylaws and the need for universally accessible streets.

Universal design and universally accessible streets and sidewalks continues to be an ongoing area of focus for the Committee.

Garbage Collection Assistance

Committee received correspondence related to concerns from residents with limited mobility and/or a disability that have difficulty in moving their garbage and recycle bins. Committee requested that Administration in their review of the waste and recycling program, consult people with disabilities for input into the services levels and give consideration for support for people with disabilities.

Accessible Playgrounds – Committee Tour

The Committee held an experiential tour, simulating various levels of vision, to help identify accessibility needs in playgrounds and Leisure Centres. The tour was hosted at the accessible playground beside the Shaw Centre, as well as a tour of key spaces within Shaw Centre. Committee members and Administration from the Recreation and

Community Development and Facilities and Fleet Management Divisions were also in attendance for a first-hand experience, to assist with future design and planning of recreation spaces.

Miscellaneous Updates

The Committee had discussions about the terms of reference for the project needed to review progress on the Accessibility Action Plan and consult with the community on areas of priority for the next phase of the Action Plan. The project was delayed for 2017 but is in the works for 2018.

Plans for 2018

The Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Administration, had to defer the launch the project to review the progress made on the implementation of the Accessibility Action Plan over the past 7 to 8 years. This project will move forward in 2018 and will be directly linked to the areas of focus that will be identified at the Advisory Committee's strategic planning session, scheduled for their February 2018 meeting. The next Accessibility Action Plan will make recommendations for priorities for addressing accessibility and continuing the work towards ensuring the City of Saskatoon programs, services, and infrastructure are accessible for people with a disability.

Submitted by:



JD McNabb, Chair

Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee

Dated:

April 13, 2018