

MINUTES

ACCESSIBILITY AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers and via MS Teams

770 Vernon Avenue

January 08, 2025, at 5:02 PM

ROLL CALL

In Attendance: Councillor Teale Phelps Bondaroff, Sean Dhillon, Susan Mader, Swapna Mazumder, Caroline Quan and Rishi Sharma

Regrets: Manjit Bains, Laurie-Anne Keith, Sierra Irving and Tony Kiyak

Staff: Carroll Porter, Senior Manager, Human Resources; Dale Samsonoff, Manager, Planning and Programs; Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability; Mais Hajaj, HR Consultant - Accessibility, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

November 6, 2024

MOVED by S. Mader and Seconded by R. Sharma: “That the Minutes of the Accessibility and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting held November 6, 2024, be adopted as circulated.”

RESULT: Carried 6 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Mader, Mazumder, Quan, Phelps Bondaroff, Dhillon, Sharma

OPPOSED: None

COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS

CHAIRS REMARKS

The Chair welcomed the members and the following was noted:

- Members are encouraged to meet informally with the Chair to discuss various topics and potential future agenda items.

WELCOME AND ICE BREAKER

The Chair facilitated an icebreaker activity, that allowed members to share.

ACTION LIST ORIENTATION

The Chair shared an action item list he had prepared, and the following was noted:

- Members are encouraged to share ideas focused on enhancing the community's diversity and accessibility.

CLIMATE PLAN UPDATE - ENGAGEMENT PLAN

The Manager of Sustainability provided an update on the Engagement Plan for the Climate Plan. (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Researchers from the University of British Columbia's Research on Active Transportation (REACT) Lab conducted a survey of participants in an e-bike incentive program offered by the District of Saanich. This data is especially relevant when viewed through an accessibility and equity lens.
- Positive feedback has been received from specific projects, such as the School Travel Plan at Tillicum Elementary School, which included a focus on tree planting and shade design.
- A concern was raised regarding the impact of increased wildfires and heat dome events on the fish and wildlife population.
- Some community groups are impacted more than others by extreme heat. For example, apartment residents, which may lack funding for upgrades, are suffering, whereas single-family homeowners with the financial means can install heat pumps.
- The word "disproportionately" could be updated to a term that better reflects the broader impact without narrowing the scope.
- Various financing programs are offered to encourage building upgrades aimed at improving environmental sustainability. The revised *Building Code* for new construction integrates these environmental considerations into the process.
- It was suggested that the list of people and groups consulted could be expanded. Ample time for advertising these engagements is crucial. Reaching different people with various disabilities is achieved through methods such as riding buses, sitting in waiting rooms and on the Saanich website. Offering outreach at different times of the day also helps accommodate work schedules and other commitments.
- One Planet Saanich is actively engaged with many schools in School District 61. There is potential to broaden this list.
- It was noted that improving accessibility at 10 Mile Point, including the addition of bus services and bike lanes, could be considered.

The Sustainability Manager left the meeting at 6:46 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from R. Sharma the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

COMMITTEE CLERK