

MINUTES

ACCESSIBILITY AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2

and via MS Teams

770 Vernon Avenue

April 02, 2025, at 5:04 PM

ROLL CALL

In Attendance: Councillor Teale Phelps Bondaroff (Chair), Sean Dhillon, Sierra Irving (via Teams, 5:11 p.m.), Tony Kiyak (via Teams), Swapna Mazumder (via Teams), Caroline Quan (via Teams) and Rishi Sharma (via Teams)

Regrets: Manjit Bains, Laurie-Anne Keith and Susan Mader

Staff: Carroll Porter, HR Senior Manager; Dale Samsonoff, HR Manager, Planning and Programs and Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk.

Guests: Uli Egger, Technical Certification Specialist, Rick Hansen Foundation and Nancy Lyzaniwski, Manager of Government Relations, Rick Hansen Foundation

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

March 5, 2025

MOVED by S. Dhillon and Seconded by S. Mazumder: “That the Minutes of the Accessibility and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting held March 5, 2025, be adopted as circulated.”

RESULT: Carried 6 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Phelps Bondaroff, Dhillon, Kiyak, Mazumder, Quan and Sharma

OPPOSED: None

COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS CHAIR’S

REMARKS

The Chair made the following comments:

- The Accessibility and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion statement adopted by the committee at the February 5, 2025, meeting is pending further action. Feedback and suggestions from committee members on how to proceed are welcomed.
- Correspondence has been received from other municipalities.

STATEMENT REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION – UPDATE

- Comments on this update were made during the Chair’s Remarks.

RICK HANSEN FOUNDATION (RHF) – ACCESSIBILITY IN BUILDINGS

The representatives gave a presentation (PowerPoint on file) regarding the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) – Accessibility in Buildings. The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Each building in Saanich is at a different stage of certification, with Saanich and Victoria collaborating with the foundation on future projects.
- Some civic projects are reviewed, particularly on the mainland, through RHF, including building codes assessed from an accessibility.
- The program is inclusive of mobility, visual, hearing, and neurodiverse needs.

- One-third of the population lives with a disability or challenge; another third supports someone who does.
- With over 270 building codes and standards, confusion is common.

****S. Irving** exited the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

The committee had a roundtable discussion on a proposed recommendation for the 2025 UBCM Convention which resulted in the following motion.

MOVED by R. Sharma and Seconded by S. Dhillon: “That Saanich Council endorse the following resolution and direct staff to send electronic copies to the 2025 UBCM Convention requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support:

“WHEREAS most British Columbians will encounter some form of accessibility challenges in their lives, the BC building code establishes only a minimum level of accessibility for buildings and therefore fails to meet the accessibility needs of all people.

AND FURTHER WHEREAS the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) program aims to improve accessibility in the built environment by evaluating the meaningful access of buildings and sites for people with a range of accessibility requirements including vision, hearing, neurodiversity, and mobility.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT UBCM request the Province of BC incorporate the latest accessibility standards established by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) into the Provincial building code to ensure that all new construction in BC meets accessibility standards, and that the Provincial government commits to achieving The Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) gold certification on all its new buildings.

RESULTS: Carried 6 to 0

IN FAVOUR: Phelps Bondaroff, Dhillon, Kiyak, Mazumber, Quan and Sharma

OPPOSED: None

ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS IN THE CRD – MAILING ADDRESS SUPPORT

MOVED by S. Mazumber and Seconded by S. Dhillon: “That the Alliance to End Homelessness in the CRD – Mailing Address Support be rescheduled for a future meeting.”

RESULTS: Carried 6 to 0

IN FAVOUR: Phelps Bondaroff, Dhillon, Kiyak, Mazumber, Quan and Sharma

OPPOSED: None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from S. Dhillon the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

COMMITTEE CLERK