



ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

DATE: 2023.09.26

LOCATION: Council Chambers – City Hall

TIME: 4:15 p.m.

413 Fourth Street, Kaslo

1. Call to Order

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 Adoption of the Agenda for the 2023.09.26 Accessibility Committee Meeting

3. Adoption of the Minutes

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the 2023.08.15 Accessibility Committee Meeting.

4. Information Items

4.1 Suggestion List – Fraser 2023.08.27

4.2 Downtown Walkabout Summary

5. Question Period

An opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or make comments relating to items on the agenda.

6. Business

6.1 **DRAFT Accessibility Plan**

To consider the content of the Accessibility Plan and recommend changes.

6.1.1 **Consultation Process** – *Are there groups that we should consult with? What perspectives are missing?*

6.1.2 **Setting Priorities** – *What are the top short-term goals? What is a realistic timeline for achieving them?*

7. Late Items

Consideration of any late items added to the agenda (resolution required).

8. Next Meeting

A meeting date should be set (otherwise the next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair).

9. Adjournment

DATE: 2023.08.15

LOCATION: Council Chambers – City Hall

TIME: 4:15 p.m.

413 Fourth Street, Kaslo

PRESENT:	Chair:	Mayor Hewat
	Members:	Councillor Leathwood, Lawna Bourassa, Karin Fraser, Russell Semenoff
	Staff:	CO Allaway
	Public:	1

1. Call to Order

We respect and recognize the First Nations within whose unceded lands the Village of Kaslo is situated, including the Ktunaxa, Sinixt, and Sylix People, and the Indigenous and Metis Residents of our community.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

2. Election of Chair

- 2.1 Councillor Leathwood nominated Mayor Hewat for the role of Chair
Mayor Hewat indicated her willingness to accept the nomination. No further nominations were received.
- 2.2 Mayor Hewat was elected by acclamation.
- 2.3 The Corporate Officer confirmed Mayor Hewat as the Chair of the Accessibility Committee for 2023.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

- 3.1 Adoption of the Agenda for the 2023.08.15 Accessibility Committee Meeting
Moved, seconded and CARRIED
THAT the Agenda for the 2023.08.15 Accessibility Committee meeting be adopted as presented.

4. Information Items

- 4.1 Review Framework
 - 4.1.1 Provincial Legislation
 - 4.1.2 Committee Terms of Reference
 - 4.1.3 Draft Workplan*The committee reviewed the framework for their activities.*

5. Question Period - Nil**6. Business**

- 6.1 **DRAFT Accessibility Plan**

- 6.1.1 Consultation – Process
- 6.1.2 Consultation – Key Themes
- 6.1.3 Barriers – Committee Input
- 6.1.4 Priorities – Goals
- 6.1.5 Priorities – Action Plan

Moved, seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Accessibility Committee recommend to Council that the Draft Accessibility Plan be made public so additional feedback can be gathered.

6.2 Meeting schedule

Moved, seconded and CARRIED

***THAT the Accessibility Committee will participate in a walking tour of downtown Kaslo on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 beginning at 4:15 p.m. at City Hall; and
THAT the next meeting of the Accessibility Committee be scheduled for 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26, 2023.***

7. Late Items - Nil

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 in Council Chambers.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Corporate Officer

Chair Hewat



Karissa Stroshein

Subject: Accessibility Committee

From: karin fraser

Sent: Sunday, August 27, 2023 1:45 PM

To: Karissa Stroshein <admin@kaslo.ca>

Subject: Re: Accessibility Committee

Hi Karissa I'm not sure if I was supposed to send this information to you but I did as few people as they were a senior or a disabled person what there needs are

Ramps more needed 2 more one infront of bank and other infront of grocery store

Bandstand needs a ramp to get up

Stairs by the pub need to be clearly visible/marked due to a senior fell off

Beach access to water -ramps or those walkways

Wheelchairs cannot access water or beach areas

For big events (jazz fest) could there be signs put up for slow moving vehicles/ pedestrians

Intersection sidewalks be clearer (by post office)

And the hill going up needs a better ramp

I probably will have more as I have asked few more but they haven't got intouch yet hope this was helpful and see you in few days karin

Sent from my iPhone



VILLAGE OF KASLO ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

DOWNTOWN WALKABOUT AUGUST 29, 2023 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Pedestrian Traffic

- Consider mid-block crosswalks and curb drops on Front Street between 4th & 5th Streets
- Ensure that crosswalks line up with curb drops
- Keep sandwich boards off of the travelled portion of the sidewalk
- Ensure that curb drops aren't too steep (for example: A Ave @ Legion, between Mohawk and Thrift Store)
- The mats at the grocery store present a hazard because they can move/slip
- The bench at the Seniors' Hall interferes with exiting the handicapped parking space
- Remove vegetation that encroaches on the sidewalk
- Hydrant in front of Eurythmy blocks curb drop
- Ensure benches and other amenities don't block the travelled portion of the sidewalk
- Sidewalk cracks and deteriorated pavement are particularly challenging for wheelchairs

Parking

- Need handicapped parking near the pharmacy/grocery and near the bank
- Curb drops need to be separate from the parking space (some vans load from the side, some from the back)
- Signage for handicapped parking needs to be more visible from an approaching vehicle

Front Street Washrooms

- Toilet paper dispenser is hard to reach
- Need slower door closing mechanisms

Other

- Additional bench near post office
- Ensure that evacuation plans consider individuals with mobility impairments



Village of Kaslo

Accessibility Plan

1. Introduction

1.1 About the Village of Kaslo

The Village of Kaslo was established in 1898 and is the oldest incorporated community in the Kootenays. With a population of approximately 1000 residents, Kaslo is known for its heritage character, lively arts and culture community, and spectacular setting with amazing outdoor recreation opportunities.

1.2 Our Vision

Kaslo supports a full, productive, and meaningful life for all citizens through policies, services and programs that respect community values of inclusivity, diversity, accessibility, and sustainable development. Kaslo is a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming community that aspires to be a model for small, mountain communities across British Columbia and around the world.

2. Framework

2.1 Accessible British Columbia Act

The Accessible British Columbia Act (ABCA) received royal assent on June 17, 2021 and in 2022 the Accessible British Columbia Regulation came into effect. Municipal governments are among the types of organizations that must meet the accessibility requirements outlined in the provincial legislation, beginning September 1, 2023. In order to comply, the Village must establish:

- An accessibility committee
- An accessibility plan
- A tool to receive feedback on accessibility

2.2 Our Approach

The Village of Kaslo has established an Accessibility Committee and created Terms of Reference to guide the work of committee members. The Village has advertised for committee members and has adopted the framework for a draft plan. The draft plan has been posted to the Village's website, and feedback from the public is being gathered. The Accessibility Committee will review the draft plan and any comments on the plan that are submitted to the Village, make suggestions for additions and improvements, and present revisions to Council for consideration.

3. Accessibility Committee

3.1 Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Committee were presented to Council at the 2023.07.25 Council Meeting and adopted at that time. As indicated in the Terms of Reference, the role of the committee is to advise Council about how to remove barriers that prevent individuals from accessing municipal facilities or services. In addition to the Mayor and another member of Council, there are 8 seats available for members of the public. Recognizing that not all committee members may be able to attend a given meeting, quorum has been set at just 4 members, at least one of whom must be a member of Council. Appointments are made for a four year term. Committee meetings are open to the public, and a schedule of meetings will be established annually.

3.2 Recruitment & Membership

Public notices calling for members were posted on the Village's website and bulletin boards, on Facebook, and in the July 24, 2023 edition of the Pennywise and the July 27, 2023 edition of the Valley Voice newspapers. As required by the provincial legislation, and reflected in the Terms of Reference, preference is given to individuals with a lived experience of disability (either a person with a disability, or someone who has worked with or cared for a person with a disability) or individuals who identify as indigenous. Expressions of interest were received from 3 residents and they, along with Mayor Hewat and Councillor Leathwood, were appointed to the Accessibility Committee at the 2023.08.08 Council Meeting, leaving 5 unfilled seats.

4. Consultation

4.1 Process

[to be determined in consultation with the Accessibility Committee]

4.2.1 Key Themes

[to be determined in consultation with the Accessibility Committee]

5. Feedback

5.1 How to Participate

The draft plan is available on the Village of Kaslo website, or in printed form from City Hall. Members of the public are invited to provide their suggestions and feedback to the Village, either in written form (via mail, email, or hand delivery) or they may make a presentation to the Accessibility Committee. Written comments received regarding the plan will be provided to the Accessibility Committee for their consideration.

6. Barriers

6.1 Internal Review

A preliminary review of municipal practices and facilities was performed by staff in late summer 2023. The following barriers to accessing municipal services were identified:

- Many Village-owned buildings are old and do not meet current universal design specifications. For example, access to the top floor of City Hall is limited by the lack of an elevator.
- The Village's website does not meet accessibility standards
- Written material created by the Village of Kaslo does not meet plain language standards
- Print material created by the Village of Kaslo may not be accessible to people with visual impairments
- Village of Kaslo regulatory and/or wayfinding signage may not be legible to people with visual impairments
- Disabled parking spaces may not be clearly indicated
- Sidewalk encroachments may limit access for mobility impaired individuals
- Emergency plans may not address the needs of disabled populations

6.2 Committee Input

A walking tour of downtown Kaslo took place on August 29, 2023. Committee members identified the following barriers:

- Sidewalk congestion is a problem – amenities such as benches, garbage cans, signage, utility poles and fire hydrants, as well as vegetation, limit access for individuals with mobility impairments.
- Additional handicapped parking spaces are needed, near the bank as well as the grocery store/pharmacy. Parking spaces must be designed to allow an unobstructed exit for wheelchairs, with consideration given to curb height. Signage should face approaching traffic.
- Curb drops need to be aligned with the sidewalk and in some locations the slope needs to be reduced for easier access. Additional mid-block curb drops (and crosswalk) on Front Street would be helpful.
- Bench placements need to be reconsidered – they currently limit wheelchair passage along the Front Street sidewalk, interfere with exiting the parking space in front of the Seniors' Hall and are needed near the Post Office.
- Sidewalk and pavement condition upgrades are needed as mobility-impaired individuals struggle with cracks, gaps and holes. Removable mats should not be used because they can shift unexpectedly.
- Front Street Washrooms are accessible but the toilet paper dispenser is hard to reach and a slower door closure mechanism would allow more time to get through the doorway.

7. Priorities

7.1 Goals

[to be determined in consultation with the Accessibility Committee]

7.2 Action Plan

[to be determined in consultation with the Accessibility Committee]

8. Review

8.1 Monitoring

The Accessibility Committee will review feedback that the Village receives regarding the plan, and will report to Council whenever the need for updates or changes is identified.

8.2 Evaluating

The Village of Kaslo will conduct a review and evaluation of the accessibility plan every three years, following adoption of the plan. The plan will be updated as required, with the current version available on the Village's website.