



ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

DATE: 2024.11.04

LOCATION: Council Chambers – City Hall

TIME: 4:15 p.m.

413 Fourth Street, Kaslo

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.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 Adoption of the Agenda for the 2024.11.04 Accessibility Committee Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the agenda for the 2024.11.04 Accessibility Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes for the 2023.11.27 Accessibility Committee Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the minutes of the 2023.11.27 Accessibility Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

4. Information Items

4.1 Review Committee Terms of Reference

4.2 Member Reports

4.3 Correspondence

4.3.1 2024.01.12 re Temporary Disabled Parking Permit

4.3.2 2024.03.20 re Hearing Loops

4.3.3 2024.05.07 re Seniors Hall

4.3.4 2024.06.03 re Wheel Chair Swing

4.3.5 2024.08.21 re Transit Bus Parking

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 **Additions to Draft Accessibility Plan**

Discussion and identification of any items to be added to the draft Accessibility Plan.

7. Late Items

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

9. Adjournment



DATE: 2023.11.27

LOCATION: Council Chambers – City Hall

TIME: 4:15 p.m.

413 Fourth Street, Kaslo

PRESENT:	Chair	Mayor Hewat
	Members	Councillor Leathwood, Karin Fraser, Cheryl King, Russell Semenoff
	Absent	Lawna Bourassa
	Staff	CO Allaway
	Public	0

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 Syilx People, and the Indigenous and Metis Residents of our community.

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

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 Adoption of the Agenda for the 2023.11.27 Accessibility Committee Meeting.

Moved, seconded and CARRIED

THAT the agenda for the 2023.11.27 Accessibility Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the 2023.09.26 Accessibility Committee Meeting.

Moved, seconded and CARRIED

THAT the minutes for the 2023.09.26 Accessibility Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

4. Information Items

4.1 2023.09.26 Accessibility Goals – Summary

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

6.1 **Updates to Accessibility Plan**

The Committee reviewed the latest version of the draft plan.

6.2 **Accessibility Grant Application**

Moved, seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Accessibility Committee recommends to Council that the Village submit an application for capacity-building grant funding from the Disability Alliance of BC to support the committee's work.

6.3 **2024 Meeting Schedule**

Moved, seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Accessibility Committee meeting schedule be adopted as presented.

7. **Next Meeting**

The next Accessibility Committee meeting will be held on February 12, 2024 at 4:15 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Corporate Officer

Chair Hewat

Recommendations to Council:

THAT the Accessibility Committee recommend to Council to apply for grant funding.



Karissa Stroshein

Subject: Temporary Disabled Parking Permit?

From: David Stewart & Stephanie Judy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 2:36 PM
To: Karissa Stroshein <admin@kaslo.ca>
Subject: Re: Temporary Disabled Parking Permit?

Thanks for your quick reply, Karissa. It's too bad Kaslo doesn't have a temporary disabled parking permit. I wonder how difficult it would be to create that opportunity. The Province takes 6-8 weeks to send the "official" permit. That's a really long time to wait if you need to access disabled parking, so the City of Nelson closes that gap with their own temporary permit.

Best wishes,
Stephanie

On Fri, Jan 12, 2024 at 2:01 PM Karissa Stroshein <admin@kaslo.ca> wrote:

Hello Stephanie,

Unfortunately the Village of Kaslo does not have these.

Sincerely,

Karissa Stroshein

admin@kaslo.ca

Village of Kaslo

Telephone: 250-353-2311 ext. 101 Fax: 250-353-7767

PO Box 576, 413 Fourth Street, Kaslo BC, V0G 1M0

www.kaslo.ca

<https://www.facebook.com/KasloBC/>

From: David Stewart & Stephanie Judy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 12:41 PM
To: Karissa Stroshein <admin@kaslo.ca>
Subject: Temporary Disabled Parking Permit?

Hello, Kaslo --

My GP has just submitted an application to the Province for a disabled parking permit for me. Does Kaslo have temporary permits for this?

It takes the Province 6-8 weeks to process these applications. In the meantime, the City of Nelson supplies a temporary permit. Does Kaslo have the same thing?

If so, what do I need to do to get your permit?

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Best wishes,
Stephanie Judy
Kaslo, BC

--

David K. Stewart & Stephanie Judy



All amateur musicians embrace a common task:
We are not here to play music perfectly, but to love music deeply.
(Stephanie Judy - author of *Making Music for the Joy of It*)

--

David K. Stewart & Stephanie Judy



All amateur musicians embrace a common task:
We are not here to play music perfectly, but to love music deeply.
(Stephanie Judy - author of *Making Music for the Joy of It*)

To the accessibility committee
Kaslo Village

Dear friends,

Recently I became aware that there are systems to make public places more effective for hearing disabled persons, people who have hearing aids which contain something called a telecoil, which has been around 50 years to assist when using a land line phone. Now places in the U.S. are required to have hearing loops to facilitate in public assembly areas with audio amplification like courtrooms, museums, movie theatres, performance venues and public classrooms.

Apparently Nelson has these loops in the Civic Theatre and some churches. I would like to see Kaslo add some to the council meeting room, Langham , and JVH school.

If there were grant programs to support this technology, I would be willing to volunteer time to apply for them. I am very aware that difficulty hearing accurately is a concern which causes social isolation in parts of our population .

Please see the article attached on this subject, and investigate whatever options .

Thank you for reading this,





Healthy Hearing

www.HealthyHearing.com

What are hearing loops and hearing aid telecoils?

Hearing loops greatly reduce background sound for hearing aid users that have t-coils

Contributed by Debbie Clason, staff writer, Healthy Hearing

Last updated February 14, 2023

If you wear hearing aids or are considering making that purchase soon, be sure to ask your hearing care provider about telecoil technology. These small copper coils have come standard in most hearing aid devices for nearly 50 years and, when used in tandem with a hearing loop, can dramatically enhance your listening experience in public places by piping sound directly to the hearing device.

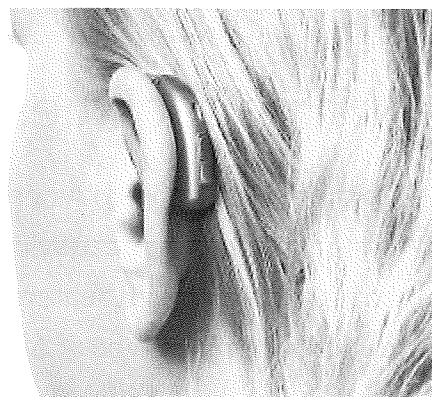
"Hearing aid microphones only work for a relatively short distance," Juliëtte Sterkens, hearing loop advocate for the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), said. "But telecoils and hearing loops give people with hearing aids better hearing, even sometimes better than those with normal hearing."

In fact, telecoils are so useful that Sterkens considers them one of the four essential hearing aid must-haves that all hearing aids should come with.

What is a hearing aid telecoil?

Telecoils, also known as t-coils, are small copper wires coiled discreetly inside hearing aids (see image here). They can receive electromagnetic signals from a variety of sources and are generally activated easily with the touch of a button.

The technology is not new: Telecoils were originally embedded in hearing aids to pick up electromagnetic signals from landline



This Opn miniRITE T hearing aid has a

telephones so that the hearing aid user could hear better on the phone, Sterkens said. *telecoil. Many manufacturers use "T" in the name to indicate a device has a telecoil.* (Image courtesy Oticon.)

“When the old Ma Bell telephones were in existence, they emitted lots of magnetic signals,” she explained.

Today’s telephones are no longer a natural source of magnetic signals, but most still contain hearing aid compatible (HAC) equipment that generate a magnetic field to accommodate t-coil hearing aids.

How do I get a t-coil hearing aid?

Sterkens said although some hearing aid manufacturers have removed telecoils to make the devices smaller, the feature is still standard in most hearing devices. Hearing aid wearers desiring t-coil technology should request it from their hearing healthcare practitioner, who will provide the necessary programming and education. More about hearing aid types and styles and hearing aid technology.

What is a hearing aid loop system?

Hearing loops are assistive listening systems that exist in many public venues all over the world to assist those with hearing loss. This inductive loop system provides a magnetic, wireless signal that is picked up by hearing devices with telecoils. When hearing aid users are inside the loop and their t-coil setting is activated, any conversation being broadcast on the facility’s audio system — ie, a church sermon, classroom lecture, or stage performance — is sent directly to the telecoil in their hearing device.

This feature not only extends the listening range of hearing devices, it also eliminates unwanted background noise, increasing listening comprehension and enjoyment. For example, this video demonstrates the difference a telecoil can make at a New York subway station.

Which facilities have hearing loops?

Thanks in large part to Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines, an assistive listening system (ALS) must be provided in public “assembly areas with audio amplification” such as courthouses, movie theaters, live performance theaters, and public classrooms. The facilities can choose which type of ALS to install:

- Inductive hearing loop systems transmit an audio signal directly into the hearing aid via

a magnetic field. The loop, which provides a wireless, magnetic signal, is installed in the perimeter beneath the room's carpeting or flooring in a facility. Individuals with hearing aids can activate their device's t-coil switch and receive the audio signal from anywhere inside the loop.

- **Infrared systems** consist of an audio source, transmitter and receiver. Most receivers consist of a headphone or neck loop, which must be requested or checked out at the facility's information desk.
- **FM/DM systems** are wireless, low power, FM frequency radio transmissions sent from a sound system to FM receivers.

Sterkens said hearing loops are being installed with greater frequency in many newly constructed or remodeled airports as well as churches, public libraries and healthcare facilities. "They're much more discreet than using other hearing assistive systems in public places," she said. "Maryland just passed a law that mandates hearing loops be installed in state-funded projects. Indiana and Washington are gearing up, too. I think this is only the beginning."

New Mexico also recently signed a law requiring audiologists to educate their patients about t-coils.

How do I find hearing loop systems near me?

In person: Venues that offer hearing loop technology will let you know they offer a hearing loop by posting blue signage featuring a white ear icon and the letter "T" displayed in the lower, right-hand corner (as seen at right).

Via Google Maps: In partnership with HLAA, Google Maps now lets users find out in advance if a business or venue has a hearing loop.

To use the feature, HLAA provided these steps in their article about the Get in the Hearing Loop partnership:


- On a smartphone, open a Google maps listing. Under the photos, scroll to the right to find the "About" tab. Then click



HEARING LOOP INSTALLED
Switch hearing aid to T-coil

www.hearingloop.org

© National Association of the Deaf

on "About" and scroll down to reveal the  *look for this logo in public places.*
 Accessibility attribute; if available, it will
 be listed under details as "assistive hearing loop."

- On a computer, open a Google Maps listing and click on the right arrow (looks like this: >) next to the listing description.
- For visual learners, this hearing loop finder video shows these steps visually.

Apps: Many hearing loop-accessible venues are also listed on the following websites or smartphone apps:

- Loopfinder.com, also sponsored by the Hearing Loss Association of America, is available as an app for iOS Apple smartphones.
- Time2loopamerica.com displays a clickable map of the United States, with venues listed by city and town.

How do I advocate for hearing loop technology?

Sterkens encourages people to advocate for hearing loops in their community by using the information on the HLAA website.

"The HLAA has resources for consumers who want to advocate for hearing loops," she said. "Sometimes all it takes is one person to make it happen. Hearing loops beget other hearing loops. If you can help people hear that much better with the hearing aids they already have in their ears, it's incredible. Everybody deserves to hear like that."

Can I install a hearing loop at my home?

Yes, though it does require technical know-how. The HLAA provides this hearing loop installation step-by-step for DIYers.

If you have untreated hearing loss

If hearing loss is preventing you from enjoying social activities, don't stay home. Make an appointment with a hearing healthcare professional who will evaluate your hearing and recommend the best course of treatment so you can hear your best. For a listing of hearing centers and audiologists in your community along with verified patient reviews, visit our directory.



Kaslo And Area Senior Citizens' Society
Box 925, 304 – 4th Street
Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0

Robert Baker, CAO
The Village of Kaslo
Box 576, 312 Fourth Street
Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0

May 7, 2024

Re: "Accessibility for Seniors and Persons with Limited Mobility"

Dear Mr. Baker, Mayor Hewat and Councillors,

This past Friday (May 3rd, 2024) we were joined by residents of the Victoria Community Health Centre and their caretakers for our weekly Coffee Get-together. We had over 30 people in attendance that morning, and it was so nice to be able to visit with the residents.

We would like to see them more often, but we have an issue with access to our building for those who have limited mobility. We do have a side door and a small wooden ramp, but the alley is not paved and it becomes very challenging, especially when it snows or we have heavy rainfall. The solution would be for the Village of Kaslo to pave the area directly in front of our side door, so that regardless of the season, we could shovel an access to the side door.

It is difficult for the caretakers and our members to try to maneuver the heavy chairs and walker into the hall. With a bit of paving, and a paved ramp (the height is about 5 inches) a solution could be found and we could be more inclusive.

We have heard that there will be a bit of paving by the Moyie this year and would like to request that our paving be done at the same time. We are not suggesting that the whole alley be paved, but just a 50-foot section to accommodate access.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]
Louise M. De Pape, President
Kaslo And Area Senior Citizens' Society
[Redacted Address]

Karissa Stroshein

From: Yannick Marcoz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 4:18 PM
To: Karissa Stroshein <admin@kaslo.ca>
Subject:

Hello,

I am emailing regarding the playgrounds.

While I was in Nanaimo a while back, I found something called a wheelchair swing.

I found it fascinating, only because we never see these anywhere. People in wheelchairs can not go on normal swings. This makes them not be able to have the fun they deserve. Especially kids in wheelchairs. They should not be able to have less fun than other kids, who have the gift of being able to walk.

This is why I say we should make this improvement in our playgrounds. Even just including these in one to two playgrounds across town, would make all the difference.

Thanks,
Yannick

Potential No Parking Sign.

Chris Lyon <clyon@nelson.ca>

Wed 2024 08 21 4:18 PM

To: Village of Kaslo <admin@kaslo.ca>

Hello, I'm contacting you on behalf of one of our Transit Operators who works out of Kaslo. He's expressed a desire on several occasions to us for the Village of Kaslo to install a no parking sign in front of The Front Street Market. Part of this drivers duties is to pick up seniors in front of the Market with their groceries between 11 and 12 o'clock on Fridays as part of our Handy Dart service. He often finds vehicles parked near the bench in front the Front Street Market at this time, which makes onboarding the seniors difficult. His request is that a no parking sign be installed that requires drivers not park in front of the bench on Fridays between 11am and Noon. Is this something that is feasible?

Thanks in advance for your response.

Chris Lyon | KLW Temporary Transit Lead Hand

The Corporation of the City of Nelson

80 Lakeside Drive, Nelson BC V1L 6B9

Phone: 250.352.8143 | EXT 143

General Info: 250.352.8232

Transit Schedule & Info 1-855-993-3100



The City of Nelson acknowledges that it resides and operates within the unceded traditional territories of the Sinixt, the Syilx, and the Ktunaxa peoples and is home to the Métis and many diverse Aboriginal persons.

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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. Council appointed an additional member of the public at the 2023.08.22 Council Meeting, leaving 4 seats vacant. The opportunity remains posted on the Village's website.

4. Consultation

4.1 Process

The Accessibility Committee welcomes input from all residents and the draft plan is available on the Village's website, or in hard copy from City Hall. With the goal of reaching a broad audience, and including the perspectives of vulnerable or marginalized populations, the Committee has developed the following preliminary list of groups that can be invited to provide comments:

Interior Health Authority (care aides, physio) Kaslo Seniors Association Kaslo & District Public Library Association Kaslo Community Services Selkirk College Abbey Manor	RCMP & Emergency Services Periwinkle Day Care BC Transit drivers Operators of municipal facilities (Campground, Arena, Community Garden, KORTS, Kootenay Lake Historical Society/Visitor Info Centre)
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4.2.1 Key Themes

The key themes that have been identified by the Accessibility Committee are as follows:

TRANSPORTATION – What should be done to improve transportation options, particularly for individuals that are currently facing barriers?

RECREATION – What should be done to improve recreation options, particularly for individuals that are currently facing barriers?

COMMUNICATION – How should public information be shared, in order to meet the needs of all residents? How should awareness about accessibility matters be increased?

FACILITIES – What changes should be made to municipal buildings or facilities to make them more accessible to individuals with disabilities?

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.