



Accessibility Committee Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date: January 16, 2025
Location: Electronic Meeting

Members Present: Lisa Gauvreau, Local Trustee, Galiano Local Trust Area
Marjorie Gang
Lisa Nissinen

Member Regrets: Theresa Burley
Sidra Treall

Staff Present: David Marlor, Director, Legislative and Information Services
Robert Barlow, Legislative Services Clerk/Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Director Marlor called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. at which time quorum was not achieved as only two members of the Committee were present: Trustee Gauvreau and Lisa Nissinen. Director Marlor indicated that the meeting would continue but that no decisions or directions from the Committee could be made unless quorum is achieved.

Trustee Gauvreau acknowledged that attendees of the meeting were in locations across the ancestral and unceded territories of many indigenous communities whose connection to these lands spans many generations.

Director Marlor stated that an Accessibility Committee is required of local government, including Islands Trust, by British Columbia legislation (*Accessible British Columbia Act*). The purpose of the Committee is to assist Islands Trust to identify, remove and prevent barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization. Furthermore, Islands Trust must develop an accessibility plan in that regard and must review and update that accessibility plan at least once every three years.

2. AGENDA

2.1 Review of Agenda

No changes to the agenda were presented for consideration.

As quorum had not been achieved, agenda item 3.1, Draft Minutes of Previous Meeting, was not addressed.

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Accessibility Committee Terms of Reference

ADOPTED

Director Marlor reviewed the Terms of Reference and the advisory role of the Accessibility Committee.

4.2 Other Local Government Accessibility Plans

Director Marlor provided a general review of the Plans provided in the agenda, indicating that they can be used as a model for format, content and public engagement of an Islands Trust Accessibility Plan. Committee discussion included:

- accessibility and inclusion are not the same concept; inclusion may be the aim and accessibility can support that aim
- accessibility could be about inclusion for all sectors of the population, rather than narrowly about barriers for people with disabilities
- disabilities are not necessarily barriers
- removing or preventing barriers isn't necessarily the only means to support inclusion
- accessibility and inclusion could be a lens for planners to consider when working with communities on their Official Community Plans and Land Use Bylaws

4.3 Federal Grant for a Workplace Disability Management Assessment - Briefing

Director Marlor introduced the Briefing, indicating that a new Federal Grant (only available in BC) is designed for a free workplace disability management assessment, which helps organizations improve disability management services, reduce costs related to injury and sickness, enrich or fulfill accessibility plans, and meet accessibility legislation requirements.

Marjorie Gang joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m. This resulted in the Committee meeting quorum.

Committee discussion continued:

- the accessibility of the documents that Islands Trust generates is impacted by the volume of material, reading level of the text, and use of jargon
- committee members were encouraged to bring forward any particular accessibility plan, or components of a plan, that they would like the Committee to consider
- Director Marlor indicated that a draft outline of an Islands Trust Accessibility Plan would be presented at the next Committee meeting for the Committee to review and that Islands Trust would apply to the federal grant.

The Committee then addressed agenda item 3.1.1

3. ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION

3.1 Draft Minutes of Previous Meeting

3.1.1 Accessibility Committee Regular Meeting draft minutes of November 7, 2024

ADOPTED

By general consent the Committee approved the minutes as presented.

5. NEXT MEETING

5.1 Meeting Schedule for 2025/2026 – Request For Decision

Director Marlor introduced the Request For Decision, indicating that the proposed dates would support the Committee to provide material to the Islands Trust Council if required or desired. Lisa Nissinen indicated that she would not be available on April 15, 2025.

AC-2025-01

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Accessibility Committee adopt the proposed meeting dates of April 15, July 10, and October 7 in 2025, and January 15, 2026, for the 2025/26 fiscal year.

CARRIED

AC-2025-02

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Accessibility Committee schedule all 2025/2026 meeting dates as electronic meetings.

CARRIED

AC-2025-03

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Accessibility Committee schedule all 2025/2026 meeting dates from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

CARRIED

6. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

David Marlor, Director, Legislative and Information Services

Certified Correct:

Robert Barlow, Legislative Services Clerk/Recorder