



North Coast Regional District
Haida Gwaii Accessibility Committee Minutes
Wednesday, January 17, 2024 12:00 PM
Held via teleconference

Chair: David Archer

Members: Ronda Bell
Leighann Rodger
Elisa Schatz
Kirsten Holuboch
Evelyn Robinson

Regrets: D'Leen Betts

Staff: H. Tsang, Corporate Officer, North Coast Regional District
Marjorie Dobson, Village of Port Clements
Josh Humphries, Village of Masset
Jasmine Bulbrook, Village of Daajing Giids

Public Media: o

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 *The Haida Gwaii Accessibility Committee acknowledges the traditional territory of the Haida and Tsimshian on which this meeting takes place.*

1.2 Call to Order at 12:04 p.m.

2. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA (ADDITIONS/DELETIONS)

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

That the Committee resolves to adopt the January 17, 2024 Haida Gwaii Accessibility Committee meeting agenda as presented.

Dobson/Bulbrook

001-2024

CARRIED

3. COMMITTEE MINUTES & BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

3.1 Haida Gwaii Accessibility Committee Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2023

That the Haida Gwaii Accessibility Committee resolves to adopt the December 6, 2023 Haida Gwaii Accessibility Committee meeting minutes as presented.

Humphries/Rodger

002-2024

CARRIED

4. WORKSHOP ON ACCESSIBILITY PLAN: REVIEW OF ACTIONS

4.1 Workshop on Accessibility Plan: Actions

D. Archer reviewed the Haida Gwaii Accessibility Plan – Actions. The Haida Gwaii Accessibility Committee discussed adding the following actions under each accessibility category:

Employment:

- Exploring remote work options and flexible scheduling, including breaks, at municipalities.

Delivery of Service:

- Considering accessibility needs during events.

The Built Environment:

- Exploring the accessibility of public bathrooms for residents and visitors, including wheelchairs, handrails, and adult changing tables;
- Reviewing waterfront access in Haida Gwaii;
- Reviewing accessibility of downtown Daajing Giids, including sidewalks, shoulders, and separate lanes. Considering dangerous sidewalk edges, barriers to oncoming traffic and the lack of ways to cross roads safely;
- Advocating for automatic doors at the City Centre store in Daajing Giids as well as libraries on Haida Gwaii;
- Considering wheelchair access and signage, including at event spaces on Haida Gwaii;

- Advocating for travel accessibility, including accessible hotel / motel rooms (including walk in showers), airport capacity to move wheelchairs, and accessible vehicle and medical equipment rentals;
- Advocating for improved accessibility of Tow Hill road's Sangan bridge; and
- Moving items relating to trails and ferries to the "Transportation" category.

Information and Communications:

- Upgrading municipal websites to WCAG 2 accessibility standard;
- Exploring funding options to improve business accessibility;
- Make all meetings accessible via Zoom for municipalities and advocate for other agencies to do the same;
- Improving communication on events, public notices, and consider other forms of communication including poster boards at grocery stores and post office, mail outs, and telephone calls; and
- Moving items relating to transportation and community events to the "Transportation" category.

Transportation:

- Advocating for improved accessibility for BC Ferries' Kwuna Ferry, including a waiting room, bathroom access, and better ramps for people with mobility issues;
- Advocating for improved accessibility on BC Ferries routes, including consistent availability of accessibility options, including elevator access;
- Advocating for a portion of Tarundl Trail to be accessible;
- Advocating for more accessible bus stops and train stations, including timed heaters during winter months; and
- Reviewing accessibility of trails in Sandspit, including Dover Trail.

Procurement:

- None.

5. QUESTIONS

- 5.1 The Haida Gwaii Accessibility Committee (HGAC) agreed to publish a HGAC web page under the North Coast Regional District website, starting on Friday, January 26. The HGAC also agreed to publish and begin a period of public consultation on its Haida Gwaii Accessibility Plan – Actions document, starting on Friday, January 26 and ending on Friday, February 16.

The HGAC decided to hold its next meeting on Wednesday, February 21 to review public input received towards its Haida Gwaii Accessibility Plan – Actions document.

6. ADJOURNMENT

- 6.1 Adjournment

That the Haida Gwaii Accessibility Committee adjourns the Haida Gwaii Accessibility Committee meeting held January 17, 2024 the time being 1:20 p.m.

BulBrook/Bell

003-2024

CARRIED

Approved and adopted:

Certified correct:

Chair

Corporate Officer