

***Disclaimer: These minutes were prepared as a reasonable summary of the essential content of this meeting, not as a transcription.***



**Minutes of the Community Support & Accessibility Committee Meeting**

**November 25, 2024, 10:30 AM**

**Meadows Room**

**12007 Harris Road, Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 2B5**

- Voting Members:
- J. Armstrong, Fraser Valley Regional Library
  - Councillor Hayes
  - Councillor O'Connell (Chair)
  - M. Perretta, Ridge Meadows Seniors Society
  - K. Rogge, Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Community Services
  - A. Sanchez, Fraser Health
  - K. Sullivan, School District No. 42
- Regrets:
- E. Crowdis, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and Katzie Seniors Network
  - M. Robson, Friends in Need Food Bank
  - C. Shearme, Community Network - Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows & Katzie First Nation
- Staff:
- J. Kloosterboer, Emergency Program Manager
  - D. Parr, Senior Planner II
  - P. Ward, Director of Planning & Development
- Recording Clerk:
- R. Costa, Legislative Services Clerk

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor O'Connell acknowledged with respect and gratitude that the City of Pitt Meadows is located on the traditional, unceded territory of ąiǰǰǰ (Katzie) First Nation who were stewards of this land since time immemorial.

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m.

**2. LATE ITEMS**

None.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There was general consent amongst the Committee to approve the November 25, 2024, Community Support & Accessibility Committee agenda.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

There was general consent amongst the Committee to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2024, Community Support & Accessibility Committee meeting as amended.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1 City of Pitt Meadows Accessibility Plan Draft Survey**

D. Parr, Planner II, provided an overview of the Draft Accessibility Plan Survey and Accessibility Action Framework.

The Committee participated in a roundtable discussion, which includes some of the following highlights:

- A recommendation was made to adjust the wording of survey question D-2, as the question could have potential to skew the survey results if a person without a disability was answering questions meant for someone with a disability;
- It was recommended to add 'none', 'visually impaired' and 'hearing impaired' options for question A-6;
- It was noted that individuals with cognitive or intellectual disabilities may face difficulties with completing the survey;
- A discussion was held in regards to intersections and crosswalks in Pitt Meadows, and whether they accommodate individuals with hearing or visual impairments (i.e. speaking crosswalks to help with visually impaired individuals);
- A discussion was held in regards to benches, along with the potential challenges of adding benches;
- The Accessibility Plan Survey (digital and hardcopy) is anticipated to become available in early 2025;
- A suggestion was made to provide members of other Committees within the City to assist with widespread distribution;

- A recommendation was made to approach the School District to request the survey availability and related information be made available to families within the district's newsletters; and
- A suggestion was made to create posters in addition to the digital campaign.

## **5.2 Updates from Community Outreach Agencies**

Community Outreach Agencies participated in a roundtable discussion providing a verbal update on their individual organizations.

J. Armstrong, Fraser Valley Regional Library, provided an updated to the Committee. Some of the highlights included:

- Internal online workshops and courses, such as 'Dementia 101', are being coordinated amongst FVRL staff. These workshops coach staff on how to work with customers with dementia, including how to best serve individuals with dementia and understand their needs; and
- Current upgrades are being executed, which includes using artificial intelligence (AI) to translate and/or simplify language for instructions on how to use something (i.e. simple instructions on how to download an e-book).

M. Perretta, Ridge Meadows Seniors Society, provided an update to the Committee. Some of the highlights included:

- The Ridge Meadows Senior's Society is working on the launch of the Santa's helping Seniors Project. This project includes wish-list tags found on the Christmas Trees inside London Drugs, Maple Ridge. Volunteers will pick up the purchased wish-list items, sort them, and provide upwards of 250 gift bags to seniors within the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows community; and
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the annual senior's education day at the Maple Ridge Seniors Centre. An anticipated 250 seniors will be in attendance.

K. Sullivan, School District No. 42, provided an update to the Committee. Some of the highlights included:

- The School District recently re-elected their Chair, Elaine Yamamoto and Vice Chair, Kim Dumore;

- School District No. 42 has the second largest first-year apprentice trade training programs, which includes program opportunities for those who don't follow typical academic programs. The trades programs include but not limited to, Electrician, Hairstylist and Metal Fabricator; and
- Kindergarten registration begins in January 2025.

K. Rogge, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Community Services, provided an update to the Committee. Some of the highlights included:

- The 21<sup>st</sup> annual silent auction took place on November 23<sup>rd</sup>;
- The Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Community Services Seniors Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup>;
- Various fundraisers took place with great turnout. Fundraisers include:
  - The Illuminate Gala raised \$31,000 that was donated to Ridge Meadows Foundry;
  - The Wild Wild West Pub Night for Alisa's Wish Ambassadors raised just over \$2,000; and
  - The Cytheria Fundraiser, Give Her Wings event raised just over \$17,000 for the Transition House Society.

A. Sanchez, Fraser Health, provided an update to the Committee. One of the highlights included:

- A new version of the regional 'Active Transportation to School' infographic was created by Vancouver Coastal Health and Translink, was shared amongst the Committee and forms part of the original minutes as **Attachment 1**.

J. Kloosterboer, Emergency Program Manager, provided an update to the Committee. One of the highlights included:

- The Emergency Support Services team continues training and planning for emergencies.

Councillor O’Connell provided an update to the Committee. One of the highlights included:

- The Friends in Need Food Bank will be working with the Pitt Meadows Fire and Rescue Service to hold the Firefighters for Families in Pitt Meadows on December 14<sup>th</sup> to collect food bank donations.

### **5.3 Updated 2025 Committee Calendar**

There was general consent amongst the Committee to approve the updated 2025 Community Support & Accessibility Committee calendar as circulated.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

*The next **Community Support & Accessibility Committee** meeting is scheduled for **February 24, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.***

**Certified as correct:**

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Rachel Costa, Legislative Services Clerk II