City of Winnipeg Access Advisory Committee
Policy Sub Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday January 23rd, 2018
11:45am to 1:00pm
Millennium Library – Dr. Smigel Boardroom

Present: Louis Gaudry, Judy Redmond, Colleen Waters, Judy Herscovich, Debbie Van Ettinger.

Regrets: Ken Shachtay, Larry Baillie, Angela Mayen-Obregon, Gail MacAulay,

To begin the meeting, the Policy Sub-Committee reviewed an update from Judy Redmond regarding access ramps for the Empress Street Overpass at Polo Park.

Items presented for a recommendation included:

1. The provision of an accessible ramp on the North Side of Portage along the West Side of the Empress overpass, as well as an accessible ramp on the South Side of Portage along the West Side of the Empress overpass.
2. The two ramps proposed incorporate the existing stairs on both sides of Portage.
3. The North side ramp location is space limited and cannot accommodate the ramp to flow between the Hotel Parking lot and the Empress street overpass, therefore a solution was to extend the ramp going west along Portage Avenue. The committee concurred with this. The committee also reviewed the ramp specifications and concurred with the shorter 56 metre length ramp with a 8.3% slope with intermediate landings. The committee felt it was more practical, and rejected the longer ramp with a gentler slope based on the distance having to be required to access the ramp and doubling back.
4. The committee also accepted the recommendation of the dog leg styled ramp with a 5% slope with intermediate landings on the South Side of Portage, providing the handrails were included in the design. Since this was an option, and designed for at- grade design, we

thought it would be more accessible for everyone if the handrails were included. (This would also deter skateboard activity.)

5. The committee also accepted the option to test as a pilot “Tining” treatment to the surface to control slipperiness, and can be evaluated for these other potential projects.
6. That the intermittent landings be definitely included as a resting refuge.
7. That this committee make the recommendations known to the AAC meeting on January 30th to back this discussion up, as well as providing a written recommendation to the Universal Design Coordinator and the project management team.

OurWinnipeg…

The committee discussed the opportunity to be part of the 5 year review of the City’s “OurWinnipeg” document and make recommendations at this High Level discussion as part of the process.

The committee will be tasked to discuss how Accessibility and Universal Design relates to the Directions and the Enabling Strategies of the OurWinnipeg document.

Although this would be a massive undertaking to review the whole project, it was thought to be a valuable exercise to go section by section asking the following questions:

1. What are we doing well and how do we make sure that this practice continues……
2. What are we doing poorly and what do we need to improve to make sure this gets addressed…….
3. What are the issues specifically related to Universal Design, Accessibility, and Inclusion that have not been considered in the existing OurWinnipeg policy.

In our reviews, it must be recognized that during our past Community Consultations, the most prevalent barriers to participation within the City of Winnipeg include the following:

1. Transportation:
    a. Transit
    b. Handi-Transit
    c. Sidewalks and Intersections
    d. Active Transportation
    e. Private and On-Street Accessible Parking
2. Architectural and the Built Environment
    a. New Construction
    b. Renovations
3. Information, Technology, and Communication
    a. Websites
    b. Public Engagements
    c. PDF's and Documents
    d. Customer Services
    e. Library Services

Some of the other issues in the past include attitudinal barrier, staff awareness training, equitable housing, and employment practices.

The committee felt that this task could be the main topic of our discussions for the next few meetings with a hopeful list of recommendations later in the spring.

Next meeting for the Policy committee, we will try to offer an evening meeting option every second meeting, as there are a couple of members who cannot attend during the day.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 13th, at 5:00pm at the Millennium Library.

Adjourned.