Access Advisory Committee - Coordinator Report
September 12, 2018

City of Winnipeg Meetings:

- Final copies of the Annual Report were sent to EPC in July, along with a copy to Carlene who was our writer for the report. She is definitely interested in writing again next year. I plan to sit down with her in the fall to discuss.

- I attended an informational meeting with the Winnipeg Parking Authority on July 8th to discuss the Vehicles for Hire 2nd Intake and lottery for licenses. Grant Heather announced that the next 60 licenses awarded will all be accessible licenses, bringing up the percentage of accessible licenses in the City of Winnipeg. Over 1000 applications were made for the July 28th lottery, which means we should see 60 more accessible cabs on the road by December 31st. Great news.

- I had a conference call with the Edmonton Access Advisory Committee on July 25th discussing accessible transit, taxis, and general discussion on what we are doing in Winnipeg.

- I attended the funeral for Ken's dad on July 27th on your behalf.

- I had a conference call with AMI on July 30 discussing the progress we have seen in the City of Winnipeg in terms of accessibility for persons with vision loss. Although this program on AMI will be in French, we started the conversation on Audible signals, tactile warning strips at curb ramps, the City of Winnipeg Accessibility Plan, Alternative formats, etc. The program for AMI will be completed in the spring of 2019. There will be further discussions, and we will be on the look for a French speaking committee member, or a member of the community that can further discuss the positive action we have seen in Winnipeg over the years. They have already met with the CMHR staff on how they use alternative formats in all the communications and displays.

- Our special event for the Canadian Institute of Planners National Conference were we provided a pre-conference Bus Tour of the Victoria Hospital Memory Gardens, and the SSCY on July 19th, went very well with a lot of conversation on the planning processes in designing

accessible and inclusive facilities. I would like to thank Marcella and Louis for their involvement in this project.

- Sent out an Email Blast for our Awards announcement for a 2 year intake period with the new nomination deadline of June 28th, 2019. There are a number of great projects that have already been put on our list, hoping we get an application over the next year. We will be setting up the new Awards committee in September and begin planning our event for 2019.

- There are a couple of Policy Sub-Committee issues that have come up and we will deal with them at our next meeting. They include:

    - the value and importance of the existing tactile sidewalk strips providing a shoreline navigational tool for persons with VI; in comparison to the new options being presented by Public Works. It would be prudent for our Policy subcommittee to do a site this fall visit to some of the test spots. I would also like to invite others that are not on our committee in order to get valuable input.

- We had a very good Policy subcommittee meeting on August 7th where we discussed the many dilemmas posed when considering opening up the intersection of Portage and Main, and whether it was important to have an official position as a committee. Please read the Policy subcommittee minutes for further information. At that meeting we intended to have a presentation from the Assiniboine Park Conservancy to discuss the Diversity Gardens and overall accessibility. Unfortunately, they were unable to attend, and agreed to come to our September AAC meeting instead.

<u>Sub Committee Meetings:</u>

Policy Subcommittee:

- Policy Committee meeting August 7th is attached

Access Awards:

- Now that the TEDx project has been completed, we will be calling an Awards meeting in September to begin planning for the 2019 Awards event.

Education and Communication:

- The CIP Educational Bus Tour went over very well, and we now are planning to meet with Carlene this fall to begin the process of writing our Annual Report

Management:

- No Management Committee meeting scheduled in this summer

Submitted: Chris Sobkowicz September 12th, 2018