



**MINUTES OF THE
FIFTH BARRIER FREE SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2022**

DATE: December 13, 2022

TIME: 9:02 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

LOCATION: Videoconference

PRESENT: **Sub-Council Members**
Karen Muir, Chair
Tanya Befus, Vice Chair
Bev Knudtson
Robert Lipka
Bob Macklon
Donna Monkhouse
Lee Ramsdell
Georg Rath
Deliany Sather
Ron Wickman

Safety Codes Council
Allison Karch, Kathryn Derkach

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Linnie Tse

REGRETS: Chris Chamber, Gunjan Dhawan

GUESTS: Simon Wunderli; Keith Jansen, BSC Liaison; Shannon Wiebe, CART

RECORDER: Allison Karch

2023 MEETINGS: March 21, June 20

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A round table introduction was held. Members were reminded that their primary duty is to act in the interest of safety in the built environment for the benefit of all Albertans and that real and perceived conflicts of interest must be avoided.

1.1 Agenda Adoption

The following item was added to the agenda:

- 2.1.3. Reappointment of Georg Rath

Bev Knudtson / Robert Lipka moved that the agenda be adopted, as amended; CARRIED

1.2 Adoption of the September 27, 2022 Minutes

Lee Ramsdell / Bob Macklon moved to adopt the minutes of the September 27, 2022 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Closed Session

Bob Macklon / Bev Knudtson moved to enter into closed session; CARRIED

Donna Monkhouse / Lee Ramsdell moved to exit closed session; CARRIED

2.1.1. Reappointment of Ron Wickman to represent Barrier Free Design

Lee Ramsdell / Bev Knudtson moved to recommend to the Board reappointment of Ron Wickman to the Barrier Free Sub-Council to represent Barrier Free Design for a term ending January 31, 2026, effective February 1, 2023; CARRIED

2.1.2. Nominations to represent Education and Training: Barry Delparte, Nathaniel Wagenaar, Sarah Lazzer, Sharleen Steinhauer

Donna Monkhouse / Ron Wickman moved to recommend to the Board appointment of Nathaniel Wagenaar to the Barrier Free Sub-Council to represent Education and Training for a term ending January 31, 2026, effective February 1, 2023; CARRIED

2.1.3. Reappointment of Georg Rath to represent Aging Population

Tanya Befus / Robert Lipka moved to recommend to the Board reappointment of Georg Rath to the Barrier Free Sub-Council to represent Aging Population for a term ending January 31, 2026, effective February 1, 2023; CARRIED

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

It was noted that the approach to the action list has been restructured slightly: a number of items that has been worked on under the previous working groups have been moved to the action list so that the group doesn't lose sight of them, but they will not be reviewed at each meeting unless a member has an update or wishes to take further action on an item.

	Item	Action	Date	Responsible	Status/Update
1.	Link to the Ministry of Community and Social Services	As issues arise and expertise is required, a guest may be needed. Municipal Affairs will look into a connection at the Ministry of Community and Social Services. AMA was able to connect with the Disability Advisory and Engagement branch at the Ministry of Community and Social Services. They will provide qualitative and quantitative data on issues related to the built environment.	Nov 20/19	Tse	Ongoing.
2.	Training on the accessibility requirements in the upcoming NBC(AE)	It was asked whether there will be training on the accessibility requirements in the upcoming edition of the NBC(AE) and whether that training would include rationale for the changes. Council staff will request an update from the Training department about what accessibility information will be in the Building SCO code update training.	Oct 13/21	Council Admin	There is no update yet because the code is not yet published; an update will be brought after the code's publication.
3.	Buyers cannot search for accessible homes on the MLS	Further discussions needed to figure out who would be responsible for developing this.	Dec. 13/22	Sather	
4.	Consider creating a condensed version (checklist) of the BFDG for developers/builders to assist as they begin work on a new project.	This will be a stand-alone document available on Council website.	Dec. 13/22		
5.	Lack of awareness of other disabilities not covered in the code, but are mentioned in the BFDG: Seniors,	Consider whether upcoming new requirements in the 2020 NBC will be sufficient for those disabilities, or if more requirements should be in the code .	Dec. 13/22	Knudtson	

	Hearing, Vision, Communication & Cognition, Bariatrics.	Determine if more information should be added to the BFDG for Seniors, Hearing and Vision. More information on Communications & Cognition and Bariatrics was submitted in fall 2019.			
6.	Builders do not have access to a certification program that is widely accepted and adopted by industry. Until then there is no will to build accessible homes for the market.	Certification Programs like Rick Hansen foundation and Universal Access etc. do exist but until the government approves these how does a builder know which program to follow?	Dec. 13/22	Sather	
7.	Ambiguities that need clarification within the Code from Municipal Affairs	<p>3.8.2.3.(2)(j) Areas Requiring a Barrier-Free Path of Travel – applicable to 3.8.4 Adaptable Dwelling Units?</p> <p>3.8.2.3.(5) Areas Requiring a Barrier-Free Path of Travel – clarification required on extents of tactile warning strip</p> <p>3.8.3.11. Water Closet Stalls and 3.8.3.12. Universal Washrooms – clarification of space required in front of toilet</p> <p>3.8.3.12. Universal Washrooms – clarification on turning radius and door swing overlap</p> <p>3.8.3.16. Showers – clarification of min. flat area dimensions</p> <p>3.8.4.2. General Accessibility, Ceiling Lift Track – clarification on design parameters</p> <p>3.8.4.4. Kitchens, Adjustable Heights – clarification on meaning of “adjustable”</p> <p>3.8.4.4. Kitchens, Cooktops – clarification on cooktop vs range</p>	Dec. 13/22	Tse	

8.	Not all areas of a building accessible i.e. public courtyard in townhouse complex	Helen to review current Code requirements to see what is applicable to multi-family housing units. Ron to assist. Helen reviewed current code requirements and found that the code doesn't address this issue. Helen will continue to work on framing the issue using the 9 questions. Helen has posted a document on the portal.	Dec. 13/22	Wickman	
9.	Better Universal Toilet Room (more guidance for designers)	Ron to review current Code requirements to see what is applicable to Universal Toilet Rooms.	Dec. 13/22	Wickman	

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Launch of the Public Review of a New Accessibility Standard

A document was posted in the portal and the Provincial Barrier Free Administrator gave background on Accessibility Standards Canada, which was created out of the national Accessibility Act a few years ago. A number of committees were created to create accessibility standards on specific topics. The first committee has completed a draft standard related to accessibility in the built environment, which is now out for public review. It is believed this standard will be published in about two years. Each province and territory has the ability to decide whether to adopt these standards.

4.2. Focus Groups (formerly Code Change Issues)

The sub-council broke into small focus groups to discuss the items that were begun in the past under the heading of Code Change Issues. It was noted that these focus groups should aim toward developing a clearly defined problem, the desired end state, and rationale for change that BSC could use to support a technical code change request to NRC. It was also suggested that members could look for alignment with the accessibility standard referenced in 4.1. and develop comments to submit during the public review. When the group reconvened, discussion was held on each item.

4.2.1. Assisted Listening Devices

The group looked at the accessibility standard, which includes assistive listening devices. Two comments were noted:

- The sound level that devices must be capable of producing of 110 to 118 dB is too loud and would damage the ear.
- It's not clear what locations they are required.

Lee Ramsdell will develop comments on this standard and will circulate to the other members participating in this focus group for review before submitting. [Ramsdell]

4.2.2. Accessible Parking Stalls

Issues noted at the last meeting were corrected and the finalized document was posted in the portal as a PDF. The group discussed changing the code, and based on the time that takes and the questions received from BSC when they reviewed the document, the group decided to focus on incorporating this item into the Barrier Free Design Guide as a first step.

Bob Macklon will review the document and ensure that code references are correct and current. [Macklon]

It was noted that segregated paths of travel were discussed by this group as well. Documents for both items are in the portal and ready for BFSC's review and feedback. It was noted that there is an NRC task group on this topic, so BSC is hesitant to undertake work on this before the outcome of the NRC group is known.

4.2.3. Door Closers & Accessible Housing Issues

Door closers are considered a very important and time sensitive because it is currently causing issues at senior housing facilities. Georg and Karen will work continue to work on a code change request for this item. [Rath/Muir]

4.2.4. Mandatory Cooling of Elder Communities

The group is determining which types of occupancies to focus on to get the best traction on this time. It was suggested that B2 and B3 occupancies as well as any buildings that would have adaptable unit requirements applied would be good candidates. It was noted that builders would incur the costs just the same as any other code requirement, and that the cooling could be achieved by passive means, not necessarily an air conditioning system.

4.2.5. Height of Operational Controls

The members leading this focus group were not in attendance.

4.2.6. Segregated Paths of Travel to Accessible Parking Stalls

This topic was discussed and reported under 4.2.2. Accessible Parking Stalls.

4.3. Review former working group action lists items

Items formerly discussed in working groups that had no further action at the moment were moved to action list. If any member would like to champion one of these topics, they would be moved onto the agenda as focus group item.

Regarding Action List Item #5, it was noted that some disability segments aren't well captured or accommodated for in the code, but these can be recognized and strengthened in the Barrier Free Design Guide. Members are encouraged to put document ideas for their disability segments for incorporation into the Guide.

4.4. BSC Liaison Report

BSC held an October meeting specifically to review code changes and held a regular meeting again in November. It has a number of active working groups, none that are pertinent to BFSC. It continued to work through code changes with a goal of harmonization.

4.5. Administrator/AMA Report

The Administrator reported:

- The publication date of the next edition of NBC(AE) is uncertain.
- The Administrator will submit comments on the accessibility standard referenced under item 4.1. during its public review period.

4.4. Council Updates

A written report was included in the portal and updates were provided on the following:

- The Council office will be closed from December 24 – January 2nd inclusive.
- The Council has recently issued a Cyber Security Policy which applies to members. Members were asked to take a moment to read it and become familiar with their responsibilities.

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

- The City of Edmonton is reviewing the accessibility standard referenced under item 4.1. with engagement of a variety of people and departments.

5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for March 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. via videoconference

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

Deliany Sather / Bev Knudtson moved to adjourn the meeting; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS –

4.2.1. Assisted Listening Devices

Lee Ramsdell will develop comments on this standard and will circulate to the other members participating in this focus group for review before submitting. [Ramsdell]

4.2.2. Accessible Parking Stalls

Bob Macklon will review the document and ensure that code references are correct and current. [Macklon]

4.2.3. Door Closers & Accessible Housing Issues

Georg Rath and Karen Muir will work continue to work on a code change request for this item. [Rath/Muir]

– MOTIONS –

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5.3. Meeting Adjournment

Deliany Sather / Bev Knudtson moved to adjourn the meeting; CARRIED