



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

DATE: June 14, 2022

TIME: 9:12 a.m. to 11:32 p.m.

LOCATION: videoconference

PRESENT: *Sub-Council Members*
Bev Knudtson
Robert Lipka
Ron Wickman
Georg Rath
Donna Monkhouse
Chris Chamber
Helen Evans Warren
Gunjan Dhawan

Safety Codes Council
Allison Karch, Kathryn Derkach

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Linnie Tse

REGRETS: Deliany Sather, Tanya Befus (Vice Chair), Lee Ramsdell, Bob Macklon, Karen Muir (Chair)

GUESTS: Keith Jansen (BSC Liaison)

RECORDER: Allison Karch

2022 MEETINGS: September 27 (tentatively in person), December 13 (virtual)

1. Meeting Opening

In the Chair's and Vice-Chair's absence, Council staff opened the meeting at 9:12 a.m. An informal information and working session was held in lieu of a formal meeting.

1.1 Agenda Adoption

This item was deferred.

1.2 Adoption of the March 22, 2022 Minutes

This item was deferred.

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Closed Session

2.1.1. Appointment of Simon Wunderli to represent Building Officials

This item was deferred.

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

This item was deferred.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Code Change Breakout Time

Staff will work with BSC to bring these proposed change topics forward to the next BSC meeting in September. There will be another BFSC meeting in late August to finalize the four documents and approve what's being sent to BSC. Council staff and the Chair will set the next meeting date and communicate it to sub-council members as soon as possible.

Members broke into small groups to work on the proposed change topics and reported the following back to the whole group.

4.1.1. Door Closers & Accessible Housing Issues

This topic is complex and there are many issues around fire doors and heavy doors. Some of the related issues have been put aside to focus on accessible housing and inclusive design for many types of disabilities. The group is specifically working on grab bars as there is currently no code requirement for backing for grab bars.

4.1.2. Assistive Listening Devices

A change in the 2020 NBC added requirements for assistive listening devices for service counters in assembly occupancies, but this still leaves a gap in other occupancy types. There's also believed to be a gap in certain medical settings (other than private physician offices, which is in the code) such as triage/admitting stations, consultation rooms, and pharmacies. An example was given of a member who experienced a serious medical emergency and couldn't understand what medical staff were saying to him.

A spreadsheet has been created that contains information on different types of devices, costs, and what the businesses and customers would need in order for them to be used.

4.1.3. Operating Controls

This topic is about door operation buttons, elevator buttons, light switches, etc. being at a universal height of one meter and with a colour contrast of 70% or better.

4.1.4. Accessible Parking Stalls

A document developed by Robert Lipka and previously shared with all members by email was reviewed. It relates to providing better accessibility to parking stalls through dropped curbs so there's more flexibility for different types of details. Robert will update document and send around to all members again. The group also looked at segregated paths of travel through two parking stalls. Currently, the code only speaks to an accessible path of travel. Robert will make changes based on discussions and firm up any details at the next meeting.

4.2. NBC Update

Municipal Affairs received a draft of the NBC 2020 and the Provincial Accessibility Administrator is reviewing Section 3.8 and creating a comparison table between NBC 2020 and NBC(AE) 2019. There are many changes but they're mostly small; no significant changes have been noted. Most changes are rewording and there are a few number changes. Some of the changes were identified:

- The turning diameter has changed from 1500 to 1700 mm.
- Water bottle stations have been added.
- The number of required wheelchair spaces in arenas was increased.
- All public washrooms must have a power door.
- Assistive listening devices are required in specific locations.
- Visual fire alerts with lights were added.

NRC suggested using the CSA accessibility standard, but the Administrator has reviewed it and doesn't think it's appropriate because Section 3.8 of the NBC(AE) is more stringent than the CSA standard. It was noted that changes can be made to the upcoming edition of the NBC(AE), which is expected to be published before the end of the year, should it be felt necessary.

It was asked whether the new 1700mm turning diameter would be suitable for bariatrics. Door widths are also critical for accommodating persons with obesity, so the new 1700 mm turning radius would not cover that. (The CSA Z8000 standard for Canadian health care facilities recommends a bariatric turning radius of 1800 mm, and the BFDG recommends 1900 mm.) It was noted that there are situations where one or two suites in a building are built to be suitable for bariatric patients but the common areas are not.

It was asked whether power doors are needed on all washrooms even if there is a separate accessible washroom. It was reported that it would only be needed for washrooms with a barrier free stall.

4.3. Working Group Reports

4.3.1. Awareness

This item was deferred.

4.3.2. Technical

This item was deferred.

4.3.3. Structural Support for Lifts

This item was deferred.

4.4. BSC Liaison Report

This item was deferred.

4.5. Administrator/AMA Report

This item was deferred.

4.6. Council Updates

This item was deferred.

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

This item was deferred.

5.2. Next Meeting

A short meeting to validate the code change proposal documents will be scheduled shortly and members will be notified by email. The next regular sub-council meeting was reconfirmed for September 27, 2022 tentatively in person at the Council office at 9:00 a.m.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

– WORKING GROUP MEMBER LISTS –

| WORKING GROUP | WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (<u>Chair</u>) |
|---|---|
| Technical | <u>Lee Ramsdell</u> , Brian Huxley, Ron Wickman, Keith Jansen, Helen Evans Warren, Chris Chamber, Karen Muir AMA Support: Linnie Tse |
| Awareness | <u>Robert Lipka</u> , Bev Knudtson, Bob Macklon, Donna Monkhouse, Deliany Sather, Georg Rath, Tanya Befus |
| Structural Support for Lifts in NBC(AE) 3.8.4.2(9) <i>formed March 22, 2022</i> | <u>Karen Muir</u> Bob Macklon, Chris Chamber, Georg Rath |