



**MINUTES OF THE  
SECOND BARRIER FREE SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2017**

**DATE:** May 10, 2017

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Radisson Hotel, Edmonton

**PRESENT:**

**Sub-Council Members**  
Barry McCallum, Chair  
Bob Coyne  
Tracy Douglas-Blowers (until 11:10 a.m.)  
Michael Francon  
Stan Lennox  
David Morton  
Briana Strachan (arrived at 11:10 a.m.)  
Yvette Werenka

**Safety Codes Council**  
Danielle Paradis

**Alberta Municipal Affairs**  
Linnie Tse, Liz Gillean

**Guests**  
Mark Brodgesell, BSC Liaison  
Shannon Wiebe, CART

**REGRETS:** Lee Ramsdell

**RECORDER:** Sandi Orr

**2017 MEETINGS:** September 13, 2017, November 15, 2017

## **1. Meeting Opening**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and a round table introduction was held.

### **1.1. Agenda Adoption**

**Tracy Douglas-Blowers / Michael Francon moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED**

### **1.2. Previous Minutes**

#### **1.2.1. Adoption of Meeting Minutes**

**Michael Francon / Yvette Werenka moved that the minutes of the February 15, 2017 be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED**

## **2. Matters for Decision**

### **2.1. Vacant Positions**

#### **2.1.1. Election of Vice Chair**

This item was deferred.

#### **2.1.2. Appointment from Residential Apartment & Condo Owners/Managers**

It was reported that Mary Aubrey has resigned from the sub-council as she is no longer in that position. It was also noted that Laura Kemp is no longer with CNIB.

The Council will seek replacement from the applicable nominating organizations. [Stroud]

## **3. Matters for Discussion**

### **3.1. Barrier Free Design Guide Update**

The document is still with the Council for formatting. It was hoped that the guide would be available by the Conference but unlikely. A notice will be sent out when the guide is available.

### **3.2. BSC Liaison Report**

The Chair reported on issues with barrier free parking spaces and a recent request from Calgary for a relaxation. The Barrier Free Administrator reported that the relaxation request is not being granted and discussions need to be held with the Development Department in Calgary. The Chair reported on challenges regarding inconsistencies that occur in other jurisdictions as well.

### **3.3. Council Updates**

#### **3.3.1. Conference and AGM Reminder**

Members were reminded of the Council Conference coming up at the end of May and that the Council covers the cost of all members.

#### **3.3.2. Organizational Changes**

An overview was provided of changes in roles of several Council staff members:

- Director of Operations: Tyler Wightman
- Director of Corporate Strategy and Communications: Erin Stroud
- Director of Strategic Projects: Gerry Baron
- Administrator of Accreditation: Peter Thomas
- Manager of Policy and Legislation: being filled
- Manager of Stakeholder Relations: being filled

This led to a discussion regarding the last Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC). The Chair reported on the new Home Building Licensing consultation as well as other issues brought forward from various sub-councils. The BFSC Chair suggested there be a requirement of barrier free qualified renovators. It was further reported that a motion was passed at the TCC meeting that the 2015 National Code Cycle should be skipped and to focus on harmonization in 2020.

It was reported that the Working Group for SCO Professional Development will be getting back together.

### **3.4. Policy Items for Discussion**

A discussion was held on barrier free issues and the need to remove grandfathering of barrier free requirements. It was clarified that barrier free requirements must be maintained to whatever the original building requirements at the time it was built. It was further suggested that legislation be changed regarding maintenance (e.g. Municipality Government Act) to specifically reference accessibility/barrier free. It is believed that most people's intentions are good, and that the major issue is education.

There are many different departments involved in the building process and it is a matter of communication. It was suggested that a working group be developed to create discussion points and a strategy that could be used in educating people on the reasons why barrier free requirements are necessary. It is believed the Design Guide is a big element to this communication.

This led to a discussion regarding consultation of a National Accessibility Legislation (<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/planned-accessibility-legislation/consultation-legislation.html>) and the need for everyone to be talking the same language.

A working group was established consisting of David Morton, Stan Lennox, Michael Francon and Tracy Douglas-Blowers. The working group was tasked with creating communication strategies and tools to raise awareness of the principles of the Barrier Free provisions and the design guide and to report back to the Sub-Council. [Francon / Morton / Lennox / Douglas-Blowers]

A discussion was held regarding making recommendations for the 2020 National Building Code. It was clarified that a change in numbers within the table would be a technical change that would be the responsibility of the Building Sub-Council. If wanting to change the table altogether (e.g. changing to a percentage), this would require a policy change recommended to the Minister.

The process was explained regarding making recommendations to the Minister. It was suggested the working group reconvene to determine exactly what policy recommendations should be made. It was reported that although the Arena and Stadium Seating Working Group exists, several members have resigned from the sub-council. There were no volunteers. The item was put aside for the time being.

### **3.5. Parking Placard Process**

Service Alberta is responsible for the Parking Placard Process. Ross Norton had been looking after this initiative. The Barrier Free Administrator will attempt to find out whether the Parking Placard Advisory Committee has been created in order to see if the BFSC can get a representative included on the committee. [Tse]

### **3.6. Municipality Accessibility Committee Reports**

A brief update was provided on topics of discussions being held at accessibility committees in Calgary and Lethbridge.

### **3.7. Briana Strachan's sector: "Communication 'and Cognitive' Disabilities"**

It was recommended that the policy be corrected to read Communication "and Cognitive" disabilities. The Administrator of Certification will check into whether this is just a minor correction that would not require approval by the Board. [Paradis]

### **3.8. Report of the Chief Building Administrator on visual signal requirements in 'suites of care'**

A document was circulated from Don Bradshaw regarding Visual Fire Alarm Signals and STANDATA 14-BCI-002. It is believed that there needs to be a visual alarm in a bedroom. The current STANDATA interpretation states that one visual signal is required centrally in the living room. The Administrator asked if there was anything to add in the guide right now and it was suggested that, as best practice, a second device should be added in one bedroom.

Lee Ramsdell was asked to look into other best practices for future consideration and to report back to the sub-council. [Ramsdell]

A discussion was held regarding whether this requirement is Alberta-specific or National and it was clarified that this is Alberta-specific.

It was reported that AMA – Safety Services is now AMA – Community and Technical Support. This now includes the Office of the Fire Commissioner, the new Home Warranty Program and Builder Licensing. Chief has been removed from Administrators' titles (e.g. Building Administrator, Fire Administrator, etc.)

### **3.9. Follow-up on the Chair's presentation on Barrier Free initiatives in Lethbridge**

The Chair provided an on-screen presentation of his background and involvement in accessibility design, as well as special barrier free projects and initiatives in Lethbridge.

## **4. Meeting Finalization**

### **4.1. Review Actions to be Taken**

New action items were reviewed.

### **4.2. Meeting and Agenda Feedback**

There was nothing brought forward.

### **4.3. Next Meeting**

The following meeting schedule were reconfirmed for 2017:

- AGM – June 1, 2017 in conjunction with the Council Conference
- Wednesday, September 13, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. in Edmonton
- Wednesday, November 15, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. in Edmonton

### **4.4. Meeting Adjournment**

**Bob Coyne / Brianna Strachan moved that the meeting be adjourned; CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

-- ACTION ITEMS --

**2.1.2. Appointment from Residential Apartment & Condo Owners/Managers**

The Council will seek replacement from the applicable nominating organizations. [Stroud]

**3.4. Policy Items for Discussion**

The working group was tasked with creating communication strategies and tools to raise awareness of the principles of the Barrier Free provisions and the design guide and to report back to the Sub-Council. [Francon / Morton / Lennox / Douglas-Blowers]

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The Administrator of Certification will check into whether this is just a minor correction that would not require approval by the Board. [Paradis]

**3.8. Report of the Chief Building Administrator on visual signal requirements in 'suites of care'**

Lee Ramsdell was asked to look into other best practices for future consideration and to report back to the sub-council. [Ramsdell]

**-- MOTIONS --**

**1.1. Agenda Adoption**

**Tracy Douglas-Blowers / Michael Francon moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED**

**1.2.1. Adoption of Meeting Minutes**

**Michael Francon / Yvette Werenka moved that the minutes of the February 15, 2017 be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED**

**4.4. Meeting Adjournment**

**Bob Coyne / Brianna Strachan moved that the meeting be adjourned; CARRIED**