
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 4, 2007
File No.: 0540-20
To: City Manager
From: Community Planning Manager
Subject: **Accessibility Measures for Hotels and Motels – Report from the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the recommendation from the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities to bring forward a Report to Council to establish a Council Policy to deal with new hotel/motels being built in the City, made at its January 2, 2007 meeting, be received;

AND THAT staff be instructed to bring back a report examining the legal, enforcement, and staffing implications of implementing a Council Policy to deal with hotels and motels as recommended by the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities

BACKGROUND:

At its November 7, 2006 meeting, the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities received Mr. Stan Martindale of the Kelowna Hotel/Motel Association by invitation. The Committee is very interested in communicating the needs of the population with disabilities to the hotel/motel industry in order to facilitate traveling and visiting both for tourism in Kelowna and for residents of Kelowna who are traveling. The Committee established a sub-committee to develop recommended design measures for hotels and motels to address multiple forms of disabilities (e.g. vision and hearing loss, mobility impairment). These measures would have to be compared against the BC Building Code to determine which ones are already in the Code. Discussions have occurred regarding the fact that the Code only applies to new construction and has changed several times, most recently in 2006. The Committee members also felt it was important to encourage existing hotels and motels to upgrade so as to incorporate improved accessibility measures. The Committee also invited architect for the new Marriott hotel at the southwest corner of Powick Rd. and Highway 97 to its March 6th, 2007 meeting to discuss design for accessibility. This was a very positive meeting, which led to a tour of the new hotel with Committee members and members of the hotel and motel industry on June 5th, 2007.

At its January 2, 2007 meeting, the Committee recommended that Council pursue the adoption of a Council Policy to introduce recommended design measures to incorporate the needs of those with disabilities in hotels and motels. This would be based on a list of recommended design features provided by Committee members. Legal, enforcement, and staffing implications would need to be investigated in the development of such a policy.

EXISTING POLICY:

Official Community Plan (Chapter 17: Social Environment – Accessibility Policies – Consideration for Future Civic Action:

17.1.5 Existing Problems:

17.1.7 Awareness

Strategic Plan:

Goal 3: Objective 5:

3.5.1

3.5.2

3.5.5

3.5.6

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION:

INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:

LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:

FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Submitted by:

T. Eichler, Community Planning Manager

Approved for Inclusion:



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Cc: Doug Gilchrist, Manager of Community Development & Real Estate
Stephen Fleming, Council Services Supervisor
Sherri Newcomen, Chair, Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities