

UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 2, 2021

TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Chambers via Zoom – Pre-registration Required

CALL TO ORDER

- Welcome and Roundtable of Introductions**
Chair / Committee Members; 7:00-7:10 p.m. (10 minutes)

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

NEW BUSINESS

- Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal Study Results - Presentation**
Ted Uhrich, Project Manager; 7:10-7:35 p.m. (25 minutes)
- Blue Mountain Park Master Plan, Crunch Trail, and Centennial Field Update - Presentation**
Andre Isakov, Park Planning & Design Manager; 7:35-8:00 p.m. (25 minutes)
- Review and Approve 2021 Work Plan**
Canisius Chan, Transportation Planning Manager/Committee; 8:00-8:15 p.m. (15 minutes)
- 2021 Event Planning Discussion / Working Group Updates**
Canisius Chan, Transportation Planning Manager/Working Groups; 8:15-8:30 p.m. (15 minutes)
 - BC Access Awareness Day
 - Biennial Education Event
 - Welcome to Coquitlam
- Transportation, TransLink and Other Departmental Updates (Standing Agenda Item)**
Canisius Chan, Transportation Planning Manager; 8:30-8:40 p.m. (10 minutes)
- UAAC Members' Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues & COVID-19 Updates (Standing Agenda Item)**
Committee Members; 8:40-8:55 p.m. (15 minutes)

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, May 4, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 3, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 7:01 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Trish Mandewo, Chair
Councillor Chris Wilson, Vice Chair
Robert Bottos
Kiyo Breiting
Kimberley England
Curtis Holm
Alex Kwan
Heather Lawson (left at 7:41 p.m.)
Mary Ong, Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network (left at 7:36 p.m.)
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services
Pat Roy, Canadian Council for the Blind – Dogwood Chapter
Matthew Sebastiani

ABSENT: Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society

STAFF: Scott Groves, Director Strategic and Capital Projects
Canisius Chan, Transportation Planning Manager
Andre Isakov, Park Planning and Design Manager
Demian Rueter, Planner 3
James Taylor, Planner 2
Ashland Selby-Brown, Information Clerk

CALL TO ORDER**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 15, 2020

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 were approved.

At the Chair's invitation, each of the Committee members provided a brief verbal report about their current status.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Southwest Housing Review Presentation

The Chair welcomed the Planner 2 to the meeting and he introduced himself and the Planner 3 and made opening remarks regarding the Southwest Housing Review (SWHR) being undertaken by the City. He provided a presentation, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Southwest Housing Review – Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee
- City of Coquitlam Southwest Housing Review
- What is the Southwest Housing Review?
- Area of Study – Southwest Coquitlam
- SWHR: Scope of Work
- SWHR: Objectives
- SWHR – Study Area
- SWHR – Corridors & Nodes
- SWHR – Neighbourhood Pockets
- SWHR – Current NAR / Housing Choices Areas
- SWHR – Current Single-Family Areas
- SWHR: Timeline
- Phase 1 Public Consultation
- Discussion
- Letstalkcoquitlam.ca/swhr

The Committee considered the following focus question:

- What should the SWHR project consider to ensure new housing development and streetscapes are more inclusive for residents of all ages and abilities?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The belief that many longstanding residents in Maillardville cannot afford to live in the neighbourhoods where they grew up
- The efforts the City takes to ensure that housing remains affordable in the area and pedestrian accessibility and safety is maintained
- Whether housing redevelopment would reduce greenspaces or parks in the area
- Whether traffic safety measures could be implemented within community nodes and on arterial streets to ensure pedestrian safety in the area
- Whether the City has any control over what developers build when they redevelop
- The desire for the area to include more options for multi-family residential housing, including below-market and non-market
- The desire for the City to improve bus shelters, walking spaces, and accessible pedestrian navigation in the areas proximal to Austin Avenue and Marmont Street
- The desire that new developments being considered near major arterial routes limit parking so that residents are encouraged to use public and rapid transit
- The City's Housing Affordability Strategy (HAS) and the ongoing work being undertaken to increase below-market and non-market residential housing in the city
- Details of the Citywide parking review currently underway by Transportation staff, including recent changes to multi-family residential rates approved by Council
- Belief in the importance of installing night lighting and accessible seating in the area and the desire for both to be increased as redevelopment proceeds

- How the City will manage transitions between residential areas where residents do not support change and areas where greater residential densification is desired
- Information regarding the public consultation being undertaken by the City

The Planner 3 encouraged the Committee to visit the Southwest Housing Review website to provide further input.

3. Universal Accessibility Washroom Project / Chilko Washroom Project

The Director Strategic and Capital Projects introduced himself and gave opening remarks regarding the Mundy Park Washroom project being undertaken by the City at the Chilko Road park entrance. He provided a presentation, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- City of Coquitlam – Mundy Park Washroom
- Mundy Park
- Mundy Park Washroom – Site Context Plan
- Mundy Park Washroom – Site Plan
- Mundy Park Washroom – Washroom Renders
- Mundy Park Washroom – Washroom Elevations
- Mundy Park Washroom – Washroom Floor Plan
- Thank You

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The understanding that the project would bring a much needed, universally accessible washroom to the area
- Information regarding the automatic actuators that would operate the washroom doors, and that manual egress would be required in the event of a power outage
- The planned sewage system (sealed tanks) for the washroom and confirmation that it would not impact the stream proximal to the washroom building
- The relatively remote location of the washroom building and whether a rudimentary alarm could signal if there was an electrical or mechanical issue on site
- The budget allocated for the washroom project
- Whether a similar washroom building could be constructed on site at the Hickey Street Reservoir Park proximal to the tennis courts, and the understanding that the area was under review and upgrades could occur in the future
- The number of washroom upgrades completed in City parks over the past year
- Whether it was possible to locate accessible parking stalls closer to the Mundy Park washroom building and information about the parking space allotted for the sewage pumper truck
- The benefits of the universally tactile icons proposed for the washroom building
- Concern that it could be difficult for a wheelchair-bound or other physically challenged user to manually operate the washroom door in the event of a power outage, and whether the City could consider doors that open more easily
- The pros and cons of electric versus manual operation of the washroom doors
- Whether the City could consider installing a solar or other battery backup to electrically open the washroom doors in the event of a power outage
- Whether lighting in the area surrounding the new washroom building would be improved

In response to a question from the Chair, the Director Strategic and Capital Projects encouraged the members to email any additional feedback to the Committee Clerk.

4. Cottonwood Park and Sheffield Park Concept Design

The Park Planning and Design Manager introduced himself and gave opening remarks regarding the Cottonwood Park and Sheffield Park concept designs being undertaken by the City. He provided the first of two presentations, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- City of Coquitlam – Cottonwood Park Phase 1B and 1C Design
- Cottonwood Park Phase 1C
- Cottonwood Park Phase 1 Design
- Cottonwood Park Phase 1B Design
- Cottonwood Park Phase 1B Design: Activity Hub
- Next Steps
- Thank You

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Details of the amenities proposed for the park, i.e. the dual-purpose nature of the softball diamond and the soccer field, and the material used to construct the ping pong tables
- The observation that the bench seating in Town Centre Park is often full and whether the City could increase the amount of seating proposed for Cottonwood Park
- How many washroom facilities were available in the Park
- The observation that washroom facilities and seating can greatly improve quality of life for seniors and others who regularly experience accessibility challenges
- Appreciation for the myriad of amenities being proposed for the Park

The Park Planning and Design Manager undertook to report back to the Committee by email regarding washroom facilities in Cottonwood Park.

The Park Planning and Design Manager provided the second presentation, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- City of Coquitlam – Sheffield Park Concept Design
- Sheffield Park
- Planning Process
- Play + Exercise / Gathering + Comfort
- Sheffield Park – Concept Plan
- Next Steps
- Sheffield Park – Concept Sections

Discussion ensued relative to the general steepness of slopes in the neighbourhood. The Park Planning and Design Manager noted that the pathways proposed for the Park would be at five percent grade or less.

5. 2021 Preliminary Event Planning Updates

The Chair invited each of the Working Groups to share their event planning updates.

BC Access Awareness Day Working Group

The Working Group Chair reported that the group had communicated briefly by email to discuss what could be planned for the June 2021 event. He shared that considering the physical distancing protocols that would likely continue into the spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the group had not yet made any decisions.

Biennial Education Event Working Group

A Working Group member reported that the group had met at the end of September. He noted the group's intention to build a framework to guide the event and shared some preliminary event planning ideas, as follows:

- That a virtual event could be held on a weeknight following the BC Access Awareness Day weekend with a general theme such as “Promoting Accessibility in a Post-COVID Era”
- That a panel of 2-3 speakers could be engaged to speak about topics such as employment equity and inclusivity in the workplace, and sports and recreation in Coquitlam
- That the virtual event could be hosted live and recorded for after-the-fact viewing.

UAAC Welcome to Coquitlam Working Group

A Working Group member noted that event planning would continue following confirmation that the membership of the Committee would rollover into 2021, and shared that the group had discussed the possibility of playing a video about blind tennis and the Special Olympics as part of the Committee's plans for the 2021 Welcome to Coquitlam event.

The Transportation Planning Manager provided an update regarding the 2021 Welcome to Coquitlam event, noting the strong possibility that the event would be held virtually.

The Chair noted that the guarantee of a virtual event improved the opportunity for planning. She voiced appreciation for the ongoing event planning efforts of the Working Groups and noted that it was important for planning to continue despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. 2020 Year-end Review / Identify Potential Items for the Draft 2021 Work Plan

At the invitation of the Chair, the Transportation Planning Manager spoke to unprecedented and challenging year experienced by the Committee due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted City staff's appreciation for the valuable input and feedback provided by the Committee throughout the year, including the recent contributions relative to accessible parks facilities.

He proposed two items for inclusion within the draft 2021 UAAC Work Plan, as follows:

- Re-establish 2020 Working Groups in 2021 to continue with event planning in 2021
- Physical barriers and accessibility in Coquitlam – a feedback loop for members to provide information via either a new Sub-committee (to be established) or the Committee's “Accessible Communities Emerging Issues and Updates” Standing Agenda Item.

The Committee was invited to provide feedback regarding the 2020 year and the two work plan items proposed by the staff lead, and to suggest potential items for consideration as part of the draft 2021 Work Plan.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Support for the idea of a new Sub-committee to provide information about physical barriers and accessibility in Coquitlam, including parks facilities and infrastructure projects
- The desire that a discussion be held regarding how to find inclusive ways to engage with people in the accessibility community who are not necessarily able to attend virtual events and meetings
- The desire that an update regarding the feasibility of developing a Citywide Social Equity and Inclusion Policy, as recommended to Council by the Committee in November 2019, be added to the draft 2021 Work Plan
- Appreciation for the accessible digital technologies, including Zoom training sessions, provided by the City at its facilities since the inception of the COVID-19 pandemic

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Chair confirmed that copies of the presentations made during the meeting would be circulated to the Committee by staff.

7. Accessible Communities Emerging Issues and Updates (Standing Agenda Item)

The Chair invited the Committee to share information regarding happenings and events occurring in their communities, and there were none.

The Chair and Vice Chair thanked the Committee and staff for their engagement and hard work during the past year. The Vice Chair encouraged the Committee members to continue to bring accessibility issues to the Committee, Council, and staff's attention.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – 2021 (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk

_____ CHAIR

2021 Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Work Plan

Committee Mandate:

The mandate of the Committee is to provide a local and universal accessibility perspective and advice to Council with respect to achieving the City of Coquitlam's strategic goals and accompanying strategic directions toward universal accessibility:

- To continue to make the City more inclusive for existing and future residents with disabilities by addressing the physical, social and attitudinal barriers which impede their full participation in all aspects of City life;
- To provide advice to Council about the development of City policies and programs to educate and inform on matters affecting residents with disabilities and/or physical or mental challenges and universal accessibility;
- To review design plans for civic buildings and public spaces and provide advice to Council to ensure the needs of persons with disabilities are considered with the goal of universal access;
- To provide advice to Council about the development of City policies and programs to ensure the needs of existing and future residents living with disabilities are considered (e.g., transportation, housing, capital programs, leisure and parks services, environment).

WORK PLAN ITEMS:	DEPARTMENT AND/OR PRESENTER(S):	ITEM ORIGINATED FROM:
Review and Approval of the 2021 Work Plan	Chair / E&PW	Staff
Transportation, TransLink and Other Departmental Updates (Standing Agenda Item)	E&PW / TransLink / Various departments	Staff/Committee
UAAC Members' Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues & COVID-19 Updates (Standing Agenda Item)	Committee	Committee
2021 Event Planning – Re-establish Working Groups and provide updates, as needed, for: - BC Access Awareness Day/Canada Day - Biennial Education Event - Welcome to Coquitlam Update	E&PW/Committee E&PW/Committee P&D/Community Planning/Committee	Committee Committee Committee
Community Planning initiatives – Opportunity for Committee input, as needed	P&D/Community Planning	Staff
Parks Planning and Facilities initiatives – Opportunity for Committee input, as needed, including: - Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal Study Results - Blue Mountain Park Master Plan	PRCF	Staff

WORK PLAN ITEMS:	DEPARTMENT AND/OR PRESENTER(S):	ITEM ORIGINATED FROM:
- Crunch Trail - Centennial Field		
Committee Discussion: Identifying gaps and/or inclusive ways to engage with people in the accessibility community who may not be able to attend virtual events/meetings	Committee	Committee
2021 Year-end Review/Identify potential items for the 2022 Work Plan – Committee feedback / input	E&PW (Staff Lead) /Committee	Staff



2021 Meeting Schedule Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee

Meetings are generally scheduled bi-monthly (every two months) on the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

Exceptions are noted with an asterisk (*) below.

Meetings are SCENT FREE.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
March 2, 2021 (Tuesday)	7:00 – 9:00pm	Council Chambers via Zoom
May 4, 2021 (Tuesday)	7:00 – 9:00pm	Council Chambers via Zoom
July 6, 2021 (Tuesday)	7:00 – 9:00pm	Council Chambers via Zoom
No meetings in August		
*September 21, 2021 (Tuesday)	7:00 – 9:00pm	Council Chambers via Zoom
*November 9, 2021 (Tuesday)	7:00 – 9:00pm	Council Chambers via Zoom
No meetings in December		

Notes:

*Scheduled to avoid conflict with September 7th Council meetings, the UBCM to be held the week of September 13th – 17th, and dual Council meetings the week of November 1st.

Meeting dates are subject to change.