

UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Please note that this meeting is scent free

DATE: Tuesday, September 5, 2023

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

PLACE: Council Committee Room, Coquitlam City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. **Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 be approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. **Accessible British Columbia Act Update and Next Steps (Presentation by the Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)**
7:05 – 7:25 p.m. (20 minutes)
3. **Accessible Housing in Coquitlam (Presentation by the Planner 2)**
7:25 – 7:55 p.m. (30 minutes)
4. **Northeast Community Centre (Presentation by the Manager Facility and Parks Planning)**
7:55 – 8:20 p.m. (25 minutes)
5. **UAAC Working Group Updates (Discussion Led by the Transportation Planning Specialist)**
8:20 – 8:35 p.m. (15 minutes)
 - 2023 Canada Day – Event Debrief
 - 2023 Biennial Education Event
 - 2023 Welcome to Coquitlam
6. **Transportation and Other Department Updates – Standing Agenda Item (Presentation by the Transportation Planning Manager)**
8:35 – 8:50 p.m. (15 minutes)

Agenda – Regular Committee Meeting
Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 5, 2023

7. Committee Members’ Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues (Standing Agenda Item)

8:50 – 9:00 p.m. (10 minutes)

** Opportunity for Committee members to share emerging universal accessibility issues/updates from their communities*

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, November 7, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Teri Towner, Chair
Julianne Cressman, Citizen Representative
Paul Jarvie, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:07 p.m.)
Alex Kwan, Citizen Representative
Heather Lawson, Citizen Representative
Benjamin Perry, Citizen Representative
Georgette Reyes, Citizen Representative
Pat Roy, Canadian Council of the Blind BC-Yukon Division
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services (arrived at 7:03 p.m.)
Susan Williamson, Tri-Cities Seniors' Action Society

REGRETS: Councillor Matt Djonlic, Vice Chair
Dana Ebtakar, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Jennifer Keefe, Director Community Recreation and Culture Services
Graham Stuart, Director Corporate Planning
Manisha Dutta, Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Jim Lacroix, Community Recreation Manager
Thomas Thivener, Transportation Planning Manager
Mark Thompson, Project Manager – Corporate Planning
Glen Chua, Transportation Planning Specialist
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair provided an Indigenous territorial land acknowledgment.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Updates – Including Accessibility Initiatives for Older Adult Population (50+)

The Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion provided the Committee with an on-screen presentation entitled “Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at the City” that covered the following topics:

- Background information on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
- The City’s 2023 EDI Work Plan items including key themes and goals
- Accessibility and diversity in Coquitlam
- Public engagement opportunities, surveys and meetings with formal advisory committees
- Bridging gaps and breaking down barriers
- Providing safe and welcoming civic spaces
- Collaboration and partnerships with community organizations
- The City’s Recruitment and Retention EDI Action Plan 2023 – 2026
- The future of EDI in Coquitlam

Ross Renaud arrived to the meeting at this time (7:03 p.m.).

Paul Jarvie arrived to the meeting at this time (7:07 p.m.).

The Director Community Recreation and Culture Services and the Community Recreation Manager provided an on-screen presentation entitled “Accessibility Initiatives for Older Adults” that covered the following topics:

- The City’s Seniors Services Strategy 2018 – 2028
- The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association Grant Project
- Accessibility improvements in recreational facilities such as Poirier Sport and Leisure Complex (PSLC) and City Centre Aquatic Complex (CCAC)
- The City’s new AccessAbility Resource Guide
- Initiatives and supports for newcomers
- The City’s Seniors Week being held from June 4 to 10, 2023
- The City’s Meaningful Meals for Seniors Program (MMSP)
- The City’s financial supports for older residents such as the Financial Assistance for Recreation (FAR) Program and free tax clinics at Dogwood Pavilion and Glen Pine Pavilion

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Referrals process and access to referral forms for the MMSP
- The MMSP’s costs and meal options
- The desire to see physical disabilities, particularly involving sports and recreation, included in EDI initiatives
- The extent of the City’s partnerships with Canucks Autism Network (CAN) and Special Olympics British Columbia (SOBC)
- Opportunities to highlight programs
- Support for the Pride flag being flown at City Hall
- Timeframe for developing an accessibility plan and the possibility of public consultation
- Provincial legislation regarding the development and implementation of an accessibility plan

- Rick Hansen Foundation grants and whether the Foundation certifies facilities in terms of accessibility
- Accessibility renovations and support programs at Dogwood Pavilion
- The possibility of a more structured brochure for seniors programs at Dogwood Pavilion
- Accessibility options and considerations regarding the online Ipsos Community Satisfaction Survey
- The City's contact person for accessibility issues and concerns
- The possibility of the Committee having its own email address to receive feedback from residents with accessibility concerns

3. **2024 – 2027 Strategic Renewal: Opportunity for Input**

The Director Corporate Planning and the Project Manager – Corporate Planning provided the Committee with an on-screen presentation entitled “2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan Renewal” that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the City's Strategic Plan (hereon “the Plan”)
- Key objectives, timeline and engagement opportunities for the Plan's renewal process
- Synergy between the Plan and other City corporate plans
- The Plan's core components and components that will be updated in 2024 and 2028
- Key themes identified by the annual Business Plan and online Ipsos Community Satisfaction Survey
- How the Committee's feedback will be reported to Council and used to develop actionable items

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- In regards to the *Safe and Complete Neighbourhoods* theme, including accessible programs for youth, street lighting at night, variety of transportation options, ample sidewalk space, affordable housing, different housing choices beyond single family homes, engagement with isolated seniors, accessible amenities and services, gender-neutral bathrooms, specific protections for women such as buddy-systems for walking at night, and easily accessible mental health supports
- In regards to the *Local Economy and Local Jobs* theme, including entry level and well-paying jobs, accessible employment for people with disabilities, job opportunities for seniors, collaboration with post-secondary institutions, protection of employment spaces such as commercial and industrial lands, internship employment for youth, outreach programs, strategic use of volunteers, mentorship opportunities, employment incentives through EDI lens, mixed-use neighbourhoods, and smaller pockets of community services
- In regards to the *Healthy Community and Active Citizens* theme, including affordable groceries, promoting farmers' markets, accessible community gardens and grants for neighbourhood barbeques, diversity of park locations, physical accessibility in parks and sports fields, incorporating climate adaptation measures into community designs, vibrant arts and culture community, additional events for youth ages 15 to 30 and additional library space, and providing alternative transportation options
- In regards to the *Sustainable Services, Environment and Infrastructure* theme, including climate adaptation measures and options, stipulations in Zoning Bylaws related to the environment, accessibility requirements for housing and community amenities tied to development, and urban forest management

- In regards to the *Excellence in City Governance* theme, including listening to diverse community groups and individuals, providing an accessible contact person for information, consolidating accessible City program information, and adapting to change
- Whether the online Strategic Plan Survey is offered in other languages and how long it takes to complete

4. UAAC Working Group Updates

The Transportation Planning Specialist led a brief discussion on the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee (UAAC) Working Group updates.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The Accessibility Week Community Resource Event (“Access Awareness Day”) held on June 1, 2023 at Maillardville Community Centre, including public feedback regarding accessibility issues in Coquitlam and community organization representation
- Feedback regarding event timing during a workday and the desire for more advance advertising in the future
- Details of the upcoming 2023 Canada Day Event on July 1, 2023 at Town Centre Park, including the Committee’s booth, information materials and engagement activities
- The necessity of forming working groups for the 2023 Biennial Education Event and the 2023 Welcome to Coquitlam Event
- The extent of previous sub-committee work for the 2023 Biennial Education Event

The Committee formed the 2023 Biennial Education Event Working Group and the following members offered to serve: Julianne Cressman; Alex Kwan; Heather Lawson; Georgette Reyes and Pete Stone.

The Committee formed the 2023 Welcome to Coquitlam Event Working Group and the following members offered to serve: Julianne Cressman; Paul Jarvie; Benjamin Perry and Susan Williamson.

5. Transportation and Other Department Updates

The Transportation Planning Manager provided the Committee with an on-screen presentation entitled “Transportation, TransLink and Other Department Updates” that covered the following topics:

- Details of the City’s Strategic Transportation Plan (STP)
- The STP’s key vision and goals
- Frequency of STP updates
- Timeline of the current STP renewal process
- STP public engagement phases and input opportunities
- Details of the recently launched BC Electric Bike Rebate Program
- Electric bike rebate programs in other jurisdictions

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Public response and feedback to the E-scooter Pilot Program at recent events
- Concern about the lack of markings on mixed-use pathways (MUPs) in City Centre
- Confusion around location of MUPs in Coquitlam
- The challenge of increasing pedestrian traffic and comfort on narrow pathways
- Measures to prevent improper storage and misuse of e-scooters
- E-scooter use in other jurisdictions
- Timeline and operators for the E-Scooter Pilot Program

6. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues & COVID-19 Updates

The Chair invited Committee members to share information regarding events occurring in the community. The following information was shared:

- The upcoming Special Olympics World Games being held from June 17 to 25, 2023 in Berlin, Germany
- School District No. 43 (SD43) preparing a universal accessibility plan by September 1, 2023
- A recently opened thrift store, Thrift and Fund, in Burquitlam sponsored by the Low Entropy Foundation

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, September 5, 2023

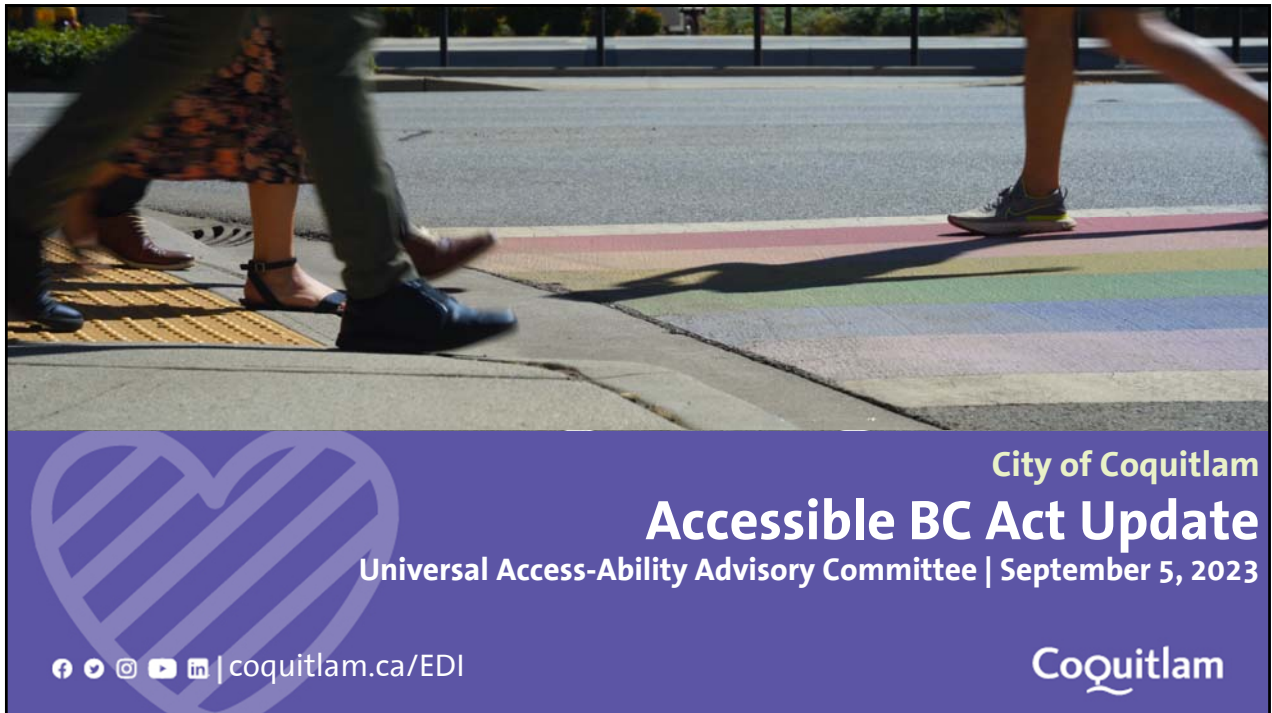
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Teri Towner, Chair

Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk



Agenda

- Provide the UAAC an update on the *Accessible BC Act* and the actions for 2023
- Outline the exciting opportunity to formalize the City's existing and future work through creation of an Accessibility Plan

Removing Barriers to Accessibility

21% of BC residents over age of 15 live with a disability

70% of people with disabilities report more than one disability

42% of BC residents over the age of 65 live with a disability

We all have a connection to accessibility



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Background

- ABC Act presents requirements to:
 - Create an accessibility committee;
 - Create an accessibility plan;
 - Create a feedback mechanism on this plan.
- Municipalities are now prescribed organizations
- No singular approach
- Coquitlam is well positioned for 2023 and beyond



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Actions for 2023



- Continue to use and engage with the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee as the designated accessibility committee
- Continue to promote City's accessibility programs and resources
- Manager EDI to coordinate key staff on this wide-ranging, cross-department work

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Actions for 2023 (Continued)



- New accessibility webpage with feedback mechanism
 - Coquitlam.ca/EnhancingAccessibility
- Continue to highlight City work and actions across the organization that focus on enhancing accessibility
- Build awareness/education around spectrum of disability inclusion efforts

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Positive Community Impacts

- Advancing EDI principles by initiating the City's first ever Accessibility Plan with a focus on:
 - Inclusion
 - Adaptability
 - Diversity
 - Collaboration
 - And more
- Continuing to prioritize accessibility in service of our diverse and growing community
- Opportunity to initiate/formalize key work such as inclusive hiring supports for persons with disabilities (visible and invisible)



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Next Steps



- Bring forward a scope and process report to Council in T1 2024
- Gain direction on developing the City's first-ever Accessibility Plan
- Come back to UAAC with update on timeline and proposed actions

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Thank you!

Manisha Dutta
Manager Equity, Diversity, Inclusion | Corporate Services

mdutta@coquitlam.ca


coquitlam.ca/EDI

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