

UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 7:01 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Bonita Zarrillo, Chair
Councillor Steve Kim, Vice Chair
Robert Bottos
Kiyo Breiting
Heather Lawson
Mary Ong, Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services
Georgette Reyes
Matthew Sebastiani
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society
Husain Vahanvaty

REGRETS: Alex Kwan
Iris Thompson, Canadian Council for the Blind – BC-Yukon Division

STAFF: Canisius Chan, Transportation Planning Manager
Andre Isakov, Park Planning and Design Manager
Ted Uhrich, Project Manager
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome and Roundtable of Introductions

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and the Committee members and staff participated in a roundtable of introductions.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

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

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal Study Results - Presentation

The Chair welcomed the Project Manager to the meeting and he introduced himself and provided a presentation regarding the results of the Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal Study, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- What's Possible for Spani Pool?
- Presentation Outline
- Background
- Process
- Scope
- Inclusivity
- Accessibility
- Preliminary Concepts and Phasing
- Questions and Feedback

In response to a question from the Chair, the Project Manager noted that staff would bring the detailed pool design back to the Committee for comment at a later date, and invited the Committee to provide feedback regarding potential gaps in the broader amenities presented.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- That the pool is one of two outdoor pools in the community available to adults
- A recap of the feedback provided by the Committee in 2020
- Appreciation for how the original pool design had been incorporated into the new pool design
- Appreciation for the accessibility features of the pool as presented
- Confirmation that, in future, the washroom facilities located in the southwest corner would be available to the community year-round, i.e. when the pool was closed
- That the capacity of the pool could double upon completion of the renewal
- The pleasurable benefits of accessing an outdoor pool in the summertime

4. Blue Mountain Park Master Plan, Crunch Trail, and Centennial Field Update - Presentation

The Park Planning and Design Manager introduced himself and provided three park planning project updates, referring to on-screen maps and architectural renderings titled as follows:

- Blue Mountain Park Context Area
- Coquitlam Crunch Phase 3 Extension
- Centennial Synthetic Turf Field

The Chair and the Park Planning and Design Manager noted that the Blue Mountain Park Master Plan process was in its early stages.

A Committee member noted the history of scouting in Coquitlam and shared his understanding that the Scout Hall at Blue Mountain Park was nearing its end-of-life. He expressed the hope that it would be rebuilt a remain within the park because of its onsite history and the many benefits it could afford children and youth in the community.

The Park Planning and Design Manager spoke to the condition of the Scout Hall and noted that future discussions could be held with Council and the community regarding the possibility of constructing a multi-purpose building in the park, i.e. one that could encompass a washroom, change rooms, and community space.

The Chair invited the Committee members to consider factors of social inclusion and the desire to reduce barriers prior to providing input regarding the Coquitlam Crunch update.

Discussion regarding the Coquitlam Crunch update ensued relative to the following:

- The desire that the Crunch trail be carried further south and connected with the trail networks of the Fraser River and Colony Farm
- Whether the Crunch could include switchbacks versus stairs in order to improve accessibility for people unable to navigate stairs
- That switchbacks could be considered and were dependent to some degree upon the trail grade steepness and the setbacks from electrical towers required by BC Hydro
- Whether the City could consider including interpretive plaques along the Crunch to describe key features and/or some of Coquitlam's history
- Appreciation for the City's Phase 3 project planning, as presented
- The desire that the City consider adding an additional washroom along the route
- The online survey regarding Phase 3 and whether it would reveal similarities or differences between the users of the northern and southern sections of the trail
- Whether the City could consider installing benches (seating) and railings for the visually impaired along the trail
- That there could be challenges with installing metal railings in a BC Hydro corridor
- Whether there would be parking available at both ends of the trail
- The community's excitement and passion for the project
- That the online survey at letstalkcoquitlam.ca would be available until March 21, 2021

Discussion regarding Centennial Synthetic Turf Field update ensued relative to the following:

- That the field was being provided to the community through a partnership between School District 43, Centennial High School, and the City
- The understanding that the field would be for school use during school hours and community use during non-school hours
- That the accessible washrooms on-site would be available to the community when the field was closed

5. Review and Approve 2021 Work Plan

The Chair provided opening remarks, noting her belief that the experiences of the pandemic had highlighted the inequities that exist in society and 2021 could be a pivotal year for the Committee in terms of its work relative to universal accessibility, inclusion, and equity. She spoke to her desire that the Committee's discussions be robust relative to breaking down barriers for people in their work and personal lives, and for those individuals that they assist.

The Transportation Planning Manager provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Review and Approve 2021 Work Plan
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

- 2021 Work Plan

He highlighted how the City's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan spanned the City's strategic goals and shared that the City had undertaken a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiative within its Business Plan as an 'A' Priority. He noted that:

- The DEI initiative was in the early stages of development
- That it had been informed, in part, by the work undertaken by the 2019 Committee and its recommendation to Council regarding the potential development of a City-wide social equity and inclusion policy
- That staff could be presenting the initiative to the City's advisory committees for input during 2022

The Transportation Planning Manager reviewed each of the items included in the draft 2021 Work Plan, as attached to the meeting agenda package.

The Chair invited feedback from the Committee.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation for the social equity and inclusion work undertaken by the previous Committee and the status of the recommendation made to Council in that regard
- Support for the inclusion of the DEI initiative on the City's 2021 Business Plan
- That the Committee hoped to be involved in the initiative's development

In response to questions from the Committee and the Chair, the Transportation Planning Manager undertook to report back regarding the status of the recommendation made by the 2019 Committee.

Relative to the DEI initiative, the Vice Chair spoke to the priority, framework, and resources assigned by the City, and noted that a fulsome review would be undertaken. He further spoke to the advisory role that the Committee would continue to provide, going forward, as part of the initiative's development.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- Whether the DEI initiative would be added to the 2021 UAAC Work Plan
- Whether departmental staff would make a presentation to the Committee regarding the initiative in 2021
- Whether a new Sub-committee regarding physical barriers would be struck

In response to a question from the Chair, the Transportation Planning Manager noted that, as part of the draft work planning process, there had been some discussion regarding the possibility of establishing a physical barriers sub-committee. He noted that the Committee could opt to hold a further discussion on that topic, or its members could continue to raise issues of concern with staff via the roundtable standing agenda item titled "Accessible Communities Emerging Issues and Updates".

In response to a question from the Chair, the Committee did not express interest in establishing a sub-committee to research ideas regarding the standardized review, such as a checklist, of physical barriers relative to parks and infrastructure projects.

The Chair noted her expectation that as the DEI initiative had only recently formally been embarked upon by the City, staff would likely make a presentation to the Committee later in the year at the earliest.

The Chair spoke to her desire that issues relative to physical accessibility, as part of the mandate of the Committee, continue to be addressed, including any new barriers that had been brought to light in the community as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Committee approved the 2021 UAAC Work Plan, and a copy is attached hereto.

The Committee recommended:

**COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the 2021 Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Work Plan.

6. 2021 Event Planning Discussion / Working Group Updates

The Transportation Planning Manager referred to an on-screen slide titled “2021 Event Planning” and noted the following:

- That due to the strong preference to host Welcome to Coquitlam as an in-person event, it would be further deferred to the spring of 2022
- That during National AccessAbility Week, May 31 – June 4, 2021, and in celebration of BC Access Awareness Day, the City planned to prominently feature initiatives that support accessibility in the community and the Committee could provide input, if it so desired
- That a Virtual Engagement Facilitator’s Guide produced by the City would be circulated to the Committee by email as it could be helpful for event planning
- That, similar to 2020, a virtual Canada Day event would be held in 2021, and the Committee was invited to provide short accessibility-related video clips for that virtual event

In response to the question from the Chair, the Committee expressed support for the City’s plan to feature accessibility initiatives on its website and confirmed that it did not wish to conduct a separate, virtual BC Access Awareness Day event. The Chair encouraged the Committee to share accessibility links, resources, and activities with staff prior to BC Access Awareness Day so that items of interest could be highlighted on the City’s website.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether a generic video regarding Welcome to Coquitlam, including the resources typically shared as part of the event, could be permanently posted on the City's website
- The belief that such a video could improve accessibility to information typically provided during the event, especially for newcomers and other residents that suffer from agoraphobia or other conditions that create barriers relative to social exclusion
- Confirmation that a Biennial Education Event Working Group had been established in 2020 to undertake brainstorming and propose event planning options
- That the Biennial Education Event was typically held every 2 years, however, it was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic

The Committee agreed that the Biennial Education Event Working Group be re-established for 2021 and the following members volunteered to serve: Rob Bottos, Heather Lawson, Matthew Sebastiani, Pete Stone, and Husain Vahanvaty.

The members of the 2020 Biennial Education Event Working Group provided a recap of their previous event planning ideas and suggestions, as follows:

- That the City host a virtual 2021 event via Zoom and record it so that it could be posted online and available for post-event viewing
- That the event be held on a weeknight in June following BC Access Awareness Day
- That guest speakers be invited to address topics relevant to the accessibility community, such as mental health, employment equity, and accessible sports and recreation
- That the Committee consider "Promoting accessibility in a post-COVID-19 era" as a possible event theme

In response to a question from the Chair, the Transportation Planning Manager undertook to liaise with City staff to determine the feasibility of the proposed June 2021 event timeline.

The Transportation Planning Manager directed the Committee to a resource produced by Corporate Communications titled "Virtual Engagement Facilitator's Guide" and spoke to some of the topics addressed within the Guide, including what portions of City-hosted Zoom meetings can and cannot be recorded. The Committee Clerk undertook to circulate the Guide to the Committee via email following the meeting.

The Chair spoke to her support for a virtual 2021 Biennial Education Event and asked that the Working Group, as it continued its event research and brainstorming, liaise with the Transportation Planning Manager so that he could share information regarding staff's capacity to provide event assistance and confirm the operational parameters of a virtual event.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- The Working Group's desire to brainstorm a potential list of speakers for the event and whether the Committee could provide suggestions
- Whether the Committee thought that there would be enough time to book speakers, should the proposed virtual June event go ahead
- The belief that timing could be tight for booking speakers for a June event
- The suggestion that the Committee members could submit their speaker suggestions to the Working Group by email
- Support for the idea that a generic Welcome to Coquitlam video be produced and posted on the City's website
- The desire that, should such a video be produced, it include information regarding accessibility, including sports and recreation programming in Coquitlam (blind tennis), and a link to the video be posted on the City's UAAC and Accessibility webpages
- The understanding that the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee (MAC) had made a similar suggestion and the MAC staff leads had noted their intention to liaise with Corporate Communications regarding the idea

In response to a question from the Vice Chair, the Transportation Planning Manager spoke to his understanding of the production levels, content, and standards and guidelines of the videos planned for the City's Canada Day and Welcome to Coquitlam events.

The Transportation Planning Manager undertook to liaise with City staff and report back regarding whether a Welcome to Coquitlam video would be produced and, if so, whether the Committee could have an opportunity to provide accessibility content.

The Chair requested that the Working Group and the staff lead be prepared to present further event planning information to the Committee for discussion during the next meeting.

7. Transportation, TransLink and Other Departmental Updates (Standing Agenda Item)

The Transportation Planning Manager provided the Committee with an update, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Transportation, TransLink, Other Departments Update – March 2, 2021
- COVID-19 Mobility Trends
- Automated Data Collection
- Safety Presentation

The Chair noted that the mobility trends provided in the presentation were alarming.

8. 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, including as related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the following information was shared:

- Information regarding a University of British Columbia article titled "8 tips to

- communicate better while wearing a face mask”
- The isolation challenges that blind and visually impaired people are experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic, including how to go about helping them to join virtual meeting platforms
- Appreciation for the City’s information billboards in the community and the belief that residents find them eye-catching and informative

The Committee Clerk undertook to share resource links with the Committee via email following the meeting.

The Chair undertook to liaise with staff regarding the social isolation that visually impaired people are experiencing during the pandemic, to determine whether staff could have any helpful suggestions relative to accessibility to the City’s virtual public meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS

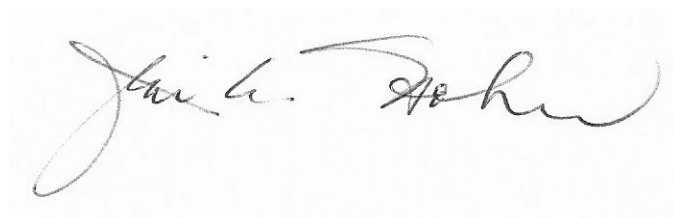
NEXT MEETING DATE – July 6, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk

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