

**UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Matt Djonlic, Chair  
Councillor Teri Towner, Vice Chair  
Julianne Cressman, Citizen Representative  
Dana Ebtekar, Citizen Representative  
Paul Jarvie, Citizen Representative  
Alex Kwan, Citizen Representative  
Heather Lawson, Citizen Representative  
Benjamin Perry, Citizen Representative  
Georgette Reyes, Citizen Representative  
Kiyo Breiting, Canadian Council of the Blind BC-Yukon Division  
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society  
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services  
Susan Williamson, Tri-Cities Seniors’ Action Society

STAFF: Manisha Dutta, Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion  
Doron Fishman, Park Planning and Design Manager  
Thomas Thivener, Transportation Planning Manager  
Leila Todd, Senior Project Manager  
Jennifer Urbaniak, Community Services Coordinator  
Kate Brown, Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist  
Rachel Cormack, Coordinator – Plans and Policies

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 were approved.

- The remainder of this page intentionally left blank -

**NEW BUSINESS****2. Introduction of Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist**

The Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion introduced the Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist, who provided a brief overview of their role.

**3. UAAC Working Group Updates**

The Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Community Services Coordinator provided introductory comments relative to the following:

- Details regarding the City's AccessAbility Resource Fair to be held on May 26, 2024 (hereon "the Fair"), including potential for guest speakers, Committee and working group recommendations regarding potential guest speaker candidates and potential for honorariums, community group invitation list and feedback regarding potential organizations missing from the list
- 2024 Canada Day event update, including staff desire for potential Committee volunteers at Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Booth to promote the City's Accessibility Plan and Let's Talk Coquitlam webpage

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Committee desire for staff to distribute the Fair's current invitation list for review and feedback
- Potential groups to invite to the Fair and possibility of invitations being extended to regional organizations, not just Coquitlam-based organizations

**4. Accessibility Plan Update**

The Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion provided a presentation entitled "Accessibility Plan Update" that covered the following topics:

- Overview of Coquitlam's Accessibility Plan update (hereon "the Plan"), including applicable legislative requirements, timeline, 2023 action items completed to date, development of a new webpage on the City's website, recent hiring of the new Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist, the Plan becoming a standing item on Committee Agendas going forward and next steps

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Committee appreciation for City efforts to advance the Plan's development

- The remainder of this page intentionally left blank

## 5. Fraser Mills Community Centre and Parks Planning

The Park Planning and Design Manager and Senior Project Manager provided a presentation entitled “Fraser Mills Public Amenities Update” that covered the following topics:

- Overview and update of the City’s Fraser Mills Development Project (hereon “the Project”), including timeline, details of developer agreement with Beedie, proposed park and community centre amenities, synergy with other City strategies and policies, accessibility considerations for proposed community centre and park, desire for Committee feedback and how staff will report community feedback to Council

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The Project’s park, including desire for potential inclusion of shade features and signage, braille on signage, public seating, quiet spaces, public bathrooms, misting features to address extreme heat events during summer months, safety lighting at night and call for help stations, bicycle trails and parking, potential connection to other City parks, whether public transit and RapidBus service will connect the park to nearby SkyTrain stations, potential safety concerns after dusk, the lack of parking being a deterrent and whether park construction will coincide with residential tower development
- The Project’s public engagement opportunities, including methodology in terms of information dissemination methods, timeline and potential for staff to provide the Committee with opportunities for feedback and updates at future meetings

## 6. Transportation and Other Department Updates

The Transportation Planning Manager provided a verbal update relative to the following:

- Update regarding City’s Nelson Street Active Transportation Improvements Project (hereon “the Nelson Project”), including public engagement results and future report to Council
- Update regarding City’s Guildford Greenway Micromobility Project (hereon “the Guildford Project”), including expected construction start and phases, features, safety benefits and awards
- Update regarding City partnership with S.U.C.C.E.S.S. for seniors housing developments at 290 Laval Square and 602 Sydney Avenue, including reading of City’s Community Planning Division response to Committee member inquiry from the February 6, 2024 meeting regarding the developments focusing on provision of adaptable housing instead of accessible housing

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether federal and provincial government funding for seniors housing developments at 290 Laval Square and 602 Sydney Avenue have been approved
- The Guildford Project's proposed alterations at Guildford Way and Pinetree Way to enhance pedestrian safety, including shortening of pedestrian crosswalk distances and modified traffic signal operations for vehicles turning left or right
- The Nelson Project's public engagement results in terms of community participation and resident turnout

## **7. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues**

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging accessibility issues and information regarding events occurring in their communities.

The following information was shared:

- The Fair, including budget and utilization of grant funding, confirmation regarding working group membership, Committee suggestions for potential guest speakers and details regarding potential guest speaker honorariums
- 2024 Canada Day event, including planning process, timeline, Committee desire for volunteers to be informed sooner rather than later and staff efforts to coordinate volunteers
- The City's Biennial Education Event being amalgamated with the Fair and the Committee's historical work and efforts leading to the Event's creation
- Concerns regarding conflicts between residents driving and cycling at driveway crossings along the Lougheed Highway multi-use pathway between Pinetree Way and Westwood Street
- Concern regarding reduced resident access to Coquitlam parks due to lack of parking, specifically during weekends, and possibility of expanding parking options on weekends along with increasing number of parking spots for residents with disabilities
- Whether the City has a procedure/policy for determining number of accessible parking stalls that should be provided at civic facilities and desire to increase number of accessible parking stalls at facilities primarily designed for seniors such as Dogwood Pavilion
- Committee members willing to assist with the Fair and Canada Day on day of events
- Concern regarding fire risk in Coquitlam parks during summer months and whether the City has fire evacuation plans/protocols for Hickey Street Reservoir Park and other parks
- Appreciation for City Transportation Division staff efforts to keep sidewalks clear for pedestrians near construction sites in Coquitlam
- Spani Pool Renewal and whether it will reopen in time for summer 2024

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, June 4, 2024**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

**MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

---

Matt Djonlic, Chair

---

Rachel Cormack,  
Coordinator – Plans and Policies