

**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:**

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Teri Towner, Chair

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Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk