

UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 5, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 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 Teri Towner, Chair
Councillor Matt Djonlic, Vice Chair
Julianne Cressman, Citizen Representative
Dana Ebtakar, Citizen Representative
Paul Jarvie, Citizen Representative
Alex Kwan, Citizen Representative
Benjamin Perry, Citizen Representative
Georgette Reyes, Citizen Representative
Pat Roy, Canadian Council of the Blind BC-Yukon Division
(arrived at 7:03 p.m.)
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services
Susan Williamson, Tri-Cities Seniors' Action Society

REGRETS: Heather Lawson, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Manisha Dutta, Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Ted Uhrich, Manager Parks and Facility Planning
Thomas Thivener, Transportation Planning Manager
Glen Chua, Transportation Planning Specialist
Karen Moola, Planner 2
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, June 6, 2023

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

Pat Roy arrived to the meeting at this time (7:03 p.m.).

NEW BUSINESS

2. Accessible British Columbia Act Update and Next Steps

The Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion provided the Committee with a presentation entitled “City of Coquitlam - Accessible BC Act Update” that covered the following topics:

- Background of *Accessible British Columbia Act* (hereon “the Act”) and its legislative requirements for municipalities
- Statistics regarding BC residents who live with a disability
- The City’s key Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) actions for 2023
- The City’s new accessibility webpage at [Coquitlam.ca/EnhancingAccessibility](https://coquitlam.ca/EnhancingAccessibility)
- The City’s Accessibility Plan, timeline, focus on inclusion, adaptability, diversity and collaboration, positive community impacts and its future

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether Committee members should direct community member feedback regarding accessibility to the new accessibility webpage
- Accessibility barriers that prevent residents from providing feedback
- The Rick Hansen Foundation B.C. Grants Program and whether any City facilities have been given the Foundation’s “Accessibility Certified Gold” designation for being accessible
- Appreciation for the City’s efforts to improve accessibility
- Timeline for prioritizing employment opportunities for individuals with diverse abilities as part of the Accessibility Plan

3. Accessible Housing in Coquitlam

The Planner 2 provided the Committee with a presentation entitled “Accessible Housing in Coquitlam” that covered the following topics:

- Background regarding affordable and accessible housing in Coquitlam
- The City’s Housing Affordability Strategy, including its scope and objectives
- City efforts to encourage development of inclusive and affordable housing, including recently completed and under construction affordable and accessible units
- The necessity for affordable and accessible housing in Coquitlam
- BC Housing’s Housing Registry Waitlist statistics and increase in aging population driving demand for accessible housing
- Definition of market rental, below market rental and non-market rental housing units
- Market forces and their impact on development projects
- Coquitlam’s accessible and adaptable housing requirements, incentives and design standards for developers compared to local municipalities
- The BC Building Code (hereon “the Code”), forthcoming Provincial legislation and its impact on accessible housing requirements
- Universal Design versus Accessible Housing approach
- Opportunities to review City policies, regulations and programs to better support residents with disabilities

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Definition of accessible and adaptable housing
- Universal Design compared to “wheelchair accessible” units
- The size of accessible and adaptable units and concern that unit size is affected by the need for higher density
- Coquitlam’s accessibility standards being based on the Code and whether the City has standards in addition to the Code
- The need for diverse housing units, including family-friendly units
- The desire for the City to track data on the number of new accessible and adaptable rental units in Coquitlam
- General timeline for building new developments and rental units
- The changing landscape regarding affordable housing
- Whether there are additional costs for converting adaptable units into accessible units
- The City’s efforts to house residents who live with intellectual disabilities
- Universal Design being a possible solution to house residents living with a variety of disabilities
- The lack of developer partnerships with disability advocates hindering the creation of new accessible units
- The necessity of lobbying higher levels of government for improvements in accessible housing
- The issue of building accessible units in neighbourhoods with higher costs of living and whether the City coordinates with developers to build units in areas with a lower cost of living

4. Northeast Community Centre

The Manager Parks and Facility Planning provided the Committee with a presentation entitled “Northeast Community Centre Design Staging” that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the Northeast Community Centre (NECC), including design and construction timelines and integration with future Burke Village Park on Burke Mountain
- The NECC’s proposed amenities, including swimming pools, multipurpose rooms, weight room, fitness studio, double gymnasium, community kitchen, library, outdoor activity space and social hubs
- The desire for Committee and community feedback in the NECC’s design process

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The importance of having easily readable signs for visually impaired persons
- The NECC’s parking lot design and access points for residents living with disabilities
- The necessity for accessible youth programs and social gathering spaces in Coquitlam
- The possibility of the City collaborating with youth outreach workers to increase youth participation
- The possibility of the City partnering with School District No. 43 (SD43) to provide swim program opportunities for youth living with intellectual disabilities during school hours
- The desire for additional amenities and features, including accessible exercise equipment in fitness facilities, micromobility device parking, quiet spaces for sensory sensitive individuals, gender-neutral change rooms in aquatic area, use of natural

lighting, dedicated electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and covered outdoor spaces to provide shade during summer months

- The importance of collaborating with TransLink to install bus stops near the NECC
- The Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) program
- Whether there are any guidelines or standards for aquatic areas to consider sensory sensitive individuals

5. UAAC Working Group Updates

The Transportation Planning Specialist provided introductory comments regarding the UAAC Working Groups that covered the following topics:

- 2023 Canada Day event
- Working Group expenses needing to be pre-approved by staff in advance
- Welcome to Coquitlam event not being held this year due to staffing challenges
- Biennial Education Event and potentially holding this event simultaneously with the AccessAbility Week from May 25 to June 1, 2024

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The desire for next year's Canada Day event to include temporary parking passes in addition to all day passes to facilitate pick-up of the UAAC Booth's items
- The lack of shaded spaces at Canada Day event
- Concerns regarding and possible solutions to keep pathways clear and accessible at events with large crowds and measures implemented by other municipalities
- The desire for City events to have longer lead-times and more staff communication regarding approval process for Working Group purchases and planning activities
- The desire for more volunteers at summer events to ensure shifts are shorter on hot days
- Agreement to hold next Biennial Education event during 2024 AccessAbility Week

The Chair, on behalf of the City and Council, thanked the Committee members who volunteered at the 2023 Access Awareness Day and Canada Day events earlier this year.

6. Transportation and Other Department Updates

The Transportation Planning Manager provided the Committee with a presentation entitled "Transportation, TransLink and Other Department Updates" that covered the following topics:

- The City's E-Mobility and E-Scooter Pilot Program (hereon "the Program")
- The Program's operating area map, shared micromobility trip usage data and trip origin data
- Types of shared micromobility parking across City Centre
- Possibility of future collaboration with the City of Port Moody to extend the Program's operational boundaries into their jurisdiction
- Micromobility operators offering discounts for low-income residents
- Tendency for micromobility incidents to occur during first couple of trips, speed limits for micromobility devices, and potential education and trial sessions that the City can offer for the devices

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Concern regarding e-bikes being parked on sidewalks along Lougheed Highway
- Potentially reducing access to certain areas in the City for micromobility devices
- The possibility of micromobility device users employing visual warning signals in addition to an audible bell
- Whether the City is tracking data on accidents between micromobility users and pedestrians
- Possible solutions to prevent unauthorized usage and storage of micromobility devices on private property
- Contact information to report micromobility infractions and concerns (i.e. Coquitlam.ca/E-Scooter)
- The possibility of implementing a strike system for residents who improperly park micromobility devices
- The desire for micromobility operators to advertise their discounts for low-income residents
- Whether private properties can be “geo-fenced” out of the Program so micromobility devices will not function on their property

7. Committee Members’ Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues

The Chair invited the Committee members to share emerging accessibility issues in the community.

There were no comments from the Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, November 7, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Teri Towner, Chair

Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk