

**UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 7, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, November 7, 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
Councillor Matt Djonlic, Vice Chair
Julianne Cressman, Citizen Representative
Dana Ebtekar, Citizen Representative
Paul Jarvie, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:01 p.m.)
Alex Kwan, Citizen Representative
Heather Lawson, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:29 p.m.)
Benjamin Perry, Citizen Representative
Georgette Reyes, Citizen Representative
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services
Elaine de Koning, Tri-Cities Seniors' Action Society

REGRETS: Pat Roy, Canadian Council of the Blind BC-Yukon Division
Susan Williamson, Tri-Cities Seniors' Action Society

STAFF: Manisha Dutta, Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Ryan Voon, Climate and Energy Manager
Thomas Thivener, Transportation Planning Manager
Laura Beattie, Sustainability Programs Specialist
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, September 5, 2023

Paul Jarvie arrived to the meeting at this time (7:01 p.m.).

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Update on Accessibility Initiatives

The Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion provided a presentation entitled “Update on Accessibility Initiatives” that covered the following topics:

- Background and overview of City updates regarding accessibility initiatives
- BC Accessibility Grant overview and updates, including facility upgrades at Dogwood Pavilion, Poirier Sports and Leisure Complex (PSLC) and Town Centre Park Community Centre (TCPCC)
- Positive community impacts of recent accessibility initiatives and upgrades

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Types of automatic doors at Dogwood Pavilion and PSLC and whether these facilities had automatic doors prior to recent upgrades
- The City’s alternative text for external communications and whether it was created in-house or through a third party
- Whether Spani Pool and the Northeast Community Centre (NECC) will be funded by the BC Accessibility Grant
- When and where the City utilizes new BC Sans font

3. Climate Action Plan Engagement

The Climate and Energy Manager and Environmental Sustainability Specialist provided a presentation and engagement exercise entitled “City of Coquitlam Climate Action Plan” that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the City’s Climate Action Plan (CAP)
- Synergy between the City’s CAP and Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP)
- Breakdown of Coquitlam’s carbon pollution, greenhouse gas (GHG) emission sources and emission reduction targets
- CAP priority areas, next steps and desire for Committee feedback

Heather Lawson arrived to the meeting at this time (7:29 p.m.).

- CAP engagement methodology and how feedback will be utilized to create actionable items

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Barriers to *how we build* CAP priority, including high cost of sustainable technology and insufficient financial incentives, renters not having control over building retrofits, strata rules hindering retrofits, limited electrical capacity in buildings, lack of accessible and easy to understand information, lack of education and awareness regarding natural gas health risks, as well as

individual, landlord and business reluctance to invest money in sustainable infrastructure and aging infrastructure

- Motivators for *how we build* CAP priority, including installing heat pumps for comfort, health and safety, maintaining adequate air conditioning on hot summer days, reducing costs to allow increased access to air conditioning for seniors and vulnerable people during extreme heat, leaving behind a better world for future generations, educating next generations on sustainability and leading by example
- Barriers to *how we move* CAP priority, including inconvenience of sustainable transportation modes relative to automobiles, restrictive transit schedules, high cost of electric vehicles (EVs), lack of jobs, entertainment options, cultural activities, community amenities and services within close proximity to home, confusion regarding EV production methods and effect on reducing GHG emissions, lack of accessible active transportation infrastructure, car sharing being inaccessible/restrictive and local terrain inhibiting micromobility usage
- Motivators for *how we move* CAP priority, including spending less money on driving, exploring nature and natural amenities, desire to tackle climate change, being inspired by others leading by example and seeing tangible progress in terms of climate initiatives
- Whether the City is considering other renewable forms of energy besides electricity such as hydrogen fuel cell
- Possible solutions to reduce up-front and usage costs for new low-carbon technologies

4. UAAC Working Group Updates

The Transportation Planning Specialist provided introductory comments regarding the UAAC Working Groups, including the postponement of the Biennial Education Event to next spring.

There were no comments from the Committee.

5. Transportation and Other Department Updates – Standing Agenda Item

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

- Overview of the City’s Guildford Way Greenway Micromobility Project
- Future expansion of protected bike lanes in Coquitlam
- The City’s E-Scooter Pilot Program (hereon “the Program”), including updated trip data and features, education opportunities, next steps, parking options and stations, infrastructure improvements and concerns regarding improper device storage

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Concern regarding potential collisions between cyclists and pedestrians at bus stops along Guildford Way and efforts to mitigate this risk
- Support for signs and markers at bus stops and public education to prevent collisions
- Concern regarding moving and garbage trucks obstructing bike lanes and the desire to levy fines against vehicles in violation of bylaws
- Concern regarding cyclists not slowing down in new multi-use path along Lougheed Highway east of Pinetree Way
- TransLink updating bus stop design guidelines to incorporate accessibility considerations
- Whether there are plans to increase usage etiquette signage along multiuse pathways (MUPs) in the city
- Whether helmets are mandatory for e-bike and e-scooter use and concern regarding the lack of enforcement
- The Program's operators, including response times for complaints of improper device storage and provision of discounts for low-income residents

6. 2023 Year-End Review/Identify Potential Items for the Draft 2024 Work Plan

The Transportation Planning Specialist provided a presentation entitled "UAAC 2023 Year-End Review & 2024 Work Planning" that covered the following topics:

- Review of 2023 Work Plan items and meetings
- 2024 Work Plan drafting process

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Timeline, scope and process for Accessibility Plan adoption in Coquitlam
- Desire for further public consultations regarding the Northeast Community Centre (NECC), more employment initiatives for residents living with disabilities and more engagement regarding redevelopment in Austin Heights and Maillardville with respect to infrastructure, transit and accessibility concerns

7. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues

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

The following information was shared:

- Concern regarding deceased birds along Lougheed Highway and which City department should be contacted
- Desire to provide UAAC information pamphlets to the public
- Austin Works Yard renovations and concerns regarding traffic disruptions near the site

The Chair and Vice Chair expressed appreciation for the Committee's volunteerism throughout 2023 and optimism regarding members returning for 2024 meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD (2024)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Teri Towner, Chair

Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk