

UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 9, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Steve Kim, Chair
Robert Bottos
Kiyo Breiting
Alex Kwan
Heather Lawson
Georgette Reyes
Matthew Sebastiani
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society
Iris Thompson, Canadian Council for the Blind – BC-Yukon Division
Susan Williamson, Tri-Cities Seniors Action Society

ABSENT: Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services

STAFF: Tiina Mack, Manager Recreation and Culture Facilities Planning
Canisius Chan, Transportation Planning Manager
Ted Uhrich, Project Manager
Narita Ico, Research Assistant
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair acknowledged that the City operates on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the kwikwəłəm (Kwikwetlem First Nation).

The Chair welcomed the representatives of the Canadian Council for the Blind (BC-Yukon Division) and the Tri-Cities Seniors Action Society to the meeting and the Committee participated in a roundtable of introductions.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal Presentation

The Project Manager introduced himself and provided a Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal project update and presentation, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal Study
- Presentation Outline
- Context Plan – Mundy Park
- Process
- Program – Outdoor
- Program – Indoor
- Concept Plan – Key Features
- Accessibility
- Rick Hansen Foundation Gold Certification
- Next Steps
- Questions and Comments

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether some shade cover for spectators' seating could be incorporated into the project design
- How large the covered outdoor space would be
- Appreciation for the involvement of the Rick Hansen Foundation in the design process
- Whether the City had engaged other organizations to provide perspectives regarding potential sensory challenges on-site, including features such as tactile braille signage for the visually impaired
- The special sensory features considered as part of the project's scope, including tactile surfaces and accessible signage

In response to a question from the Chair, the Project Manager noted that he would provide an update to the Committee in the spring of 2022, Committee members could find complete project information at Letstalkcoquitlam.ca/spani, and he could be contacted directly with any further comments.

3. Northeast Community Centre Presentation

The Manager Recreation and Culture Facilities Planning introduced herself and the Research Assistant and provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Northeast Community Centre – Recommended Program and Site Fit Concept
- Agenda
- Chronology
- Context
- Engagement Results
- Engagement Survey Results
- Expanded Engagement Results
- Vision
- Guiding Principles
- Site Fit

- Proposed Program and Costs
- Potential Civic Facilities – Not Included in Program
- Financials – Operating Budget Impacts
- Major Recreation and Cultural Facilities Roadmap
- Next Steps
- Questions?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether the City had considered reducing the amount of on-site parking and increasing bike storage and repair amenities at the NECC to encourage and allow the public to use other modes of transportation to travel to/from the facility
- Whether the NECC is on a dedicated transit route and whether TransLink is planning to increase transit service into the NECC area
- Concern about ongoing climate change impacts to Coquitlam residents (i.e. winter sub-zero temperatures and summer heat domes)
- Whether the City's plans for community centres included activating them as public shelters during emergencies and/or unprecedented climate events
- Whether the NECC could have public access dedicated to sensory-friendly days or times of the day to support people who experience sensory challenges
- Whether the facility could include an elevator with an audio system and Gateway Navigation (inclusive, audio-based wayfinding) for the visually impaired and seniors
- That the City would be pursuing Rick Hansen Foundation Gold Certification, similar to that granted for the Spani Pool Renewal
- The steepness of the terrain surrounding the facility and concern regarding whether users would be able to traverse sloped parking lots during inclement weather
- The aquatic component of the NECC and whether best practices from other aquatic facilities, such as the new YMCA Burquitlam, could be implemented
- Support for earlier comments regarding the importance of viable public transportation links that would connect the NECC to the rest of Coquitlam, and the desire to ensure easy public access to the facility for those who do not drive
- Appreciation for the proposed multi-purpose gymnasium and belief in the value of gymnasiums that offer flexible spaces
- Whether the proposed walking track would be inclusive and accessible to everyone, no matter their age, or level of mobility or disability
- Some of the ideas that staff had considered with the architect relative to the walking track
- The possibility of an on-site community (rooftop) garden and community kitchen as part of the new facility's programming

The Manager Recreation and Culture Facilities Planning spoke to the discussion points raised by the Committee members, including the City's community centres providing refuge from exceptional weather events, Transportation staff's ongoing communications with TransLink to ensure transit routes into northeast Coquitlam, and recreational e-bike and mountain biking opportunities and amenities that could evolve in the area surrounding the NECC. She noted that some of the NECC's features would be decided during the detailed design stage, and undertook to take the suggestion regarding a dedicated sensory-friendly space back to the Recreation team for consideration. Relative to the aquatic component, she undertook to present a detailed draft plan of the aquatic centre to the Committee sometime in 2022-2023, once it was ready for input.

The Transportation Planning Manager spoke to upcoming opportunities for the City to collaborate with TransLink, transit funding, and the City's desire that improved transit service into northeast Coquitlam include service to the front door of the NECC by its opening day. The Chair noted that Council and staff continued to advocate to TransLink regarding the importance of increased and active transit routes into northeast Coquitlam.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Manager Recreation and Culture Facilities Planning noted that a survey regarding the NECC would be available on the letstalkcoquitlam.ca website at the end of the month, and encouraged the Committee members to complete the survey and/or to email staff with any further feedback during the month of December.

The Chair spoke to the Temporary Cold Wet Weather Emergency Shelter Program and the Temporary Use Permits (TUPs) approved by Council to allow local churches to assist homeless people in need of shelter from sub-zero temperatures/severe winter weather. He further noted that although the TUP had been approved, thus far, a service provider to manage the Program had not been found. He invited the Committee members to forward any suggestions and/or the names of potential organizations that would be willing to take on managing the Program to staff.

4. 2021 Year-end Review/Identify Potential Items for the 2022 Work Plan

The Transportation Planning Manager reviewed the work plan items undertaken by the Committee during 2021 and shared some potential 2022 Work Plan items, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- 2021 Year-end Review / Potential Items for 2022 Work Plan
- 2021 Work Plan
- Discussion Topic: Inclusive Engagement
- Question #1
- Question #2
- 2022 Work Plan Ideas

The Committee members and the Chair spoke to the success of the 2021 Biennial Education Event, noting that they looked forward to planning and participating in future events.

The Transportation Planning Manager invited the Committee to provide input to the 2021 Work Plan item titled "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".

The Committee considered focus questions, as follows:

- What has the City done well to engage with the public during the pandemic?
- What could be improved?
- How can we best incorporate lessons learned to improve post-pandemic community engagement?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Support for the idea that, going forward and post-pandemic, the City maintain the option for the public to attend meetings and City happenings and events both in-

- person and by Zoom or similar electronic means, i.e. “hybrid model”
- The belief that the pandemic highlighted the City’s and the public’s capacity to use technology to their advantage
 - Support for the City transitioning so quickly to Zoom technology
 - The belief that giving people the option to engage virtually supports accessibility
 - Kudos to the 2021 Biennial Education Event Sub-committee for organizing and exceptional line-up of speakers and a successful and well-received online event
 - The belief that there are many seniors who are not adept at using technology, however, they would like to be given an opportunity to watch events like the Education Event and to somehow better engage with the City
 - Whether, presuming that COVID-19 safety protocols and vaccine card requirements could be met, group screenings of events like the Education Event could be organized for seniors and other interested members of the public at local City facilities
 - Concern that, as helpful as engagement technologies like Zoom can be, attendance at Public Hearings throughout the pandemic may have been negatively impacted by the limited seating available in Council Chambers for in-person attendance
 - Whether statistics were available regarding in-person and Zoom attendance at Public Hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Whether the City could consider using larger venues, like community centres, for Public Hearings to allow greater numbers of the public to attend in-person at one time
 - Belief in the importance of people attending Public Hearings in person, so that Council is able to fully gauge and understand what public speakers are communicating both via spoken word and body language
 - The belief that the City was very good about providing a lot of good, accessible information in the Tri-City News throughout the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Whether language could be a barrier to those with limited English language skills relative to accessing City information via the Tri-City News
 - Appreciation that the City’s public surveys were being provided in different languages and the desire that the Committee and the City brainstorm how to better engage non-English speaking residents
 - The lessons learned during the June 2021 heat dome about the vulnerability of seniors
 - The belief that the number of deaths by seniors in BC during the June 2021 heat dome were the result of accessibility issues
 - The belief that, moving forward, improved and greater modes of communication between the City, local service providers, and seniors need to be instituted
 - Whether the City could establish a registry for vulnerable seniors who would like to be shuttled to emergency centres during unprecedented weather events
 - The challenges experienced by visually impaired people relative to not being able to see on-screen presentations
 - Whether the City planned to gradually expand its open internet hotspots in Coquitlam
 - The belief that the City has done a good job of reaching out to and communicating with residents throughout the pandemic
 - The suggestion that the City leverage its relationships with local service delivery organizations to expand its ability to communicate with harder to reach residents
 - How the City planned to deal with members of the public drinking liquor or carrying open alcoholic beverages within or proximal to Coquitlam parks, and whether an update on how that could impact City infrastructure could be provided
 - The belief that the City should legalize drinking alcohol in parks so that people are not penalized for something that they are already doing

The Canadian Council for the Blind BC/Yukon Division representative spoke regarding the availability of software capable of reading PowerPoint presentations for those who are visually impaired, and undertook to forward that information to staff.

The Transportation Planning Manager undertook to investigate and report back to the Committee regarding whether in-person and remote attendance statistics were available for Public Hearings held during the pandemic, whether group screenings of events like the Education Event could be organized for seniors at City facilities, if an update on how public drinking of alcohol in parks could impact City infrastructure could be provided to the Committee, and if there was a specific plan in place relative to expanding open internet hotspots in the City.

The Transportation Planning Manager spoke to the following:

- The desire to determine how to better address and accommodate language barriers should the City make the decision to continue the “hybrid model” of meetings/events
- Details of the City’s Climate Adaptation Strategic Plan, including the identification of key climate risk factors for the City and building resiliency and human capital to manage unprecedented climate events like heat domes
- Details of the City’s Technology Roadmap and expanding technology services.

The Transportation Planning Manager noted two items for the Committee’s 2022 Work Plan, as follows:

- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) initiative update
- Strategic Transportation Plan (STP) update

(The members suggested some potential items for the Committee’s draft 2022 Work Plan during discussion of Item 6.)

5. 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 – November 9, 2021
- COVID-19 Mobility Trends
- Transportation Initiatives
- Data-driven Decision Making
- Low Barrier Infrastructure
- Equality vs. Equity

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Support for the City utilizing the advanced techniques identified on the last three presentation slides
- That school travel planning is a key pillar of Transportation Demand Management (Community) and would be a component of the City’s Strategic Transportation Plan update
- That local elementary school travel plans need updating and in concert with that, the City is teaming with HUB to deliver some “learn to ride” bicycle courses

6. Accessible Communities Emerging Issues and Updates (Standing Agenda Item)

At this time, the Transportation Planning Manager proposed that the Committee members use the remaining time to identify potential items for the draft 2022 UAAC Work Plan.

The Chair and the Transportation Planning Manager noted their hope that the Committee members had reapplied to serve the Committee in 2022.

The Chair invited the Committee members to share emerging issues, updates, and potential 2022 priorities in a roundtable format.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The status of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) initiative as an “A” priority on the City’s 2021 Business Plan
- The desire to address LGBTQ issues (including the status of transgender washrooms) in the City, whether it could be possible to establish a LGBTQ advisory committee or include LGBTQ community representatives as members of the City’s advisory committees, and whether the Chair could speak to progress or provide an update in that regard
- The desire that meaningful employment for those with disabilities be discussed by the Committee and advanced in the city during 2022
- The desire that the City support and/or participate in housing partnerships for people with disabilities, such as those on the autism-spectrum
- The desire that positive models and ways to address seniors’ isolation be reviewed and implemented by the City, possibly as an update to the 2018-2028 Seniors Services Strategy
- Whether an update regarding the current status of the Seniors Services Strategy could be provided
- The belief that the Hey Neighbour Project (City of Vancouver) provided an excellent example of ways to reduce social isolation, and the suggestion that the City could consider undertaking a similar project to address local social isolation issues
- The desire for Welcome to Coquitlam to be held outdoors in 2022 and for a presentation regarding the event to be provided to the Committee
- The desire for the Committee to be provided with a Hazel-Coy Neighbourhood presentation/update
- Whether the City had plans to consider or implement a dedicated mental health strategy for its residents
- That as the City does not have mental health experts (it is the purview of the Province) it relies on advocating for residents to, and working with, Fraser Health and the Province in that regard
- The suggestion that Committee could have a future discussion about how to engage residents and provide information access points relative to mental health resources
- Whether TransLink staff could be invited to provide an update to the Committee as it had been some years since they had done so
- The desire that traffic changes at the intersection of Pinetree/Lougheed (northwest corner) be addressed to ensure the safety of pedestrians and drivers
- That the City’s Corporate Services department was leading the EDI initiative

The Chair spoke to the annual review undertaken by Council relative to its advisory

committees. He noted that when Council considers the potential establishment of a new advisory committee, such decisions are weighed against the re-establishment of current advisory committees and other types of committees as well. He assured the Committee that LGBTQ issues are a part of such discussions, although he noted that he had no further specific update to share in that regard.

The Transportation Planning Manager and the Chair noted that Planning staff had recently provided Council with an update regarding the Hazel-Coy Neighbourhood Plan. The Transportation Planning Manager further noted his understanding that Planning staff would continue public engagement relative to the Plan into 2022 and would provide an update to the Committee as part of that engagement. The Chair thanked the Committee member for her feedback regarding public concerns about the trees that could be taken down as part of the neighborhood's proposed development, and noted that the concerns would be relayed to the project team.

The Transportation Planning Manager acknowledged the City's awareness of the concerns regarding traffic changes and pedestrian safety at the Pinetree/Lougheed intersection, and noted that work was being undertaken to resolve those concerns.

The Chair thanked the members for their passion, insight, and feedback during the past year.

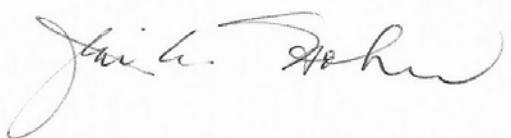
OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, March 1, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk

CHAIR