

UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 3, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 7:03 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Bonita Zarrillo, Chair
Robert Bottos
Kiyo Breiting
Sally Comin
Steve Leung
Natalie Lisik
Sandi Pawar (arrived at 7:07 p.m.)
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services Society
Pat Roy, Canadian Council of the Blind – Dogwood Chapter
Navjot Sanghera (arrived at 7:07 p.m.)
Matthew Sebastiani
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society (Alternate)

REGRETS: Councillor Mae Reid, Vice Chair

STAFF: Canisius Chan, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018

The Committee Clerk noted that Matthew Sebastiani had provided his regrets in advance of the meeting.

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 were approved, as amended.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

2. PRCS' Memo re: 2017 Mental Health Working Group Proposal

The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer referred to the staff memo dated March 22, 2018 and titled "2018 Mental Health and Recreation" as circulated with the agenda package and provided on-table. He noted that, as directed by Council, the memo was prepared in response to the Committee's 2017 Mental Health Working Group Proposal and included

information regarding the mental health initiatives being undertaken by the City.

The Chair noted that for the past number of years the Committee had proposed that its Work Plan include a mental health item, however, Council had some reservations due to the scope of the item and the attendant workload that could occur as a result. She further noted the purpose behind the formation of the Committee's 2017 Mental Health Working Group.

The Chair invited the Committee to provide feedback to the information included in the staff memo. She noted that the staff memo identified some level of activation by the City relative to each of the eight suggestions made in the 2017 Mental Health Working Group Proposal.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

General Feedback

- Expressions of appreciation to staff for the work undertaken to date, the completeness of the memo, the value of the information imparted, and the knowledge gained by the Committee members as a result
- The desire that the words “mental health” and “mental health issues”, as used throughout the Working Group's Proposal, be considered synonymously
- The suggestion that that Committee continue to contemplate ways to build upon the mental health initiatives undertaken by the City to date
- Whether the City could consider conducting and promoting “Can We Talk Day” (January 25th) events and celebrate Mental Health Week as part of its future mental health initiatives
- The suggestion that the City employ universally inclusive standards when considering the ways to interact with people with mental health conditions/illnesses
- The desire that the public be kept apprised of the City's mental health initiatives and the suggestion that the details noted in the staff memo be shared via the City's Accessibility webpage and its social media channels
- Next steps and the desire for ongoing communication/discussions between the Committee and staff relative to mental health initiatives underway in the City

Response to Proposal 3 – Feedback

- Whether the City could offer training for front-line volunteers to better equip them to assist people who display challenging behavior or require medical assistance
- The belief that a course offered by the City's Parks, Recreation and Culture Services department could be more cost effective than other local courses/workshops
- The belief that the idea behind the Working Group's Proposal 3 was to suggest expanding staff's recognition skills in order to build awareness regarding the kinds of behavior displayed by people with mental conditions/illnesses and “invisible disabilities”
- The understanding that members of the RCMP take cognitive behavior training and the belief that it is beneficial to the community
- The pros and cons of naming specific mental conditions (autism) vs. using generic language such as “mental conditions/illnesses” within the feedback
- The diversity of individuals with autism and the challenges associated with identifying a universal response to autism
- The suggestion that staff review *The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*,

2005 (AODA) standards of accessibility and consider incorporating them into a front-line staff training program

- The desire to support staff and whether the Committee should manage its expectations relative to its suggestion regarding front-line staff training
- Whether the autistic community has expressed any desire for assistance from the City

Response to Proposal 7 – Feedback

- The desire to be provided with a copy of the findings/outcomes of staff's municipal scan of programs targeted to people with mental health conditions/illness
- The accessibility of the above-referenced municipal programs

Response to Proposal 8 – Feedback

- The desire for clarification of the “Volunteer Opportunities” section (page 5) of the staff memo, i.e. how partnerships with community service providers are utilized to provide opportunities for people to volunteer
- The suggestion that one of the City's current staff members be designated as the point of contact for all of the mental health issues/initiatives underway in the City

In response to a question from the Chair, the Committee Clerk noted that Council had deferred review of the 2018 Universal Access-Ability Work Plan to the April 9th Regular Council Meeting.

The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer undertook to liaise with the Manager Community, Recreation and Culture Services regarding the Committee's suggestions, and report back at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

3. 2018 Working Groups – Event Planning Updates

The Working Group members provided the details of upcoming Committee events. Discussion ensued relative to the following:

Accessibility Event – June 2, 2018

- A Committee member advised that she had nothing to report at this time.

Education Event: An Evening of Inspiration – May 24, 2018

- The proposed theme of the event relative to the idea of fostering social inclusion
- Confirmation that the event would be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 24th, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m.
- That the youth band “Other Direction”, formed by 15 to 17 year old students of Mediated Learning Academy, will provide the evening's entertainment
- Suggestions regarding the keynote speakers and that the keynote speakers would be confirmed shortly
- Whether a Program could be printed for the event
- The understanding that the Vice Chair would organize catering and possibly table

- centerpieces for the event
- The desire that the event be promoted through the City’s website and social media channels
- The suggestion that the event title could be revised to remove the word “inspiration” and include the word “inclusion”.

Staff noted that the draft promotional materials for the event, including the speakers’ and the band’s details, would need to be provided to Corporate Communications by Friday, April 6th and encouraged the Working Group members to email the necessary information to staff as soon as possible.

The Chair noted that the Committee’s next meeting would occur following the Education Event. She encouraged the members to attend the May 24th Education Event and to share the free event particulars with their personal contacts and networks.

Welcome to Coquitlam – October 3, 2018

- The Chair noted that the details of the Committee’s involvement in the event would be similar to 2017, and encouraged members to mark the date in their calendars.

At this time (8:10 p.m.), the Committee agreed to combine items 4 and 5 under item 4, and omit item 5.

4. Accessibility of City Events Mini Checklist – Update / Transit Accessibility Update

The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer referred to an on-screen slide titled “City Events Mini Checklist”. He noted that the mini (‘Quick’) Event Accessibility Checklist, as prepared in 2017 by the Committee and reviewed by staff, had been uploaded to the City’s Accessibility webpage and he displayed the online link on-screen.

Discussion ensued relative to the Committee’s desire to have both the mini and the regular Event Accessibility Checklists posted on the City’s Accessibility webpage. The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer undertook to ensure that the regular Event Accessibility Checklist would be reposted on the City’s Accessibility webpage.

The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer provided an update regarding transit accessibility in the City, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Transit Accessibility Update
- Agenda
- SkyTrain Station Access Ramps
- Bus Stop Accessibility Improvements
- Bus Stop Accessibility Future Planning
- Universal Fare Gate Access Program
- HandyDART
- Phase 2 Funding Approval
- Funding Sources

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The galvanized railing installed by TransLink around (non-public) access ramps leading to utility room doors at the Douglas Lake/Lafarge Skytrain Station
- The possibility of having TransLink highlight, with paint demarcations, the differentiation in the levels of concrete located outside the second utility room door
- The belief that the rise in concrete outside the second utility room door is a potential safety hazard for pedestrians
- The understanding that TransLink is reviewing its policy relative to the installation of tactile or braille signage at the Coquitlam Centre Bus Loop
- The meaning of the colours on the legend noted on the slide titled “Bus Stop Accessibility Future Planning”
- The understanding that the busiest bus stops in the City have been identified based on bus ridership, and the City is matching those bus stops to station amenities in order to prioritize the work to be completed at bus stops
- That the City is developing a gradient map for Coquitlam’s streets and sidewalks to determine what can be achieved relative to the percentage of accessible bus stops
- The possibility of sharing the details of the Universal Fare Gate Access Program with the public through the City’s social media channels
- The improvements made to the HandyDART service relative to the switch to the new service provider “First Transit”
- The availability of dedicated taxi parking at the transit station closest to Coquitlam Centre and the use of SkyTrain by some local seniors
- The belief that there is a lack of bus stop shelters and benches south of Rochester Avenue and proximal to Lougheed Highway and United Boulevard
- The possible expansion of HandyDART services, the recent infrastructure funding announced by the federal government, and the informal structure for submitting funding applications

The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer noted that there would be an opportunity for the Committee to provide feedback regarding the Universal Fare Gate Access Program, and undertook to provide further information at a future meeting.

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

The Chair noted that the agenda item afforded Committee members an opportunity to share information regarding upcoming events or emerging issues in their communities.

A Committee member expressed concern regarding the number of garbage carts and recycling bins regularly placed on City sidewalks by residents on collection day, noting that they sometimes act as a serious impediment to people travelling along sidewalks.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- How to best educate the public and the collection services providers regarding the appropriate placement of carts and bins curbside
- The City’s use of curbside collection Violation stickers and fine notices
- Safety concerns regarding children on the way to/from school walking into the road to circumvent inappropriately placed carts and bins
- That Committee members and residents are encouraged report violators to the City’s

Bylaw Enforcement unit

- The suggestion that the proper curbside placement of garbage carts and recycling bins be highlighted on the City's garbage and recycling materials and webpages
- The suggestion that residents be reminded of the proper placement of garbage carts and recycling bins via the City's social media channels

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, June 5, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk