

**UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, November 7, 2017**

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 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 Bonita Zarrillo, Chair (arrived at 8:16 p.m.)  
Councillor Mae Reid, Vice Chair  
Kiyō Breiting  
Angelo Lam  
Kevin Lusignan (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)  
Ross Renaud  
Matthew Sebastiani (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)  
Elaine Willis

REGRETS: Sally Comin  
Steve Leung  
Natalie Lisik  
Martin Schikora

ABSENT: Paul Jarvie

STAFF: Carlos Perez, Manager Transportation Planning  
Wai-Sue Louie, Park Planner  
Raj Singh, Park Planner  
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk  
Rachel Cormack, Committee Clerk

Councillor Reid assumed the role of Chair.

## CALL TO ORDER

At this time, the Committee agreed to consider agenda item 3 prior to items 1 and 2.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 3. Update on Park Initiatives

The Chair welcomed Rajinder Singh and Wai-Sue Louie, Park Planners. Mr. Singh provided introductory remarks, noting that he and Ms. Louie would give two separate presentations.

Mr. Singh provided an on-screen presentation, utilizing slides titled as follows:

- Riley Park – UAAC Presentation – November 7, 2017
- Existing and Future Parks in North East Coquitlam

Kevin Lusignan arrived at this time (7:05 p.m.).

- Riley Park (Original Concept) – Rest, Play, Move
- Riley Park (Revised Park Design) – Rest, Play, Move
- Riley Park Development Schedule
- Questions and Feedback – Thank You!

Matthew Sebastiani arrived at this time (7:10 p.m.).

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The location of parking in the Park
- The final design of the Park and the most adequate location for accessible parking
- The grade of the road/trail slopes in the Park
- The location of rest/landing spots in the Park
- That onsite landscaping would not impede sightlines
- That Parks staff are considering the installation of a sensory apparatus onsite, i.e. a vertical musical chime
- The possible installation of signage in the southern part of the Park to ensure the safety of children on wheels, e.g. those riding bicycles
- The importance of the handicapped symbol and the desire for pathway signage to highlight that non-handicapped users yield to handicapped users

Ms. Louie provided an on-screen presentation, utilizing slides titled as follows:

- Cottonwood Park Plan – UAAC Meeting – November 7, 2017
- 2002 Park Improvements – 1.35 Acres
- YMCA Footprint at Burquitlam Park
- 2016 Cottonwood Park Expansion – Programming Priorities
- Cottonwood Park Concept – July 2017
- Cottonwood Park Phase 1A
- Cottonwood Park Phase 1B
- Cottonwood Park Future Phase 2
- Cottonwood Park Future Phase 3
- Master Plan – Sept. 2017
- Park Accessibility – Sept. 2017
- Park Accessibility – Youth Area, Play Area, Water Play
- Questions and Comments

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The belief that the City's acquisition of properties in the area of the Park has allowed its expansion/development and improved accessibility
- The possibility of covering the City tennis courts located in the Park
- Circulation within the park relative to accessibility, youth and water play areas
- The number of permanent parking spots in the Park
- Positive feedback relative to the Park's size the desirability of its green space for local

- residents
- Whether the Park will be fenced
- The location of temporary parking

At this time, the Committee agreed to consider agenda items 1 and 2.

#### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017**

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 were approved.

**2. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017**

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 were approved.

#### **NEW BUSINESS CONT.**

**4. Transportation Update – Evergreen Line and HandyDART**

The Manager Transportation Planning provided the Committee with a transportation update relative to the use of the Evergreen Line and HandyDART services in the City, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- UAAC – Evergreen Line/HandyDART Update – November 7, 2017
- Agenda
- Introduction
- General Trends
- EGL and Canada Line Comparison
- Ridership Summaries
- Ridership Summary (Jan-May)
- Station Bike Locker Rentals
- HandyDART
- Stakeholder Update Meeting December 1, 2017

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The number and popularity of bike locker stations at Lafarge/Douglas and whether additional lockers will be provided in future
- The possibility of adding bike rooms at Coquitlam SkyTrain Stations
- The process to rent bike lockers at Coquitlam SkyTrain Stations
- Whether the lockers are accessible to hand-cycles

- The frequency of current TransLink feeder services to Coquitlam SkyTrain Stations

The Manager Transportation Planning undertook to provide the Committee with a copy of TransLink's invitation to attend the HandyDART stakeholder update meeting to be held on December 1, 2017 in Surrey, BC. He noted staff's intention to contact TransLink to determine whether they would be amenable to holding a stakeholders meeting in the Tri-Cities area (northeast sector).

At this time, Elaine Willis presented the Committee with copies of a document prepared by Ecopath Planning titled "Metro Vancouver's Aging Population and the need for Quality HandyDART Service – October, 2017". She spoke to the "HandyDART crisis" detailed on page 10 of the report, and proposed that the Committee make a recommendation in support of the recommendation made by the City of Vancouver's Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, as referenced on page 11 of the report.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The TransLink public consultation process relative to the HandyDART service
- The desire for TransLink to increase HandyDART funding and improve its services to meet the needs of the increasing population of people with disabilities, and eliminate the process to screen HandyDART applicants as detailed in the above-noted report
- Whether Committee members wished to make a Committee Recommendation and what the text of the recommendation could be
- The authorship of the report
- The suggestion that Committee members read the report in full prior to making or voting upon a recommendation
- Whether staff could review the report prior to the December 1, 2017 TransLink HandyDART stakeholder update meeting
- The belief that there is an increased demand for taxi services locally and the possibility that the demand is linked to a decrease in local HandyDART services
- The purpose of the TransLink stakeholder update meeting and the desire for TransLink to hold a stakeholder update meeting in the Tri-Cities area (northeast sector)
- Additional concerns with the HandyDART service, including scheduled pickup and wait times

Following the Committee's discussion, at the Chair's suggestion, the Manager Transportation Planning undertook to review the above-noted report and provide information to the Committee members via email. The Committee members agreed to respond to the email, if possible, prior to TransLink's HandyDART stakeholder update meeting. The Chair undertook to apprise Council of the Committee's concerns regarding the current HandyDART service.

## **5. 2017 Review and Committee Feedback**

The Chair introduced the agenda topic and invited the Manager Transportation Planning to lead the Committee through a review of the items on the Committee's 2017 Work Plan. The

Manager Transportation Planning referred the Committee to a copy of a memo dated November 7, 2017 and titled “Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee’s 2017 Work Plan Review” (as provided on-table), outlined each of the items dealt with by the Committee during the year.

The Manager Transportation Planning provided an on-screen presentation, with slides titled as follows:

- UAAC – 2017 Work Plan Review / 2018 Work Plan Discussion – 7 November 2017
- Committee’s 2017 Work Plan Review
- Initiatives Reviewed
- Item/Initiative by Department and Month Discussed
- Questions/Comments
- 2018 Work Plan Discussion

Councillor Zarrillo arrived at this time (8:16 p.m.) and assumed the role of Chair.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The possibility of including a link to the Event Accessibility Checklist, as recently provided by the Accessibility of City Events Working Group, on the Committee’s webpage.

Kiyo Breiting undertook to email staff a copy of the above-referenced Checklist in Word document format.

- The Committee’s desire to be an advocate for all persons with disabilities in Coquitlam, including those with mental health disabilities
- The challenges inherent in the complex issue of mental health and that many mental health issues are outside of the City’s authority and are the purview of the Province
- Information regarding some of the changes made and underway by the Province/BC Housing on the Riverview Lands
- The options as outlined in the handout titled “Mental Health Working Group Proposal” put forward by the Exploration of Mental Health Awareness Working Group during the September 5, 2017 Committee meeting
- The Working Group’s hopes relative to the possible implementation of the options outlined in the above-noted proposal, i.e. that the options act as a starting point for the City’s consideration, and the desire to receive staff feedback
- Past discussions by Council regarding the City’s constraints with respect to the scope, range and purview of mental health issues
- Details of the City’s comprehensive vision relative to the Riverview Lands as submitted to BC Housing
- The pros and cons of institutionalization and de-institutionalization for persons with mental health needs, including congregate care compared to community care
- The importance of encouraging engagement of all people with disabilities, including those with cognitive, movement or speech disorders
- The mandate of the Committee and the possibility of Council revising or expanding the Committee’s advisory role

- The desire that a representative of mental health disabilities be added to the composition of the Committee, without reducing the current number of community and organization representatives

The Committee recommended:

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That Council add one Community or Organization representative of mental health disabilities in Coquitlam to the composition of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee, to allow the Committee to better advocate for those residents with mental health disabilities.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- The desire for the City of Coquitlam to develop an inclusive hiring policy
- The belief that sophisticated employers adopt inclusive hiring policies and that such policies are progressive and the norm
- Some examples of local employers who have adopted inclusive hiring policies including the Coquitlam Public Library, the City of Port Moody and VanCity
- Appreciation for past Human Resources staff presentations to the Committee, however, the belief that being an ‘equal opportunity employer’ does not necessarily equate to the promotion of an inclusive hiring policy
- The suggestion that the issue could be explored via the Committee’s 2018 Evening of Inspiration event

The Committee recommended:

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the development of an inclusive hiring policy for the City of Coquitlam as the first item of business for consideration on the 2018 Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Work Plan.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- The desire for the City to further explore the possibility of offering adaptive sports and whether the data collected thus far could be provided to the Committee by staff
- The Committee’s 2017 Meeting Schedule and the desire to meet on a monthly basis
- The desire for future presentations to be “targeted” for optimal Committee input
- The desire for the Youth Strategy presentation to be made in early 2018, if possible
- The belief that it is important to make Committee Recommendations to Council, whether they are adopted or not

At this time, the Committee’s discussion segued into Item 6.

**6. 2018 Work Plan Development – Roundtable Discussion**

The Chair and Committee members continued to speak to a number of items from the 2017 Work Plan that could be carried forward to the draft 2018 Work Plan, and these were noted by staff. In the interests of time, the Chair invited the Committee to email additional proposed items for the draft 2018 Work Plan to staff.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**OB-1 Welcome to Coquitlam Event Recap – Roundtable Discussion**

The Chair invited the Committee to provide feedback regarding its participation in the 2017 Welcome to Coquitlam event. Committee members shared some positive feedback, and the Committee agreed that it would like to participate in the 2018 event.

**OB-2 Working Group Proposals – Next Steps**

In the interests of time, the Committee agreed that the discussion be deferred to a future meeting (2018).

The Chair thanked the Committee members for their input and service in 2017.


Elaine Willis noted that she had not reapplied to serve on the Committee in 2018, and offered her thanks to the Committee members for their camaraderie and support during the time they had spent serving together. The Committee thanked Ms. Willis for her enthusiasm and contributions to the Committee.

**NEXT MEETING DATE – TBA (2018)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

  
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Jeri Hohn  
Committee Clerk

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CHAIR