

**UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 18, 2018**

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 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 7:32 p.m.)
Councillor Mae Reid, Vice Chair (left at 7:34 p.m.)
Robert Bottos
Kiyo Breiting
Steve Leung (arrived at 7:02 p.m.)
Sandi Pawar (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)
Pat Roy, Canadian Council of the Blind – Dogwood Chapter
Navjot Sanghera
Matthew Sebastiani
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society (Alternate)

REGRETS: Sally Comin
Natalie Lisik

ABSENT: Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services Society

STAFF: Dragana Mitic, Manager Transportation Planning
Andre Isakov, Park Planning and Design Manager
Canisius Chan, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

Councillor Reid assumed the role of Chair.

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 were approved.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

NEW BUSINESS

2. Parks Update

The Chair welcomed the Park Planning and Design Manager to the meeting. The Park Planning

and Design Manager provided introductory remarks and an on-screen presentation, referring to slides titled as follows:

- Parks, Recreation & Culture Updates for UAAC – September 18, 2018
- Topics
- 2018 Parks Updates – Recently Completed Capital Projects
- 2018 Parks Updates – Current Capital Projects
- Cottonwood Park
- Riley Park
- Town Centre Park Festival Lawn & Washroom
- Brookmere Park
- Blue Mountain Park Master Plan
- Recreation Updates
- Questions?

Discussion ensued relative to concerns regarding the number of unavailable tennis courts in the City as a result of construction during the summer. The Chair requested that the Park Planning and Design Manager follow-up and provide information regarding the issue to Council.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- Details of the playground being installed in Riley Park
- Whether City sidewalk letdowns for wheelchairs could be marked in bright yellow paint to ensure better access for the visually impaired
- Concerns relative to a misaligned crosswalk sign and a directional letdown (wheelchair ramp) in the City and the challenges seniors face crossing the street as a result
- Whether a garbage can for dog waste could be provided at Riley Park to help make the park more dog-friendly and accessible for pet owners and guide dogs
- The suggestion that the City install separate garbage cans for dog waste in parks and that the cans be coloured differently to differentiate them from other garbage cans
- The rules regarding dog waste disposal in the Metro Vancouver region
- The desire for the City to install a garbage can at Cottonwood Park
- Details of the public notification undertaken by the City in advance of parks construction and/or closures
- The desire for the City to consult youth with disabilities as a regular part of its parks planning process
- The suggestion that the City could engage the Youth Council to identify parks accessibility barriers
- The belief that local youth groups would enjoy being given the opportunity to identify desirable parks services
- Whether a park would be attached to the new YMCA to be constructed in the City
- The suggestion that City parks located proximal to SkyTrain stations would be ideal locations to paint crosswalks and directional letdowns bright yellow and install braille signage for the visually impaired
- The suggestion that Council be provided with information regarding braille signage
- The purpose of the City's Youth Strategy and a desire for the details to be presented to the Committee
- The details, implementation schedule and impacts relative to park upgrades scheduled to occur in and around Town Centre Park in 2019-20

- Whether the City could consider giving its new parks a traditional indigenous name at the same time that the street name is given, as part of a larger reconciliation initiative
- Why City parks are typically named after their street location

The Chair noted that decisions regarding new City park names would be made by Council. She thanked the Park Planning and Design Manager for his presentation.

3. **Transportation Update**

The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer introduced Dragana Mitic, the City's new Manager Transportation Planning, and the Chair welcomed her to the meeting.

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

- Transportation Updates – September 18, 2018
- Agenda
- Accessible Intersections
- The Forward Movement
- Tri-Cities Healthier Communities Partnership
- SFU Inclusive Communities Forum
- ULI Senior-Friendly Streets

Councillor Zarrillo arrived at this time (7:32 p.m.) and assumed the role of Chair.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The differences between the audible pedestrian signals played for east-west and north-south crosswalks at City intersections
- Confirmation that for the duration of the audible sound it is safe for people to start their walk into the intersection

Councillor Reid left at this time (7:34 p.m.).

- Details regarding the yellow tactile strips that can be installed by the City at directional letdowns to the street level, including that they are meant to provide those with visual impairments a cue to the location of the edge of the curb
- That the City's wheelchair ramp standards conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act, however, there are no similar standards established in Canada
- Transportation staff's intention to review accessible intersection treatments in the City Centre Area and to liaise with their Transportation counterparts in other municipalities regarding accessible intersection standards
- Whether Committee members had completed a walk-through of the City Centre Area to identify accessibility challenges for seniors and/or those who are visually or otherwise impaired
- Upgrades to legacy infrastructure and concerns with the narrow width of some crossings currently in use in the City
- Information regarding past and present directional letdowns for pedestrians
- Whether the Forward Movement icon could be used on commercial signage such as mall parking spaces

The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer circulated a document providing information about the Children's Charter of Rights and a resource list for Child and Youth Mental Health in the Tri-Cities to the Committee members.

The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer spoke to the upcoming Welcome to Coquitlam event and a recent email sent to the Committee by the Committee member noting that volunteers were needed for the October 3rd event. He provided details regarding the event's purpose, time, and location.

At this time, the Chair spoke to the experience of a disabled resident who waited for three hours in the rain for an accessible taxi on Canada Day. Discussion ensued regarding the lack of accessible taxis in the region and the name of the provincial registrar for taxis. The Chair asked the Committee whether it would like to make a recommendation to Council regarding the issue.

The Committee recommended:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That Council send a letter to the provincial Passenger Transportation Board expressing concern regarding the lengthy wait for accessible taxi service experienced by a disabled resident of Coquitlam on Canada Day, and the desire for people with disabilities across the region to be provided with accessible and timely taxi services.

At this time, the Chair spoke to the upcoming Welcome to Coquitlam event and the positive feedback received by Committee volunteers from members of the public during the previous year's event. She spoke to the opportunity the event afforded the Committee and encouraged members to volunteer to serve at the Committee's table during the 2018 event.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The names of those Committee members who had already volunteered via email
- The length of the table shifts (2 hours)
- The materials available to utilize as handouts to the public during the event such as UAAC buttons, postcards, and safety reflectors

The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer undertook to check on the availability of Insurance Corporation of BC safety reflectors to use as handouts.

The Chair thanked the members for volunteering to participate in the event.

4. 2018 Committee Review and Feedback / Potential Items for 2019 Work Plan

At the invitation of the Chair, the Committee members participated in a roundtable discussion and suggested potential items for inclusion in the draft 2019 Work Plan.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The employment challenges faced by people with disabilities and "Employment opportunities for people with disabilities" as a desirable topic for discussion

- The desire for the City to develop a pilot employment or summer employment program for people with disabilities
- The possibility of a group of employers known as the Employment Roundtable making a presentation to Council regarding the benefits of employing people with disabilities
- “Adaptive sports program for children with autism” as a potential topic for discussion
- The desire for the City to consider partnering with local sports groups to develop an adaptive sports program for children with autism
- The desire that Transportation updates and Parks presentations be carried forward to the draft 2019 Work Plan
- The desire that the new Youth Strategy be presented to the Committee in 2019
- The “2017 Mental Health Working Group Proposal” as a potential topic for discussion
- The understanding that issues of mental health are the purview of the Province
- The suggestion that the City could support Mental Health Awareness Week and participate in Bell Canada’s Let’s Talk Day 2019 to help combat mental health stigmas
- The belief that relative to the provision of community services, cities play a role in assisting people with mental challenges
- “Rethinking disability and universal design” as a potential topic for discussion, i.e. how best to inclusively design City neighbourhoods and facilities from inception
- “Exploring the attitudinal barriers of accessibility” as a potential topic for discussion
- The belief that review of the attitudinal, physical, and technological barriers to accessibility list produced by the Province of Ontario could support the suggested discussion topic
- The belief that changing the Committee’s name to include the words “social inclusion” could help people understand that its mandate encompasses more than physical issues or barriers
- “Creative ways to tackle social inclusion for residents with disabilities” as a potential topic for discussion
- The desire that the Committee’s mandate be reviewed early in 2019
- The desire for a presentation regarding the Burquitlam SkyTrain Station accessible washrooms pilot program
- The “GoHere Washroom Access Program and app (Accessible Public Washrooms)” as a potential topic for discussion

The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer noted two items for the draft 2019 Work Plan, as follows:

- The Committee’s promotion of BC Access Awareness Day to be held at the Coquitlam Farmers Market on the 1st Sunday in June 2019
- A presentation by TransLink regarding access transit initiatives in the region

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Senior Transportation Planning Engineer noted the City’s plans to install a bicycle rack at the Coquitlam Farmers Market to improve cyclists’ access to the market.

A Committee member undertook to share links to CBC Radio podcasts regarding rethinking disability and inclusive design with the Committee. A second Committee member noted that,

should the Committee so desire, he could share information regarding the Crohn's and Colitis Canada GoHere Washroom Access Program and app with the group.

The Chair thanked the Committee members for their suggestions.

5. Accessible Communities Emerging Issues & Updates (Standing Agenda Item)

No issues or updates were shared.

OTHER BUSINESS

OB-1 2019 Advisory Committee Recruitment

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Committee Clerk provided some details regarding the City's 2019 advisory committee recruitment process.

NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD (2019)

The Chair noted that the evening marked the Committee's final meeting of 2018 and thanked the Committee members and staff for their service to the City and the Committee over the past year.

The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer, on behalf of City and TransLink staff, thanked the Committee for the value of its input and feedback provided during the year.

The Committee thanked the Chair and Vice Chair for their leadership throughout the year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk

CHAIR