

**UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 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, Vice Chair  
Julianne Cressman, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:02 p.m.)  
Dana Ebtekar, Citizen Representative  
Paul Jarvie, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:01 p.m.)  
Alex Kwan, Citizen Representative  
Heather Lawson, Citizen Representative  
Georgette Reyes, Citizen Representative  
Pat Roy, Canadian Council of the Blind BC-Yukon Division  
Linda King, Community Ventures Society  
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services  
Susan Williamson, Tri-Cities Seniors’ Action Society

REGRETS: Councillor Matt Djonlic, Chair  
Benjamin Perry, Citizen Representative  
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society

STAFF: Manisha Dutta, Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion  
Thomas Thivener, Transportation Planning Manager  
Glen Chua, Transportation Planning Specialist  
Jennifer Urbaniak, Community Services Coordinator  
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 1. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.**

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

Julianne Cressman arrived to the meeting at this time (7:02 p.m.).

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

## 2. Committee Welcome

The Committee Clerk provided introductory comments relative to the 2024 UAAC Meeting Schedule, Committee member attendance expectations and facility evacuation procedures.

There were no comments from the Committee.

## 3. Review and Adoption of the 2024 Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Work Plan

The draft 2024 Work Plan was presented on-screen and the Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Transportation Planning Specialist provided an overview of the proposed Work Plan items.

Discussion ensued relative to the Biennial Education Event's current status.

The Committee endorsed the 2024 Work Plan and a copy is attached hereto, and forms a part of, these minutes.

The Committee recommended:

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the 2024 Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Work Plan.

## 4. 2024 Event Planning / Potential Establishment of UAAC Working Groups – Volunteer Opportunities

The Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion introduced the Community Services Coordinator and provided introductory comments that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the City's Community Services division and its programs
- Overview of the 2024 AccessAbility Resource Fair (hereon "the Fair") and staff desire to proactively collaborate with UAAC members for the Fair
- Canada Day 2024 and potential for UAAC volunteers at the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) booth

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Potential for information provided at the Fair to include more relevant programs and opportunities for people with disabilities such as the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)
- The Fair's logistics, details, and proposed structure in terms of UAAC representation and involvement

- Potential for the Fair to be held later in the evening on a weekday, on a weekend or during a School District No. 43 (SD43) Pro-D Day

The Committee formed a 2024 AccessAbility Resource Fair working group and the following members offered to serve: Julianne Cressman, Heather Lawson, Ross Renaud and Georgette Reyes.

The Committee formed a 2024 Canada Day working group and the following members offered to serve: Dana Ebtekar, Alex Kwan and Susan Williamson.

The Committee Clerk noted that staff will follow-up with working group members regarding next steps.

## **5. Accessibility Plan Update**

The Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion noted that there were no updates at this time.

## **6. Transportation and Other Department Updates**

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

- Overview of Nelson Street and Guildford Way active transportation infrastructure safety improvements, including timeline, proposed micromobility lanes, challenges of widening sidewalks and public engagement opportunities

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Location and time of Nelson Street public engagement open house
- Concerns regarding vehicle traffic near Mackin Park
- Nelson Street, including the importance of installing more lighting and visible signage, Committee support for proposed safety improvements and the possibility of installing benches and communal spaces along this corridor
- Whether proposed upgrades on Guildford Way will prevent collisions between cyclists and pedestrians at bus stops, concerns regarding the slanting edge of separated bike lanes and desire to make the slanting edge more visible to pedestrians
- Major intersections in Coquitlam and whether they currently have separate traffic lights for cyclists

## **7. Committee Members’ Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues**

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging accessibility issues and information regarding events occurring in their communities.

The following information was shared:

- Concerns regarding traffic along Austin Avenue during the City's HollyDaze in the Heights event on November 18, 2023
- White Cane Week from February 4 to 10, 2024
- Accessibility challenges and barriers that prevent youth from participating in sports
- Proposed Coquitlam seniors' rental housing projects at 290 Laval Square and 602 Sydney Avenue, including concerns regarding unit design, affordability and the desire for accessible units
- Lower Mainland snowfall events, including jurisdictional responsibility of clearing bus stops and concerns regarding the lack of snow clearance along Coquitlam sidewalks
- BC Active Transportation Summit from June 18 to 19, 2024 at Anvil Centre

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE - Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

**MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Teri Towner, Vice Chair

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Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk