

**UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, April 4, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 7:02 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Teri Towner, Chair  
Councillor Matt Djonlic, Vice Chair  
Julianne Cressman, Citizen Representative  
Dana Ebtakar, Citizen Representative  
Paul Jarvie, Citizen Representative  
Alex Kwan, Citizen Representative  
Benjamin Perry, Citizen Representative  
Georgette Reyes, Citizen Representative  
Pat Roy, Canadian Council of the Blind BC-Yukon Division  
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services (arrived at 7:06 p.m.)

REGRETS: Susan Williamson, Tri-Cities Seniors' Action Society

ABSENT: Heather Lawson, Citizen Representative  
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society

STAFF: Thomas Thivener, Transportation Planning Manager  
Glen Chua, Transportation Planning Specialist  
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

**1. Welcome and Roundtable of Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first Committee Meeting of 2023.

Ross Renaud arrived to the meeting at this time (7:06 p.m.).

The Committee and staff participated in a roundtable of introductions.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**2. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022**

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 were approved.

A Committee member advised of an error in the Minutes noting that although they attended the September 20, 2022 meeting, they were not listed as present at that meeting.

The Committee Clerk undertook to follow-up regarding a correction of the Minutes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **3. Committee Orientation**

The Committee Clerk provided the Committee with an orientation of its structure, mandate, and responsibilities, referencing an on-screen presentation and utilizing slides.

### **4. Review and Adoption of the 2023 Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Work Plan**

The draft 2023 Work Plan was presented on-screen and the Transportation Planning Specialist provided an overview of the proposed Work Plan items.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Progress of the Spani Pool renovation and accessibility upgrades to facility
- Current status of the Welcome to Coquitlam Event

The Committee endorsed the 2023 Work Plan and a copy is attached hereto, and forms a part of, these minutes.

The Committee recommended:

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the 2023 Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Work Plan.

### **5. 2023 Event Planning Discussion / Potential Establishment of UAAC Working Groups – Volunteer Opportunities**

The Transportation Planning Specialist shared the “2023 Committee Orientation Manual, Appendix ‘B’ - Additional Information on Sub-Committees and Working Groups” document on-screen and covered the following topics:

- Working groups member composition
- The purpose and roles of working groups
- The desire to establish event working groups
- Accessibility Week Community Resource Event (“Access Awareness Day” Event) being held on June 1, 2023 at Maillardville Community Centre
- Biennial Education Event
- Canada Day Event being held on July 1, 2023 at Town Centre Park
- Possibility of hosting Access Awareness and Biennial Education events on same day

- Potential Welcome to Coquitlam Event working group

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Desire to have separate working groups for Canada Day and Access Awareness Day this year and not have a combined event like last year
- Having multiple working groups to spread out the workload
- Past events, including costs and external speakers, and how working groups operated in previous years
- Feasibility of combining events/hosting them on the same day
- Cross-promotion of events
- Whether the Biennial Education Event is specific to this Committee
- Connecting with Heather Lawson, Citizen Representative, regarding work done last year in planning for this year's Biennial Education Event

The Committee formed a 2023 Access Awareness Day working group and the following members offered to serve: Julianne Cressman; Paul Jarvie; Benjamin Perry; Ross Renaud and Georgette Reyes

The Committee formed a 2023 Canada Day working group and the following members offered to serve: Julianne Cressman; Dana Ebtekar; Alex Kwan and Pat Roy

The Chair noted that staff would follow-up with the working group members regarding next steps.

Formation of the Welcome to Coquitlam Event working group was deferred to the next meeting when more details about the event are expected to be available.

Formation of the Biennial Education Event working group would be discussed at the next meeting if the Biennial Education Event is not held in conjunction with the Access Awareness Day Event on June 1, 2023.

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

The Transportation Planning Manager provided the Committee with an on-screen presentation entitled "Transportation, TransLink and Other Department Updates" that covered the following topics:

- Removing baffle gates and installing bollards in Coquitlam neighbourhoods to improve accessibility for people with mobility issues
- Coquitlam's 18-month Shared Micromobility (E-Mobility and E-Scooter) Pilot Project
- Legality and legislation of e-scooters
- City's efforts to work with shared e-bike and e-scooter operators
- "Micromobility stations" to be developed within the Town Centre where people can start and end trips
- Vehicle storage within these designated stations to reduce sidewalk conflicts in the busiest part of Centre City

- Challenges and opportunities with e-bikes and e-scooters in other cities
- Education efforts and etiquette brochures coming with pilot
- Translink has new service that provides transit information in over 300 different languages

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Reflective paint on mailboxes and bollards
- E-scooters and e-bikes possessing adaptable options for the elderly and people with mobility issues
- Limited number of e-scooter and e-bike companies
- E-scooter parking on sidewalks and use in other cities
- Reducing conflicts on sidewalks and multi-use pathways
- Current and future parking options for e-scooters
- Charging a deposit to Shared Micromobility Pilot Project operators and deducting fines for non-compliance if devices are improperly parked/stored across the City
- City bylaws previously amended to allow e-scooters anywhere that bicycles are allowed
- Possibility of separating users with mobility aids and scooters that travel at slower speeds along multi-use pathways and roadways
- Smartphone applications and integration with the pilot project
- Navilens program for visually impaired residents to access transit
- Difficulty of accessing Translink language program for non-English speakers
- Upcoming micromobility improvements along Guildford and if the protected bike lanes can continue in Port Moody's jurisdiction

## **7. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues & COVID-19 Updates**

The Chair invited the Committee members to share information regarding events occurring in their communities, including as related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following information was shared:

- Government of Canada Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)
- First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit through Canada Revenue Agency
- Mobility issues during the snow events in past year
- Navilens utilization in other jurisdictions
- Immunocompromised individuals and anxiety about returning to in-person events
- HandyDART Program and the desire for the City to liaise with School District 43 to make special education teachers aware of the Program
- The Tri-Branch Co-Operative Housing and Garden Court Housing Co-op
- The need for more affordable housing
- Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Summit on affordable housing being held from April 4 – 5, 2023
- The benefits of individuals living with disabilities reaching out to banking institutions to access information regarding grants and savings programs
- Lack of meaningful part-time employment opportunities for individuals living with disabilities

The Chair thanked the Committee members for their volunteerism.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

**MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Teri Towner, Chair

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Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk