

UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, July 7, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 7:01 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Trish Mandewo, Chair
Councillor Chris Wilson, Vice Chair
Kiyo Breiting
Kimberley England
Curtis Holm
Heather Lawson
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services
Matthew Sebastiani

REGRETS: Robert Bottos
Alex Kwan
Mary Ong, Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network
Pat Roy, Canadian Council for the Blind – Dogwood Chapter
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society

STAFF: Jamie Boan, General Manager Engineering and Public Works
Canisius Chan, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome and Roundtable of Reintroductions

The Chair welcomed the Committee members and staff to the meeting and the group participated in a roundtable of reintroductions.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Approved 2020 UAAC Work Plan – Fresh Perspectives Commentary

At the invitation of the Chair, the Senior Transportation Planning Engineer spoke to the

approved Work Plan and the Committee's revised meeting schedule. He noted that due to the impacts of COVID-19 some items would be adjusted during the year including that, consistent with other planned City events, the public accessibility events planned for the fall of 2020 had been rescheduled to the spring of 2021.

The Chair acknowledged the challenges that COVID-19 had wrought on the Committee's meeting schedule.

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

The Chair invited the Committee to share information regarding happenings and events occurring in their communities. The following information was shared:

- Social isolation and accessibility challenges currently being experienced in the community by seniors, older youth/young adults, and those with intellectual disabilities due to COVID-19
- Concerns regarding current limitations on accessing recreation centres and safe public transit
- Concerns regarding the decline in the numbers of people wearing face masks in enclosed public spaces, and whether the City could help to educate the public and raise awareness regarding the issue
- The belief that the culture of mask wearing could be solidified, like seat belts, through personal action and leading by example

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Chair spoke to the social isolation being experienced by seniors and the Senior Transportation Planning Engineer shared his understanding regarding the City's plans to explore greater outreach to seniors via outdoor summer events at Glen Pine and Dogwood Pavilions.

The Chair shared her understanding that the City would follow the directives of the senior Provincial Public Health Officer should she direct that mandatory face masks be worn publicly.

The Chair encouraged the members to share insights, information, and/or resources with one another relative to addressing the challenges being experienced in the community due to COVID-19.

5. 2021 Preliminary Event Planning Discussion

At the invitation of the Chair, the Senior Transportation Planning Engineer spoke to the Committee's accessibility event planning initiatives, noting that the date for the 2021 Welcome to Coquitlam event was yet to be determined, BC Access Awareness Day would typically occur in June (2021) and, going forward, the proposed date of the Biennial Education Event could be recommended to the Committee by the Working Group undertaking planning for the event.

For the Committee's information, he recapped the Working Groups and volunteers as follows:

Accessibility Event Working Group: Kimberley England, Curtis Holm, and Alex Kwan.

Biennial Education Event Working Group: Rob Bottos, Kimberley England, Heather Lawson, Mary Ong, and Matthew Sebastiani.

UAAC Welcome to Coquitlam Working Group: Kiyo Breiting, Heather Lawson, Ross Renaud, and Pat Roy.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Working Groups indicated that they had not met within the window of time between the Committee's last meeting (March 3rd) and mid-March, when COVID-19 social distancing and home isolation guidelines were put in effect.

The Committee discussed the Biennial Education Event. The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer invited the Committee to consider possible topics and speakers. He noted that although there had previously been some consideration of a theme, the Committee might consider social isolation as an alternate theme for the event, in light of the earlier discussion regarding the social isolation issues in the community revealed by the pandemic.

The Chair asked the Committee members whether they had any emerging concepts to put forward for consideration as planning for the 2021 Biennial Education Event was initiated.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The challenge of imagining a time when people would be able to safely gather in groups
- Whether the event could be moved online and the advantages to such a format
- The belief that the Working Group should meet to discuss potential event options, themes and speakers
- Support for event planning to take into consideration alternate delivery formats
- Considerations such as whether speakers should be arranged prior to selecting topics or vice versa
- The suggestion that para-Olympians could be contacted regarding their availability to speak
- That the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) was offering online 'technology for beginners' workshops for those with visual impairments, and the possibility of a CNIB representative speaking about that topic at the event
- The technological assistance provided by the Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network (TCSPN) to help seniors combat social isolation resulting from the pandemic

A Committee member undertook to forward a link to the CNIB workshop information to the Committee Clerk for circulation to the group.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- Support for the idea of the event occurring via an online format and the advantages of offering pre-recorded speeches
- Marginalized and/or immobile populations and the desire to reach out to those individuals utilizing technology and other engagement tools

The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer briefly described the purpose and format of the Welcome to Coquitlam event. He noted his belief that should social-distancing guidelines still be in place come spring 2021, the City would likely reconsider how to deliver, via another

format, the information it traditionally imparted to newcomers in person.

The Chair shared her belief in the importance of the Welcome to Coquitlam event and the desire that the event be delivered regardless of the pandemic.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether the City could consider holding the Welcome to Coquitlam event outdoors, in good weather, in a location that would alleviate over-crowding issues
- The belief that one of the best components of the event was newcomers' ability to tour City Hall
- The desire that the City remain open-minded regarding delivery of the event
- Whether the Committee could consider holding a competition to encourage individuals to share, by video, "What accessibility in Coquitlam means to you?"
- Belief in the power that relaying what it is like to "walk a mile in someone else's shoes" can have
- Whether the City had considered holding the Welcome to Coquitlam event over a series of days, rather than on one day only
- The popularity of the Welcome to Coquitlam event and its growth over time

The Chair requested that the event Working Groups meet to brainstorm over the coming months and that each Working Group provide the Committee with an update at its next meeting.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Senior Transportation Planning Engineer noted that should Committee members wish to volunteer to serve on any of the Working Groups, they could email the Committee Clerk to make that request.

In response to a question from the General Manager Engineering and Public Works, the Chair noted that the past Working Groups had typically each nominated a Working Group Chair to help coordinate their work and provide thorough updates to the Committee.

At the request of the Committee, staff undertook to circulate contact information for each of the Working Groups to the members who had volunteered to serve on them.

6. Transportation, TransLink and Other Departments Updates (Standing Agenda Item)

The Senior Transportation Planning Engineer provided the Committee with a presentation, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Transportation, TransLink, Other Departments Update – July 7, 2020
- COVID-19 Update
- Accessible Bus Stops
- TWSI

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The observation that public transit had adapted quite flawlessly to the pandemic and social distancing directives
- That the TransLink website was a good source of information regarding the organization's ongoing response to the pandemic

- The understanding that TransLink was following the directives of the Public Health Authority
- The understanding that only about one-third of public transit users were actively wearing face masks and the observation that it could be impacting ridership
- The belief that TransLink may have to mandate the use of face masks to increase users' compliance levels
- The understanding that TransLink's installation of braille signage and tactile surfaces at bus stops would likely take place by late 2020 / early 2021
- That the braille signage would include the bus stop number and which routes the bus operates on

The Chair thanked the Committee members for their participation and engagement and spoke to the next meeting date and the possible format for advisory committee meetings moving into the fall. The Vice Chair noted his pleasure at reconnecting with the Committee members.

OTHER BUSINESS

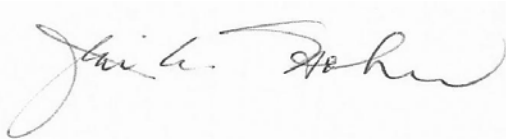
NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, September 15, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk