

UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 15, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 7:00 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
Robert Bottos
Kiyo Breiting
Curtis Holm
Alex Kwan
Heather Lawson
Mary Ong, Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)
Pat Roy, Canadian Council for the Blind – Dogwood Chapter
Matthew Sebastiani
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society (arrived at 7:08 p.m.)

ABSENT: Kimberley England

STAFF: Kathleen Vincent, Manager Corporate Communications
Canisius Chan, Transportation Planning Manager
Heather Escaravage, Project Team Lead Website Project
Ted Uhrich, Project Manager
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

At the Chair's invitation, the Committee participated in a roundtable of greetings.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, July 7, 2020

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. City Website Update Presentation

The Chair welcomed the Project Team Lead and she introduced herself to the Committee, gave opening remarks and provided a presentation, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- City Website Update Project
- Website Update Project Process to Date
- How We Got Here
- Here's the Updated Website!
- How You Can Provide Input...

The Project Team Lead previewed the new website, highlighting its user-friendly features and those areas that she believed to be of greatest interest to the Committee. She noted that a link to an online survey regarding the website would be circulated to the Committee following the meeting, and encouraged the members to complete the survey.

The Chair invited the Committee to ask questions and/or provide input regarding the new website.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The desire to highlight the resizable text feature on the website
- Whether the colours that were similar in tone could be given greater contrast to better serve colour-blind or other vision-impaired users

The Chair thanked the Project Team Lead for her presentation and welcomed two recent arrivals to the meeting.

3. Spani Pool Renewal Presentation

The Project Manager gave opening remarks regarding the Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal Study being undertaken by the City. He provided a presentation, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal Study
- Presentation Outline
- Background
- Scope
- Design Strategies
- Accessibility
- Inclusivity
- Process
- Public Consultation
- Public Survey
- Similar Projects – Queen Elizabeth Pool
- Similar Projects – Wascana Pool
- Questions and Feedback!
- <https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca/spani>

The Committee considered the following focus questions:

- What accessibility issues are top of mind when considering Spani Pool?
- What other precedent projects should we consider?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The suggestion that the amount of accessible seating be increased on-site

- The suggestion that access into the pool (wading in) be improved by installing a long ramp with railings on both sides of it
- The suggestion that changeroom and stall doors be lightweight enough that those in wheelchairs and other accessibility-challenged individuals can open and close them
- The desire to ensure that each of the City's pools offer the same universally accessible features
- The suggestion that gender-neutral changerooms be provided on-site to encourage and support inclusivity in the community
- The suggestion that undercover, shaded rest areas be provided at the pool
- Whether the City had a saltwater pool and the desire that one be constructed in Coquitlam to accommodate those residents allergic to chlorine

In response to a questions from Committee members, the Project Manager noted that wayfinding signs to improve access and inclusivity would be incorporated into the detailed design process and, as planning was in its early stages, decisions regarding retrofit and/or demolition and reconstruction of the pool would be considered later in the process.

The Chair thanked the Project Manager for his presentation.

4. 2021 Preliminary Event Planning Updates

Further to the discussion held during the Committee's July 7th Meeting, the Chair invited each of the Working Groups to share their planning updates.

BC Access Awareness Day Working Group

The Working Group Chair noted that the group had not met since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic following the Committee's March meeting. He spoke to an idea regarding how the Committee could promote BC Access Awareness Day in 2021. He proposed that the Committee could create an event that would highlight the engagement activities of the City relative to its various projects involving accessibility. He further suggested that such an event could showcase the Committee's contributions to the City's accessibility projects and be utilized as an opportunity for a call to action that would encourage the community to become more involved with, and provide comments regarding, the City's various accessibility projects.

The Chair invited comments from the Working Group and the Committee and there were none.

Biennial Education Event Working Group

In response to a question from a Committee member, Pete Stone was acknowledged as a member of the Biennial Education Event Working Group.

The Working Group Chair shared that she had recently circulated an email to the Group and, although an event date and theme had yet to be determined, a preliminary suggestion had been made regarding engaging a keynote speaker to focus on the topic of mental health. She noted her intention to email the Group again to set a date and time for their next meeting so that event planning ideas could be further fleshed out prior to the next Committee meeting.

The Working Group members undertook to provide the Chair with their contact information.

UAAC Welcome to Coquitlam Working Group

The Working Group Chair shared event planning ideas, as follows:

- That the event be held outdoors in Buchanan Square with spill-over into Spirit Square, if needed
- The desire to share information regarding blind tennis and Special Olympics programs with participants
- The possibility of offering a general information sheet specific to people with accessibility needs, including fitness classes and parks in Coquitlam
- Ways to draw event participants to the UAAC table, including offering candy and a trivia game to educate participants about accessibility issues

The Chair shared her understanding that by 2021 Buchanan Square would be newly constructed and that it could be an excellent event venue if it is able to accommodate the anticipated number of participants.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether permission would need to be sought from Glen Pine to utilize Spirit Square during the spring Welcome to Coquitlam event
- The degree of universal access into Spirit Square
- Whether the City could offer a virtual reality tour of the City Hall on its website as part of a universally accessible Welcome to Coquitlam feature for those not able to attend in person
- Support for the idea of a virtual reality tour of City Hall, its departments, and the work they undertake

The Transportation Planning Manager noted that past Welcome to Coquitlam events had included coordination with the Glen Pine facility and he expected that would continue in 2021.

The Vice Chair thanked the three Working Groups for their volunteerism and asked whether they needed support from the Chair, Vice Chair or staff in their efforts.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether the City's Zoom platform was available to be utilized to support an online event should any of the Working Groups wish to propose such an event to the Committee
- The budget available to support the Committee's event engagement efforts, including buttons, printed pamphlets, and other promotional handouts
- The desire to be provided with an approximate budget to help solidify event planning, if possible
- The availability of free promotional items from the City

The Chair suggested that as the event dates drew closer, staff could be consulted regarding the possibility of the City's Zoom platform being utilized for the Committee's events.

To assist the Working Groups in their event planning efforts, the Transportation Planning Manager undertook to liaise with Community Planning staff regarding the plans and budget for Welcome to Coquitlam 2021 and to report back to the Committee via email.

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

The Transportation Planning Manager provided the Committee with an update, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Transportation, TransLink, Other Departments Update – September 15, 2020
- COVID-19 Mobility Trends
- Daily Weekday Pedestrian Volumes – Barnet @ Lougheed/Pinetree
- TransLink Update
- Mask Exemptions
- Micro-mobility Assessment

He invited the Committee to provide feedback regarding the Micro-mobility Assessment being undertaken by the City, specifically relating to e-bikes and e-scooters for private and shared use.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Information regarding an e-bike project where the bike is folded in a way that makes it easier to return to its original location
- The challenges of administering e-bike and e-scooter programs, including how they can be abandoned and become tripping or other navigational hazards
- How artificial intelligence can be loaded into e-scooters
- The observation that e-bike and e-scooter program improvements and incentives could help ensure that users leave them in safe rather than inopportune places
- Whether restrictions could be put in place to keep e-scooters on the roads and off sidewalks, should the City adopt such a program
- How helmet laws could be enforced within such a program
- Roads infrastructure and whether additional bike lanes would be put in place to accommodate such programs
- The recent presentation to the Committee regarding the City Centre Area Plan, the transportation that occurs in and around Coquitlam Centre, and the desire that the Plan make allowances for micro-mobility vehicles within the Area

In response to a question from the Chair, the Transportation Planning Manager spoke to the City's COVID-19 response to pedestrian crossings, noting that the available technology for touchless options was being explored by staff.

A Committee member relayed information regarding the Key-2-Access app with the Committee and undertook to email details to the Transportation Planning Manager.

6. 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:

- That the local Special Olympics program was underway and offering a pilot program

- for bocce and golf
- Details of some positive publicity that advocated for local blind tennis programs
- That the annual walk for Crohn's and Colitis Foundation had recently occurred in an online format and some details of the fundraiser's local and national success.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, November 3, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT



CHAIR

Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk