

UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 21, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7:02 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Steve Kim, Vice Chair
Robert Bottos
Kiyo Breiting
Alex Kwan
Heather Lawson
Georgette Reyes
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)
Matthew Sebastiani
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society
Iris Thompson, Canadian Council for the Blind – BC-Yukon Division

REGRETS: Councillor Bonita Zarrillo, Chair
Ted Yeoh, Tri-Cities Seniors Action Society
Husain Vahanvaty

GUESTS: Peer-Daniel Krause, Consultant, Urban Matters

STAFF: Tiina Mack, Manager Recreation and Culture Facilities Planning
Canisius Chan, Transportation Planning Manager
Erin Desautels, Environmental Sustainability Manager
Jacint Simon, Housing Planner
Raj Singh, Park Planner 2
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

Councillor Kim assumed the role of Chair.

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair acknowledged that the City operates on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the kwikwəłəm (Kwikwetlem First Nation). He congratulated Councillor Zarrillo, in absentia, for her recent election as the Member of Parliament serving Port Moody—Coquitlam.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, July 6, 2021

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Blue Mountain Park Master Plan - Presentation

The Park Planner 2 introduced himself and provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Blue Mountain Park Master Plan
- Agenda
- Location
- Master Plan Process
- Project Timeline
- Three Zones
- The Field
- The Core
- The Grove
- Existing Park Amenities
- Existing Conditions – Parking and Pathways
- Existing Conditions – Facilities
- Inclusivity and Accessibility
- Questions and Feedback
- Committee Engagement Opportunities
- Thank You!

The Committee considered the following focus question:

- Are there any Committee priorities, particular and emerging practices for staff to consider in the development of the Blue Mountain Park Master Plan?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether the City had any plans to formalize the informal parking by Park users along Porter Avenue
- Concern that the speed limit on the east side of the park was increased to 50 kilometres per hour and the suggestion that it be lowered
- That a separate (transportation) study was underway to review the road connections on the east side of the Park
- The desire that parking for electric charging stations be considered within the Plan
- Appreciation for the parking currently available at the Park
- Whether wayfinding signage (for special needs youth) would be provided at locations proximal to the Park, including at major nearby transit hubs
- The expected implementation of the City's wayfinding strategies relative to the Park
- The desire to keep the natural, wooded area on the east side of the Park unlit and for the lighting plan take the wildlife living there into consideration
- Some details of the types, features and locations of the lighting that could be installed in various areas of the Park
- The desire that staff have the Rick Hansen Foundation or similar organization assess the Park plan and engage people with disabilities during the architectural and building phases of the plan
- The significance of the scout hall and cenotaph to the community and the desire that they both remain in Park in some form

- Whether the proposed fieldhouse could include washrooms and showering facilities and be designed such that it could be used as an emergency response shelter

The Park Planner 2 noted that the online survey at letstalkcoquitlam.ca/bluemountainpark would remain open for the next two weeks and encouraged the Committee to provide comments through the survey or directly to staff via email.

3. **Housing Needs Assessment - Presentation**

The Housing Planner introduced himself and the consultant from Urban Matters, and provided introductory remarks.

The consultant provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- City of Coquitlam Housing Needs Report
- Housing Needs Reports
- Data Snapshot
- Population (2006-2016)
- Median Household Income (2016)
- Households by Household Type (2016)
- Households by Tenure (2016)
- Housing Registry Applicants
- Households with Activity Limitations
- Core Housing Need
- Core Housing Need by Households with Persons with an Activity Limitation
- Total Households in Core Housing Need
- Renter Households in Core Housing Need
- Owner Households in Core Housing Need
- Discussion
- Three Questions
- Contact
- Thank You

The Committee considered the following focus questions:

- How does the housing affordability crisis affect residents with disabilities and/or physical or mental challenges? Who is struggling and why?
- When it comes to housing, what makes Coquitlam an attractive place for people living with disabilities and/or mental health challenges?
- What opportunities are there to ensure the needs of existing and future residents living with disabilities are considered?

Discussion ensued relative to the first question, as follows:

- Examples of the kinds of housing affordability challenges being experienced by adults with physical/mental abilities, their parents, and the elderly
- Concern with the amount of market-rate versus non-market rate housing being built in the community
- Concern that “affordable housing” is outside the means of many people with disabilities and, as a result, homelessness rates in the community could increase
- The belief that conversations beyond affordable housing must be had to level the playing field for people with disabilities

- The understanding that people living with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty and be homeless, and less likely to have accessible workspaces and needed mental health resources
- The desire that partnerships with higher levels of government be struck to provide emergency shelter space and truly affordable housing for persons with disabilities
- The desire that developers be required to build a greater number of non-market rate housing units to meet the needs of residents of all socio-economic levels

The Chair shared some current figures regarding the types of housing being built in the community and noted the efforts the City was undertaking to create the right supply conditions and inclusive communities.

Discussion ensued relative to the second question, as follows:

- The importance of SkyTrain service for persons with disabilities/mental health challenges
- Past partnerships between local developers and organizations to create housing opportunities that support people with disabilities
- Whether the City could undertake an initiative to hire more people with disabilities
- The desire to streamline regulations to ensure development projects “get off the ground” more quickly in order to help the City keep up with housing demand
- The belief that the City does a good job of providing amenities for people with disabilities

The Housing Planner provided some examples of the types of partnerships that the City, local developers, resource organizations, and the provincial and federal governments are engaged in to provide affordable housing in the community. He also spoke to the City’s quick development application processing speeds, and noted Council’s expectation that affordable housing units be completed first for multi-phased projects.

In response to a question from the consultant, a Committee member noted his belief that it was important to find a way to ensure that affordable housing was built proximal to SkyTrain stations. He further noted that there was a full range of disability needs and his belief that they all needed to be considered as part of the Report.

The Housing Planner noted that information regarding the Housing Needs Report community survey would be circulated to the Committee within the next few weeks and encouraged the Committee to contact staff by email with any further comments.

4. Environmental Sustainability Plan - Presentation

The Environmental Sustainability Manager introduced herself and provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Draft Environmental Sustainability Plan
- Outline
- Purpose
- Background
- Progress to Date
- Coquitlam Environmental Sustainability Plan
- What We Heard from the Community

- What We Heard from You
- Themes
- ESP Structure
- Climate Action
- Built Environment
- Waste Management
- Water Management
- Natural Areas, Wildlife and Habitat
- Implementation and Monitoring
- Top 10 Priority Actions
- Highlights of Key Performance Indicators
- New Climate Targets
- Next Steps
- Jamboard Activity
- Have Your Say!
- Questions? Thank You!

During the presentation, the Environmental Sustainability Manager previewed a video titled “Coquitlam’s Draft Environmental Sustainability Plan” and invited the Committee to participate in an online engagement (Jamboard) activity.

The Committee considered the following focus questions:

- What is something you heard today that you liked?
- What is something you maybe have questions or concerns with or maybe feel like you don’t understand?
- What is something you didn’t see today that you think should be considered in one of the 5 themes?

Further to the input provided by the Committee during the engagement activity, the Environmental Sustainability Manager spoke to the following:

- Coquitlam’s tree canopy, urban forest management and development considerations
- The ESP’s alignment with federal and provincial plans and the environmental sustainability plans of other jurisdictions
- Other renewable energy sources and their potential incorporation into the ESP themes “Climate Action” and “Built Environment”
- The possibility of adding passive building requirements as an ESP action item
- The City’s plan to implement the BC Energy Step Code

The Environmental Sustainability Manager encouraged the Committee members to visit letstalkcoquitlam.ca/envioplan to complete the ESP online survey before October 18th and to share potential networks/contact details with staff by email.

5. Transportation, TransLink and Other Departmental 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 21, 2021
- COVID-19 Mobility Trends
- Transportation Initiatives

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The desire that leading pedestrian interval programming be installed in Coquitlam intersections as soon as possible for pedestrian safety
- That there could be an opportunity to adjust signal crossing times at crosswalks in locations where it was anticipated that it could take pedestrians longer to cross the intersection

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, including as related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following information was shared:

- A concern with the safety of patio seating and sandwich boards occupying sidewalk space outside of restaurants and whether patios sit within private or public spaces
- Whether the Committee could have an opportunity to review the City's Financial Assistance for Recreation Program application process and/or whether it could be simplified
- That the full gamut of Special Olympics programs resumed the week of September 20th

The Transportation Planning Manager undertook to follow-up on the issues raised by the Committee and report back at a future meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – November 9, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk