

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2020-NOV-25, AT 5:05 P.M.

- Present: Councillor S. Armstrong, Chair
Councillor Z. Maartman (joined electronically)
A. Breen, At Large Member (joined electronically)
L. Derksen, At Large Member (joined electronically)
S. Hamel, At Large Member (joined electronically)
R. Harlow, At Large Member (joined electronically)
J. Maffin, At Large Member (joined electronically)
R. Pike, At Large Member (joined electronically)
- Absent: S. Cameron, At Large Member
T. Davenock, At Large Member
D. Hollins, At Large Member
E. Williamson, At Large Member
- Staff: D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
L. Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture (joined electronically)
L. Clarkson, Manager, Recreation Services
K. Kronstal, Social Planner
K. Robertson, Deputy City Clerk
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING TO ORDER:

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2020-SEP-30, at 3:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) Program Review Update

Introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Presentation:

1. Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture, provided the Committee with an update on the proposed LEAP Program review process. Highlights included:

- COVID-19 has caused many delays
- Proposed a new LEAP review process
- Staff have struck a small committee to work on this project
- Information gathering has been extended to December 2020
- Information will be reviewed February 2020 and plan to present back to the Committee in February for feedback
- Looking for feedback on what a revised program would look like
- REIMAGINE NANAIMO process includes questions regarding barriers to recreation
- Delay has provided additional time to gather and incorporate more information
- Planning to provide the committee with a revised program proposal in April for implementation in August
- Implementation to align with fall program registration
- Pushing out the timeline by approximately two months, but COVID-19 could cause unforeseen challenges/delays

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Ensuring the small Staff committee incorporates input from the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (ACAI)
- August implementation date being aligned with program registration dates
- Benefit of including the REIMAGINE NANAIMO feedback in the review of the LEAP program and the impact could have on community inclusive programs
- Staff are working on providing a focus group for those with an interest on accessibility and inclusivity. Committee members were invited to participate in the focus group
- REIMAGINE NANAIMO helping to identify barriers that are not specific to the LEAP program

Councillor Armstrong noted that she has invited the engineer who is working on the Bowen Park trail replacement to attend an ACAI meeting to review/discuss the redesign plans.

5. REPORTS:

(a) 2021 Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Key Date Calendar

Introduced by Karen Robertson, Deputy City Clerk.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Some members had conflicts that would not allow them to join meetings prior to 4:00 p.m.
- Potential alternate meeting times: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., or 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recommend that Council approve their 2021 Key Date Calendar with meetings scheduled from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Committee Discussion regarding the 2020-SEP-30 REIMAGINE NANAIMO Presentation

Introduced by Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture.

Presentation:

1. Karin Kronstal, Social Planner, provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
 - Overview of the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process
 - Currently at the end of phase one
 - Accessibility Survey and Creative Community Contest both close November 30th
 - Accessibility Survey is available on the City website and shared with Literacy Nanaimo, Multicultural Association and others with limited response
 - Stakeholder outreach meetings:
 - Anticipate more than 100 groups will be engaged throughout these meetings in phase one
 - Meeting formats were adapted and chosen by participants; however, most have switched to online
 - Blitz done through Vancouver Island University last week with mini competition and prizes to encourage student involvement
 - Requested that committee members provide feedback regarding the following questions:
 1. What do you think is Nanaimo's one biggest opportunity to embrace in the coming years?
 2. What do you think is Nanaimo's one biggest challenge to tackle in the coming years?

Committee discussion took place regarding Nanaimo's biggest opportunities. Highlights included:

- Downtown Waterfront area being more cohesive and providing opportunities for people to be together, be entertained, shop, and enjoy the park space/boardwalk
- Options to make the water more wheelchair accessible
- Showcasing Nanaimo's vibrant oceanfront walkway and beautiful community
- Including more artwork in the downtown area and encouraging more culture
- Downtown night market was a great way to bring people together before COVID-19 and the current restaurant patios are a good way to provide connection
- Colliery Dam Park provides opportunities for families to enjoy the park together while providing accessibility for those who use scooters or wheelchairs
- Concerns regarding connectivity and walkability in the North end of Nanaimo
- Staff making attempts to improve walkability in the Harewood area and whenever opportunities arise
- Summer markets as a cultural highlight for Nanaimo and provide a way for people to congregate outdoors
- Expand Nanaimo's arts and culture capacity
- Offering more accessible routes within parks and along beaches for people with strollers and wheelchairs
- Better connectivity of sites and businesses in the downtown area and expanding the Waterfront Walkway
- Metral Drive becoming a complete street for all forms of transportation from Woodgrove Mall to Nanaimo North Town Centre
- Connecting the Waterfront and the Old City Quarter
- Opportunities to augment the transit system

Committee discussion took place regarding Nanaimo's biggest challenges. Highlights included:

- Providing more connectivity and inclusive access in all parks
- Homelessness, affordable housing and social issues
- New supportive housing facilities and poverty being a barrier to accessibility
- Supporting people who are new to Nanaimo and concerns regarding the speed with which Nanaimo is growing
- Focusing on the current health crisis in the short-term and the homeless crisis long-term
- The City juggling competing priorities in an effort to make the community the best it can be for everyone and realizing that providing buildings that are inclusive for everyone provides value to all who use them
- Gaining assistance from the provincial government with transit, health and housing issues
- Developing better job opportunities for those with disabilities
- Challenges of funding various projects/initiatives and finding creative ways to gather funding
- Healthcare issues, the need for a tertiary hospital in Nanaimo and more family doctors and psychologist

- Health and Housing Task Force has noted that there is the potential to improve resources through bettering coordination

(c) Inclusion and Diversity

Introduced by Councillor Armstrong who noted she would like to invite Alessandro Iachelli, President, Nanaimo Pride, and Myles Straga, Owner, Port Place Hair Spa, to speak at a future ACAI meeting.

Committee discussion took place regarding inclusion and diversity. Highlights included:

- Committee members can email the Legislative Services Department if they have suggestions for guest speakers
- Adding accessible parking as a topic on the 2020-FEB-24 agenda
- Potential for building and engineering Staff to provide a presentation regarding parking and the parking bylaw in February or April
- Connecting with the various community disability groups in Nanaimo to learn about their concerns
- A potential meeting item for 2021 could be creating a document/directory of the various programs/groups available in Nanaimo
- Inclusion referring to everyone: culture, race, sexuality, gender and disability
- United Way and the City website providing a list of clubs and organization to gather information regarding Nanaimo resources/programs

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness 2020-SEP-30 Recommendations

Councillor Armstrong noted that the following motion was made during the 2020-OCT-19 Regular Council Meeting:

“It was moved and seconded that Council defer consideration of the following motions and direct Staff to prepare a report:

1. That Council direct Staff to prepare a bylaw, which prevents garbage cans and recycling cans from being placed on sidewalks, in order to improve accessibility in the City of Nanaimo
2. That Council direct Staff to make all transit stops within the City of Nanaimo uniform and highly visible so they are accessible for all citizens.”

(b) Committee Member Check-In

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Happy to see this committee recognizing more than just physical barriers, concern that some members have not been able to attend, and finding some challenges using Zoom related to speed and viewing participants
- Potentially increasing the breadth of member experience on this committee

- Importance of recognizing poverty as a barrier
- Participating in the Staff focus group
- Revisiting the topic of inclusive bathrooms
- Rachel Pike introduced herself to the committee as this was her first meeting
- Increasing public awareness about Council volunteer committees
- Highlight the services available to keep people motivated and healthy especially during COVID-19
- Potential to create a brainstorming group including topics such as different approaches to building in a more inclusive way
- Identifying barriers that are preventing people from applying to committees
- Clarification that the committee is not currently seeking new members
- Communication not reaching the target group
- Contacting members who have not been attending meetings to enquire if this was due to barriers
- Reaching out to young people to hear their views
- Grateful for trees removed on Commercial Street
- Book coming out called “Building Better Bathrooms” by Julie Sawchuck, regarding designing inclusive bathrooms for those with disabilities. Vancouver Island University is installing eight new accessible bathrooms across their campus
- Praised the new accessible washroom at the Nanaimo Airport
- Need to reach out to ethnic groups when looking for committee members

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 6:33 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER