

DATE OF MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2021

AUTHORED BY LYNN WARK, DIRECTOR, RECREATION AND CULTURE
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

SUBJECT **2020 ANNUAL REPORT FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide the 2020 Annual Report for the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness for review and information.

Recommendation

That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness approve and provide to Council the 2020 Annual Report for information.

BACKGROUND

As per the City of Nanaimo's Committee Operating Guidelines, the Staff Liaison, on behalf of the Committee, will submit an annual report to Council.

DISCUSSION

Committee Name: Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (ACAI)

Committee Members:

Councillor S. Armstrong, *Chair*
A. Breen
S. Cameron
T. Davenock
L. Derksen
S. Hamel
R. Harlow
D. Hollins

Councillor Z. Maartman, *Co-Chair*
J. Maffin
R. Pike
E. Williamson
Staff Liaisons:
Richard Harding
Lynn Wark
Laara Clarkson

Number of Meetings: Five

Subjects Examined by Committee:

- “City Spark” Coordinated Strategic Policy Review 2020-2021 – presented by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning
- Maffeo Sutton Park Inclusive Playground Project – presented by Kirsty MacDonald, Parks and Open Space Planner and Scott Newlands, Parks Project Coordinator
- Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Draft 2020 Workplan – presented by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture. The Committee made the following motion:

“That the Accessibility and Inclusiveness Committee endorse the Draft 2020 Workplan, with the addition of the topic active transportation, as outlined in the May 20, 2020 report by the Manager of Recreation Services, as the Committee’s mandate; and that the Draft 2020 Workplan be forwarded to Council for approval.”

At the 2020-JUN-01 meeting, Council made the following motion:

“That Council endorse the Advisory Committee on Accessibility & Inclusiveness 2020 Workplan as presented.”

- COVID-19 Impact for Community Members with Accessibility and Inclusiveness Concerns – presented by Richard Harlow, Committee Member
- Update on Metral Drive Complete Streets Universal Design Elements – presented by Annalisa Fipke, Capital Project Management Specialist
- Summer Camp Integration Program – presented by Darcie Osborne, Manager, Recreation Services and Tracy Stuart, Recreation Coordinator
- Committee Discussion Regarding Accessibility Equipment for Front Desk Staff – presented by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
- Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) Program Review – presented by Lynn Wark, Director of Recreation and Culture. As a result of the discussion, the following motion was passed:

“That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness approves of and conducts the review process for the Leisure Economic Access Policy (LEAP) program.”

- REIMAGINE Nanaimo Introduction – presented by Karin Kronstal, Social Planner
- Introduction to the City of Nanaimo's Transportation Group – presented by Madeleine Koch, Active Transportation Project Specialist

As a result of the discussion, the following motions were made at the meeting held on 2020-SEP-30:

"That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recommend 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."

And:

"That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recommend 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."

- Treat Accessibility Program – introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
- Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) Program Review Update – presented by Lynn Wark, Director of Recreation and Culture
- Committee Discussion Regarding 2020-Sep-30 REIMAGINE Nanaimo – presented by Karin Kronstal, Social Planner
- ACAI 2020-Sep-30 Recommendations – For Information – presented by Councillor Armstrong

In response to the ACAI Committee recommendations from September, the following motion was made at the 2020-OCT-19 Regular Council Meeting:

"That Council defer consideration of the September ACAI motions and direct Staff to prepare a report."

Accomplishments:

The 2020 Workplan was created based on discussion held at the inaugural meeting on 2020- FEB-26.

2020 Workplan			
Topic	Lead Department	Overview	Accomplishments
REIMAGINE Nanaimo (Formerly City Spark)	Community Planning	Participate in engagement process, specifically with accessibility audits of facilities, infrastructure and parks.	<p>This project is now a standing item on the committee agenda. There have been 3 presentations and discussions that have allowed the ACAI Committee to provide input into the process. In addition, several committee members participated in ReImagine focus groups.</p> <p>Although there have been no accessibility audits completed, there have been connections made with Adapt Island and the Rick Hansen Foundation regarding potential future audits and staff accessibility certification training. There have also been several reimagine focus groups held on accessibility.</p>
LEAP Program Review	Parks, Recreation and Culture	Conduct a thorough review of the LEAP program to identify opportunities for change or improvement.	<p>The committee endorsed the review process which is being conducted by staff. Committee check-in points are scheduled for:</p> <p>Feb 24 – Information Review April 28 – Program Recommendations and Revision Review</p>
Guiding Principles Summary	Committee	Create a guiding principles summary, to help guide decision-making, specifically related to accessibility and inclusion for use in various areas of City operations.	No advancement with this topic.

Projects Referred by Council	Legislative Services	Review and provide input into existing and future projects and plans as directed.	<p>The LEAP program review is the only project to date that has been referred to the Committee by Council.</p> <p>The Committee has had the opportunity to provide input into other City initiatives by way of responding to staff presentations.</p>
Active Transportation	Transportation	For discussion on sidewalk accessibility and other active transportation barriers.	As above - Committee members have had two presentations and opportunities to provide input into transportation matters.

Additional Items accomplished by the Committee:

Mayor and Council and Committee Members were invited to tour the new inclusive playground at Maffeo Sutton Park. This tour took place on 2020-MAY-27. Suffice it to say that Mayor Krog and Councillor Maartman had fun! (Attachment A)

The playground elements were well-received and appreciated by people who know a thing or two about the challenges of accessibility.

Trends or Issues of Concern:

Over the course of the year, it has become apparent that there are a number of challenges in moving around the community, and in accessing various infrastructure. Topics for 2021 reflect continued discussion around these concerns.

Future Meeting Topics:

The Committee has proposed several topic areas for discussion in 2021, including, but not limited to:

- Inclusion and Diversity
- Bowen Park Trail Replacement
- Accessible Parking
- Inclusive Washrooms
- Creation of a Directory of Nanaimo Resources/Programs in Relation to Accessibility and Inclusion

The Committee is also expecting to receive Strategic Direction from Council on matters that they would like to see addressed in the coming year.

Committee members are extremely committed and have much to offer based on their lived experiences. In its first year of operation, the Committee has held many rich discussions, and brought to light many areas of concern that the City can address to help build a more accessible and inclusive community.

OPTIONS

1. That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness approve and provide to Council the 2020 Annual Report for information.
 - The advantages of this option: Meets the annual report requirement set out in the City of Nanaimo's Committee Operating Guidelines.
 - The disadvantages of this option: None.
 - Financial Implications: None.
2. That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness amend and provide to Council the 2020 Annual Report for information.
 - The advantages of this option: Meets the annual report requirement set out in the City of Nanaimo's Committee Operating Guidelines.
 - The disadvantages of this option: None.
 - Financial Implications: None.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The ACAI Committee has completed its first year of service to the community.
- The Committee is actively participating in the REIMAGINE Nanaimo project, and has a unique perspective to offer the City.
- The Committee has addressed many important topics, particularly around the ability to move through the community with more ease.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Pictures from the tour of the inclusive playground at Maffeo Sutton Park

Submitted by:

Lynn Wark
Director, Recreation and Culture

Concurrence by:

Richard Harding
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture