

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2021-APR-28, AT 4:00 P.M.

- Present: Councillor Maartman, Chair
A. Breen, At Large Member (joined electronically)
S. Cameron, At Large Member (joined electronically)
S. Hamel, At Large Member (joined electronically 4:05 p.m.)
R. Harlow, At Large Member (joined electronically)
D. Hollins, At Large Member (joined electronically)
J. Maffin, At Large Member (joined electronically)
R. Pike, At Large Member (joined electronically)
E. Williamson, At Large Member
- Absent: Councillor Armstrong
T. Davenock, At Large Member
L. Derksen, At Large Member
- Staff: R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture (joined electronically)
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works (joined electronically)
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development (joined electronically)
L. Wark, Director, Recreation & Culture (joined electronically)
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning (joined electronically)
L. Clarkson, Manager, Recreation Services (joined electronically)
C. Lang, Project Engineer (joined electronically)
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
K. Lundgren, 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 4:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Sky Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer, advised that Agenda items 5(a), 6(a) and 6(b) will be introduced by Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2021-FEB-24, at 4:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

- (a) Robyn Bull, Adapt Island, to provide a verbal presentation via Zoom re: Adapt Island Society for Community Accessibility

Introduced by Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture.

Robyn Bull, Adapt Island, provided a verbal presentation regarding Adapt Island Society for Community Accessibility. Highlights included:

- Adapt Island's mission is to promote accessibility to the outdoors, physical activity and sports by strengthening existing programs and raising community awareness
- Overview of Adapt Island's projects, events and programs
- Collaboration with Pacific Sport and the value of physical literacy

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Collaboration with the City of Nanaimo
- Accessing equipment for people with disabilities is a large barrier to participation
- Raising awareness in the community
- Equipment for people with visual impairments (e.g. tandem bike)

Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, spoke regarding a draft improvement plan for Westwood Lake Park and bringing the draft plan to the committee for input.

Committee discussion continued regarding:

- Consideration for including signage on the City's website in addition to physical signage
- The use of QR codes at the entrance of parks as a means to communicate the accessibility and maintenance of the park
- Limited funding available for equipment for people with disabilities

- (b) Bowen Park Trailway and Utility Upgrade

Chris Lang, Project Engineer, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- The Millstone Trunk Sewer Utility Upgrade project gave opportunity to also make improvements to the existing trailway.
- Bowen Park trailway and utility upgrades will be starting May 2021; however, there is still opportunity to incorporate input from the committee into the project
- Upgrade to Lenhart Bridge
- Trail improvements include trail connections, widening the trail (4m) where possible, trail lighting and softer grades for accessibility
- Public information and consultation included a presentation to Council, signage on the City of Nanaimo Website and consultation with adjacent neighbourhood groups
- Challenges include the environmental and community impact

Committee discussion took place regarding creating lanes on the trail to separate cyclists from pedestrians.

Chris Lang, Project Engineer, noted that the design of the trailway will include some indicators for directional flow; however, the intent is to keep the trail as natural as possible.

Committee discussion continued regarding:

- Ways to communicate to the public that the trail is accessible
- The asphalt surface of the trail
- Textured surfaces to aid people with visual impairments to distinguish the edge of the trail
- The benefit of the lower grade as even a small grade poses a challenge for a wheelchair user
- Edges of the trail designed as a drainage feature to shed water off the trail
- LED trail lighting and the measures taken to limit impact on the natural environment

(c) Departure Bay Waterfront Walkway

Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- History of the Nanaimo Waterfront Walkway Project
- The walkway is broken down into six segments
- Departure Bay segment connects the Kin Hut to the BC Ferries Terminal
- Challenges addressed in the Phase 1 Feasibility Study included:
 - Accounting for storm surge, storm wave run up and freeboard
 - Sea level rise predictions incorporated into the wave modelling
 - Addressing the geotechnical concern of slope instability along Cilaire Bluff
 - Minimizing environmental impact on existing habitat
 - Respecting the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation
 - Required permits needed to bring the project forward
 - Riparian rights of the property owners along Cilaire Bluff
- Presented conceptual renderings of the walkway
- Accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges to get down to the water

- Provided a series of Phase 2 functional design images
- Overview of the project's next steps including an official launch mid-May as well as a community engagement survey
- Seeking committee feedback on the Waterfront Walkway Project and noted that the project is still very conceptual

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Considerations for plaques/displays being screen reader friendly
- Wheelchair accessible access points to the beach (e.g. wheelchair ramp to the shoreline)
- Inclusivity of washroom facilities (consideration for adult size changing tables)
- Plans for lighting on the walkway to increase safety
- Availability of accessible parking
- Ensuring there are places to sit down along the walkway for individuals with low mobility
- Improvements to disability access washrooms
- Consideration for the Regional District of Nanaimo bus route

(d) REIMAGINE NANAIMO – Update on Indicators

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Council/Committee workshop identified 21 indicators to use as a starting point to evaluate documents
- Five draft goals organized around the Doughnut Economic Development Model are “Healthy”, “Connected”, “Enabled”, “Empowered” and “Ecological”
- Presented the City's unique take on the draft doughnut economic development model

Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture, continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- Seeking committee input regarding inclusiveness and diversity indicators
- Impact assessments for participation in Parks, Recreation and Culture programs and services

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Identifying real/perceived barriers for children with diverse needs participating in recreational programs
- Accessibility of washrooms
- Representation of marginalized communities is extremely important (e.g. artists from diverse backgrounds)
- Type of data collected for impact assessment
- Staff training for working with people with disabilities including the use of equipment

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, continued the presentation and noted the upcoming rounds of community engagement in both phase two and three of REIMAGINE NANAIMO.

6. REPORTS:

(a) LEAP Program Review - Phase 3

By unanimous consent, the committee agreed to defer Agenda Item 6(a) LEAP Program Review – Phase 3 to a Special Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness meeting in May.

(b) 2021 Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Work Plan

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recommend that Council endorse the 2021 Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Work Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Special Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting

Introduced by Sky Snelgrove, Steno Coordinator/Deputy Corporate Officer.

- Potential dates for a Special Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness meeting in May include:
 - Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

By unanimous consent, the committee agreed to schedule a Special Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness meeting on Wednesday, 2021-MAY-26 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

By unanimous consent, the committee agreed to defer Agenda Item 6(a) Proposed recommendations from Sarah Cameron to the 2021-MAY-26 Special Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:55 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIR

CORPORATE OFFICER