

DATE OF MEETING JANUARY 12, 2022

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

SUBJECT **2021 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide the 2021 Annual Report to the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness for review and discussion.

Recommendation

That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness review the 2021 Annual Report and recommend that Council receive the 2021 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, *Co-Chair*
A. Breen
S. Cameron
T. Davenock
L. Derksen
S. Hamel
R. Harlow
D. Hollins

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

Number of Meetings: Six

Subjects Examined by Committee:

Presentations:

- Nanaimo Pride Society – Alessandro Iachelli, President
Recommendation by Committee member Sarah Cameron:
 1. *That Council and municipal staff adopt the use of pronouns in all written and electronic communications.*
 2. *That the City of Nanaimo use gender-inclusive and gender-neutral language, including communications, and print and electronic materials.*
 3. *That the City of Nanaimo update and revise all print and electronic materials to include the use of gender-inclusive and gender-neutral language.*
 4. *That the City of Nanaimo arrange for the availability of diversity and inclusion training for Council members and staff. This would include both LGBTQIA2+ and gender competency training, either online or in-person workshops, or both.*
- SD 68 Capital Plan - Brian Hackwood, Assistant Director of Planning and Operations, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools
- REIMAGINE Nanaimo Project Updates– Karin Kronstal, Social Planner & Kirsty MacDonald, Parks Planner
- Adapt Island Society for Community Accessibility –Robyn Bull, Treasurer
- Bowen Park Trailway and Utility Upgrade –Chris Lang, Project Engineer
- Departure Bay Waterfront Walkway – Bill Corsan, Director of Community Development
- Adaptive Sport – Jacquelyn Novak, TOA Consulting
- Rise Bridge Project – Jovan Stefani, Executive Director
- Maffeo Sutton Park Inclusive Playground – Phase 2 Update – Charlotte Davis, Parks Operations Manager and Pete Entwistle, Parks Project Coordinator
- Westwood Lake Park Amenity Improvements – Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
- Nanaimo Trails Assessment Project – Wynn Holberg, Project Manager, Nanaimo Inclusive Trails Project, and Jacquelyn Novak, Director, TOA Consulting
- Facilitated Discussion Regarding Commercial Street Master Plan – with consultants
- Verbal Update re: Council Recommendation to Ban Conversion Therapy – Karen Robertson, Deputy City Clerk
- 24 Hour Parking Exemption – Jamie Rose, Transportation Manager

Reports:

- LEAP Program Review – Phases 1 and 2 - Lynn Wark, Director of Recreation and Culture
- LEAP Program Review – Phase 3 – Lynn Wark, Director of Recreation and Culture
- Allocation of Pedestrian Budget to Enhance Accessibility – Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation
- Universal Design Workshop Feasibility – Lynn Wark, Director of Recreation and Culture
Recommendation:

That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (ACAI) recommend that Council approve funding of \$1,250 from the Committee's annual budget for the Universal Design Workshop to be attended by up to 14 committee members and staff.

- Removal of Garbage and Recycling Cans From Sidewalks – Bill Sims, GM of Engineering and Public Works

Recommendation:

That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (ACAI) recommend the following allocations of Pedestrian Unallocated Funds for Council's consideration:

- \$200,000 for transit stop accessibility improvements
- \$250,000 for traffic signal accessibility improvements
- \$45,000 for miscellaneous accessibility improvements allocated to the Small Scale Road Improvement budget
- Family Friendly Housing Policy – Dave Stewart, Social Planner
- Accessible and Adaptable Housing Policy – Dave Stewart, Social Planner

Other Business:

- Pedestrian Island to Accommodate Bike Lanes – Richard Harlow, Committee Member
- Checkered Eye Low Vision Proposal – Laara Clarkson, Manager of Recreation
- Disability Alliance BC Grants – Lynn Wark, Director of Recreation and Culture

Accomplishments:

2021 Work Plan			
Topic	Lead	Overview	Accomplishments
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.	Incomplete. Decision made to carry this forward into 2022 as a priority
REIMAGINE Nanaimo	Community Planning Parks, Recreation and Culture	Continue to participate in the engagement process for REIMAGINE Nanaimo. Some specifics would include input regarding accessibility of facilities, infrastructure and parks.	Complete. Had regular REIMAGINE updates at meetings. Participated in a REIMAGINE Policy workshop in December.

Complete the review of the LEAP (Leisure Economic Access Pass) Program	Parks, Recreation and Culture	Complete the review of the LEAP Program to identify opportunities for change or improvement.	Complete.
Projects as referred by Council and/or Staff for review and input	Legislative Services	Review and provide input into existing and future projects and plans as directed.	Complete. Reviewed and provided input on all City projects brought forward to Committee.

Additional Items accomplished by the Committee:

Workshop Participation

- Nanaimo Aquatic Centre Water Features Review
- Universal Design Standards Workshop

Trends or Issues of Concern:

This committee has been actively engaged in many City projects and often has more on the agenda than time allows – with items getting delayed to future meetings. This fact alone demonstrates the potential importance of following through on the creation of the Guiding Principles Summary as a resource for staff.

Future Meeting Topics:

The Committee has proposed several topic areas for discussion in 2022, including, but not limited to:

- Establishment of Guiding Principles
- Beban Pool Accessibility Audit
- Beban Social Centre – Outdoor Learning Centre
- Banning Conversion Therapy
- Outstanding Recommendations

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.]

OPTIONS

1. That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness review the 2021 Annual Report and recommend that Council receive the 2021 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 the 2021 Annual Report and recommend that Council receive the amended 2021 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 2021 Annual Report for the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness provides a snapshot of the Committee's achievements for Council's information.
- Two of the most significant projects that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness contributed to in 2021 included input into the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process and the completion of the Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) Program review.
- The Committee has also been actively engaged in many City projects, offering input to assist with enhanced levels of accessibility and inclusiveness through planning phases.

Submitted by:

Lynn Wark
Director, Recreation and Culture

Concurrence by:

Art Groot
Acting General Manager, Parks, Recreation &
Culture