

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 2022-JAN-12, AT 4:01 P.M.

Present: Councillor Z. Maartman, Chair
Councillor S. Armstrong
A. Breen, At Large Member
S. Cameron, At Large Member
S. Hamel, At Large Member
D. Hollins, At Large Member
J. Maffin, At Large Member
R. Pike, At Large Member
E. Williamson, At Large Member

Absent: L. Derksen, At Large Member
R. Harlow, At Large Member

Others: Samantha Ryan (Proulx), and Christina Amaral-Ki, ABE Factors Inc.
(joined 4:01 p.m., disconnected 4:28 p.m.)

Staff: L. Wark, Director, Recreation Services
L. Clarkson, Manager, Recreation Services
J. Rose, Manager, Transportation
L. Stevenson, Active Transportation Project Specialist
K. Robertson, Deputy City Clerk
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
A. Mac Coll, 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 4:01 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

(a) Add Agenda Item 7(b) Nanaimo Aquatic Centre Water Feature Review.

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 electronically on Wednesday, 2021-NOV-24 at 4:03 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Verbal update re: Beban Pool Accessibility Audit

Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture, provided the Committee with a verbal update. Highlights included:

- Beban Pool was chosen for the accessibility audit as it is currently closed and the City of Nanaimo (City) would be able to implement some of the upgrades at this location and use the same audit format for other City buildings
- The evaluation criteria used for the accessibility audit included the:
 - 2018 BC Building Code
 - 2020 BC Accessibility Handbook
 - 2014 Guidelines for Pool Design
 - City of Nanaimo Accessibility Requirements for Persons with Disabilities
 - Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Survey Criteria (RHFAC)
- All items with current deficiencies are permitted to remain in their existing condition until upgrades are proposed
- The audit took into account the following areas:
 - The immediate parking area
 - The path of travel from the parking area
 - The path of travel from transit stops
 - Facility entrances
 - All normally occupied spaces by patrons in the building
- Key highlights to improve from the report were the following:
 - Change the accessible parking stalls to be wider with more demarcated access isles with dedicated curb ramps
 - Adding more elongated automatic push pads for all doors used in the Beban facility
 - Adding a greater variety of seating options in the lounge area with differentiation from the seating area to the paths of travel
 - Change rooms to have accessible height sinks with L shaped bars
 - Visual fire alarms with identification for accessible routes with signage and wayfinding including larger text
 - Colour contrasting, tactile components, and glare free surfaces for all signage
- The next steps for City Staff are to review and assess the recommendations and then develop a financial strategy to support the recommendations for implementation

Samantha Ryan (Proulx), Principal, ABE Factors Inc., and Christina Amaral-Ki, Technical Accessibility Consultant, ABE Factors Inc., were in attendance to answer questions. Highlights included:

- Addressed in the technical report were requirements to implement baby to adult size change tables which included adjustable heights and ceiling lifts in the individual changerooms

- Beban currently has individual shower rooms with adult change tables and it is suggested that handheld shower heads at more accessible heights be included for the change tables
- Visually impaired persons would be able to use the universal change rooms, and it is suggested that they are shown the space before use
- Beban facility fitness centre is recommended to be moved to another fitness space on the ground floor
- The technical report is a stepping stone for the City to see where the facility is non-compliant, and where the City could improve by going above and beyond the minimum standards
- A maintenance section to keep all paths clear and accessible at all times of the year was provided in the report
- The universal change rooms currently have individual universal washrooms that are used as gender neutral washrooms

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Change rooms and access to change tables for all ages
- The possibility of adding handheld sprayers to the accessible washrooms
- Limited access to the fitness centre on the second floor
- Recommendations in the technical report and how they could be implemented by the City
- Accessibility needs to be addressed in all weather conditions
- Gender neutral washrooms
- Ensuring that when snow removal is completed by the City accessibility is kept in mind
- City policies around snow removal and where snow is collected

Samantha Ryan (Proulx), Principal, ABE Factors Inc., and Christina Amaral-Ki, Technical Accessibility Consultant, ABE Factors Inc. disconnected from the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

(b) Verbal Update re: Banning Conversion Therapy

Karen Robertson, Deputy City Clerk, provided the Committee with a verbal update. Highlights included:

- The report on banning conversion therapy was scheduled to go to Council, but was postponed due to the bill to ban conversion therapy being considered by the House of Commons
- On 2021-DEC-09 Royal Assent was given and it is currently Federal law which is outside the local government's jurisdiction
- The information report will be given to Council as it is still an important topic for Council as well as the public

(c) Verbal Update re: Transit Stops

Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation, provided the Committee with a verbal update. Highlights included:

- Staff will identify and invite members to join a working group regarding transit stops in Nanaimo and area
- The working group would identify concerns and challenges the City and the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) are facing regarding design standards and issues including under developed roads
- Design processes are to be created to address accessibility issues for transit stops in a financially practical way
- City Staff will generate a report based on the working group, to be discussed and endorsed by the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (the Committee)
- The City is partnering with the RDN for the transit redevelopment strategy

(d) Beban Social Centre - Outdoor Learning Centre

Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture, provided the Committee with a presentation. Highlights included:

- Early years programs currently have a dedicated room with an outside space that includes a cement pad and grass area
- Extending the indoor space to the outdoor area will create more accessibility for an outdoor learning centre
- The vision for the outdoor learning space is preschool to grade 7 with adult use in the evenings
- A quiet learning area with a blackboard or a whiteboard for outside learning is included in the design for accessible and inclusive learning
- Plants are to be used in the grass area to help outdoor learning
- Compressed wood fiber to be used to improve grade for wheelchair access

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The grade of the ground and ability for it to be levelled for entry
- Wheelchair accessible tube like structures for the outdoor learning space
- Using Indigenous plants and First Nations educators to provide outdoor learning
- Storage of and protection of educational tools in the outdoor space

6. REPORTS:

(a) 2021 Annual Report for Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness

Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture, provided the Committee with a verbal update. Highlights included:

- Information report for Mayor and Council regarding the 2021 annual report for the Committee

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recommend that Council receive the 2021 Annual Report for information. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Draft 2022 Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Work Plan

Introduced by Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture. Highlights included:

- The Committee will continue to assist in the REIMAGINE Nanaimo work plan by providing input to Staff
- The Committee will review and provide input in City projects or anything assigned to the Committee by Mayor and Council

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Design standard improvements regarding accessible parking and City bylaws and policies
- Use of language and gender recommendations for Council from 2021 to be continued into the 2022 work plan
- Adding Electric vehicles and persons with disabilities for accessible parking to the 2022 work plan
- To add more inclusiveness issues into the 2022 work plan

Jamie Rose, Manager of Transportation, advised the Committee that the City has requirements for off street parking location and sizes. The City does not stipulate where explicitly the accessible parking spots are but use and proximity of the accessible spots need to be updated and will need some direction from the community. Currently the City has a very low uptake in the electric vehicles.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Registration for City programs and the City including information for patrons on what accessibility accommodations they have for facilities and programs
- Shaw TV closed captioning for City meetings

Sky Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer, advised the Committee that the Shaw Closed Captioning topic will be coming forward to a Finance and Audit meeting.

Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture, advised the 2022 work plan list will be completed and brought back to the next committee meeting for approval.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness - Outstanding Recommendations

Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture, advised the Committee that the recommendations for gender neutral language and inclusiveness were put forward to Human Resources Staff for research and their findings were presented to the Senior Management Team. The Senior Management Team/Staff suggested before the report goes before Council that the gender neutral training on diversity and inclusion as well as legal counsel for the recommendations be completed.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- A Legal challenge is currently underway with gender neutral language that could affect the City when implementing recommendations
- Council and Staff should have gender neutral language and inclusiveness training even if the recommendations have not come forward to Council yet
- Housing affordability and accessibility will be added to the work plan for 2022
- The City is involved in many working groups and non-profits for housing and affordability

(b) Nanaimo Aquatic Centre Water Feature Review

Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture, advised the Committee that the Aquatics Manager had previously presented the new design to interested members. The water features include misters, trees, and a natural forest look that is accessible. The new feature is to be implemented in 2023.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) has outstanding recommendations that will be brought back to the Committee after the recreation team completes their research

8. QUESTION PERIOD:

There was no one in attendance to ask questions.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:17 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER