

**MINUTES**  
SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING  
ELECTRONIC MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, 2022-MAR-23, AT 4:04 P.M.

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Present: Councillor Z. Maartman, Chair  
A. Breen, At Large Member  
S. Cameron, At Large Member  
R. Harlow, At Large Member  
J. Maffin, At Large Member  
R. Pike, At Large Member

Absent: Councillor S. Armstrong  
S. Hamel, At Large Member  
D. Hollins, At Large Member  
E. Williamson, At Large Member

Staff: B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works  
L. Wark, Director, Recreation Services  
L. Brinkman, Manager, Community Planning  
L. Clarkson, Manager, Recreation Services  
J. Rose, Manager, Transportation  
D. Beck, Recreation Coordinator  
K. MacDonald, Parks and Open Space Planner  
S. Snelgrove, Deputy City Clerk  
Kelly Gerard, Recording Secretary

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

The Special Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

3. REPORTS:

(a) REIMAGINE Draft City Plan

Presentation:

1. Kirsty MacDonald, Parks and Open Spaces Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation and an overview of the definitions included under the headings "Diversity and Equity", "Inclusivity" and "Equity and Universal Design".

- She noted that Staff is attempting to include definitions that will be relevant long-term (20 – 25 years) as the City Plan is a long term planning document.
- She conveyed that the definitions come from the Racial Equity Tools, City of Victoria and the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design and asked whether the Committee had any feedback.

Committee Members suggested the following:

- Deleting the word “authentically” and the phrase “traditionally excluded individuals” and replace it with “marginalized individuals or groups” in the definition for Inclusion.
- Both definitions under Inclusivity and Equity have relevant wording and serve a broad purpose.
- Combining definitions to create the best definitions for the City of Nanaimo (the City).

Kirsty MacDonald, Parks and Open Spaces Planner, continued the presentation and spoke regarding universal design and requested Committee feedback regarding the definition included in the draft City Plan.

Committee and Staff discussion took place and the Committee asked for assurances that the universal design includes physical access and uses by different groups such as access to gender neutral washrooms.

Kirsty MacDonald, Parks and Open Spaces Planner, continued the presentation and noted the following:

- The two documents that will be created from the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process include:
  1. the Nanaimo City Plan – which will include policies and bylaws that will guide the City over the next 25 years. It will be submitted to the Province for review; and
  2. the Nanaimo Integrated Action Plan – which will include the projects and programs for now, the future and ongoing.
- The Nanaimo Integrated Action Plan will be a flexible document that will be reviewed on a regular basis.
- Staff will be seeking feedback on the following sections under the Empowered Nanaimo section:
  1. Equity and Inclusivity;
  2. Political Voice and Engagement; and
  3. Access for All.
- This section will be adopted by bylaw and submitted to the Province. It will form the Accessibility Plan as required by the Province.
- Integration includes section C4.4 – Access for All and is embedded in the Urban Centre Scale and the Neighbourhood Scale to show the levels of access in each model.
- Empowered Nanaimo covers sections C4.1 to C4.10.
- Staff requested Committee feedback regarding the desired outcomes in section C4.2 Equity and Inclusivity.

Committee Members suggested to specify and reference different genders throughout the document, specifically when “cultures, orientations and abilities” are mentioned.

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recommend that the Governance and Priorities Committee include, for consistency, a reference to different genders in the Desired Outcomes policy section C4.2 – Equity and Inclusivity. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee requested that the word “equitable” be used instead of “fair” in section C4.2.3 and enquired how section C4.2.2 relates to the housing crisis and financial policies. They also asked that a policy be included for eliminating homelessness and to ensure the land use policies allow for affordable housing.

Staff noted that a policy on eliminating homelessness could be included in the Empowered Nanaimo and Healthy Nanaimo sections and contain icons that show how each section relates.

It was conveyed that there are restraints for local governments regarding addiction and homelessness and indicated the steps City Council has taken to advocate to the Province to create more supportive and complex care housing.

Staff highlighted that setting targets and goals for eliminating homelessness would be contained in the action plans and could be integrated in the partnerships/relationships section.

The Committee asked that a reference to gender be included in section C4.2.8 and throughout this section.

Kirsty MacDonald, Parks and Open Spaces Planner, continued the presentation with highlights as follows:

- Under the Political Voice section, it was identified in phase one and two engagement processes that a more diverse political voice was needed.
- The “Desired Outcomes” were reviewed within sections C4.3.1 to C4.3.6 and asked if there was any feedback on this section. None was provided.
- The goals of the “Access for All” section is to ensure everyone has the ability to move freely and have full access to experience the community.
- “Desired Outcomes” were reviewed within the “Desired Outcomes” section under “Access for All” in sections C4.4.1 to C4.4.8 and asked if there was any feedback on this section. None was provided.
- Reviewed sections C4.4.9 to C4.4.19 under the subheadings titled Parks and Recreation Facilities and Recreation Programs and requested Committee feedback. None was provided.
- Land use development includes policies regarding how City recreation facilities can be incorporated into hubs.

- Staff requested Committee feedback on sections C4.4.20 to C4.4.27 – Land Use Development and Mobility and Transportation

Committee and Staff discussion took place with highlights as follows:

- Subheadings are consistent as they all focus on physical navigation and access.
- Programs offered through Parks, Recreation and Culture need to be inclusive and Staff will be requesting Committee feedback on programming at a future meeting.

The Committee requested that gender be included in section C4.4.14.

It was noted that income is considered under “abilities” wording.

The Committee requested that alleys in the active transportation network and/or under connector trails be included as part of pedestrian infrastructure.

Staff advised that alleys are included in the street network and are reflected in the transportation network but not maintained as well as main arteries and roads.

Staff stated that the minimum standards were followed for parking access and design.

The Committee conveyed that:

- The City should have stated expectations for parking standards as an action accessible item.
- Barriers to parking include fees, accessibility including on-street parking where there are no designated accessibility parking spots on residential streets and residential complexes charging for accessible parking spots.

Staff advised that:

- The goal is to reduce barriers to transit use in partnership with the Regional District of Nanaimo.
- Pricing for parking is a complex issue and is dependent on market value and location and if included in this process, parking accessibility would be noted in the action plan.
- The intention of language is to be open and universal as possible so few amendments are required over the life of the document.
- Fees associated with parking in relation to accessibility.

The Committee suggested that improvements be made to the document for readability.

Kirsty MacDonald, Parks and Open Space Planner, continued the presentation and advised that the next steps include a Phase Three Engagement period which will be open until April 8<sup>th</sup>. Bylaw adoption will take place in the summer of 2022. She then asked that Committee members to

share information with friends, networks and groups to ensure diverse feedback is provided in Phase Three.

Committee and Staff discussion took place regarding the Statistically Valid Survey.

4. QUESTION PERIOD:

No one was in attendance to ask questions.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:40 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER