

MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE, 411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2022-JUN-22 AT 4:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor Z. Maartman, Chair (joined electronically)
A. Breen, At Large Member (joined electronically)
S. Cameron, At Large Member (joined electronically)
S. Hamel, At Large Member (joined electronically 5:06 p.m.)
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 (joined electronically)

Absent: R. Harlow, At Large Member

Staff: L. Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development
J. Van Horne, Director, Human Resources
L. Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture
L. Clarkson, Manager, Recreation Services
J. Rose, Manager, Transportation
D. Beck, Parks and Open Space Planner
K. Robertson, Deputy City Clerk
K. Gerard, 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) Add Agenda Item 8(a) - Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture, re: Mobi-Mat.

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, 2022-APR-27, at 4:01 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

- (a) Wendy Hall, Chair, Central Island Community Council with Community Living British Columbia
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Wendy Hall, Chair, Central Island Community Council with Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) and Rita Hall, Community Living BC, provided the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (the Committee) with a verbal presentation regarding the CLBC and the services they provide to the community. Highlights included:

- CLBC is funded through the Province of BC and support adults, 19 years and older, diagnosed with a development disability, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder or Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Staff meet once per month
- She invited any member of the Committee to join the meeting in September
- Ideas for the ACAI Committee to consider:
 - Washrooms with braille
 - Installation of more crosswalk signals that can be initiated by waving
 - Increase accessibility for parking and trails
 - Implementing a five year renewal for the Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) program instead of annually
 - Ensuring sidewalks are wide enough for wheelchairs with no barriers (such as telephone polls and overhanging plants and shrubs)
 - Incentive or policies to ensure more new developments include accessible, inclusive and/or housing for low income families and individuals

Committee and Staff discussion took place regarding:

- Current work being completed for inclusive washrooms, the LEAP program, and accessible parking
- The Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC) currently advocates for more accessible parking
- Reporting issues and concerns directly through the City of Nanaimo website using the online submission form
- Advocating for tiny homes and increasing the requirement for accessible and low income units in new developments
- Human Rights Tribunal and their influence over issues of accessibility and inclusiveness

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, advised the Committee that Staff are currently conducting a family friendly, accessible and adaptable housing study with the goal of bringing forward a policy to Council to ensure developers include a certain amount of units in each new development as family friendly, accessible and/or adaptable. Staff are also looking at ways to incent private developers to increase the amount of units required that are family friendly, accessible and adaptable.

(b) "Off-Street Parking Regulations Bylaw 2018 No. 7266"

Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the "Off-Street Parking Regulations Bylaw 2018 No. 7266" (the Bylaw) for information. He advised the Committee that:

- There are provisions in the bylaw that require a certain width and depth of parking spaces and the number of stalls required for disability parking based each individual building
- The language in the bylaw does leave room for interpretation
- Staff requested that Committee members review the Bylaw for a fulsome discussion at the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for 2022-SEP-07

(c) Transit Stop Accessibility Working Group Update

Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Transit Stop Accessibility Working Group. He noted the following:

- Staff found that requirements for form and character between BC Transit, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), and the City are similar in regards to space allocation, loading areas and sidewalk transitions for transit stops
- Staff and members of the Committee toured four bus stops in Nanaimo to ascertain accessibility and ease of movement for bus users
- Takeaways from the tour included old infrastructure, cluttered waiting areas, little room to load and unload for wheelchair users and safety concerns
- Transit stop locations that require improvements were included in the Allocation of Pedestrian Unallocated Funding brought forward to Council on 2022-JUN-20
- Staff are working with the RDN to prioritize bus stops that require improvements and remove barriers

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Communication to the public at bus stops should include transit contact information so riders can report issues and concerns
- Discussion on ways the City can influence or implement policies for parking requirements and standards for parking lots that are City owned and/or privately owned

Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation, advised the Committee that Staff are able to ensure that parking meets the requirements stated in the Bylaw but have no mechanism in place to follow up to identify if the parking area has been changed and no longer meet the requirements. Mr. Rose suggested that members of the Committee and Staff conduct a detailed review of the Bylaw to see if minor amendments or changes need to be made.

6. DELEGATIONS:

- (a) Hannah Dudney, Master in Arts Student in Sustainable Leisure Management Program, Vancouver Island University

Hannah Dudney, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding park crowding from the perspective of people with mobility related disabilities. She noted the following:

- The purpose of the study is to ensure accessible recreation for all community members by focusing on the perspective of park crowding from people who use a mobility device
- People with mobility disabilities are missing in tourism conversations and policies, outdoor recreation research and park crowding research
- The effects on someone with mobility issues can include ease of mobility, social experiences and accessibility ratings for parks and trails
- Seeking volunteers who uses mobility devices or have previously experienced park crowding, and willing to meet in June, July or August, to participate in her study

7. REPORTS:

(a) John Van Horne, Director, Human Resources, re: Gender Diversity and Inclusion Recommendations

John Van Horne, Director, Human Resources, provided a verbal update regarding the Gender Diversity and Inclusion Recommendations brought forward to Council at the 2022-JUN-20 Regular Council Meeting. Highlights included:

- The following motion was brought to the 2022-JUN-20 Regular Council Meeting and was approved by Council:

It was moved and seconded:

1. *That gender and diversity and inclusivity training be offered to Council and staff.*
2. *That staff be directed to integrate gender inclusive and gender neutral language (where possible) in key communications and printed and electronic materials.*
3. *That staff be encouraged to use personal pronouns, where staff are comfortable making the individual choice to do so.*

- The City is offering Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) training to all employees and other organizations that wish to participate
- Messaging will be going out to City Staff regarding the motion, training and expectations
- The goal is to create an environment where each Staff member is comfortable making decisions based on education and information

(b) Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) Program - Proposed Changes Fall 2022

Introduced by Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture,

Laara Clarkson, Manager, Recreation Services, provided a review of the proposed changes to the LEAP program. Highlights included:

- Changes that have been implemented already include immediate approval for applicants who have already been approved through another level of government. These applicants will no longer have to show their Notice of Assessment and passes will be valid for two years instead of one
- If approved by Council at the 2022-JUL-04 Regular Council Meeting more changes will be implemented based on the recommendation included in the Staff report

Committee discussion took place regarding communication to the public, including non-profits in the marketing plan, and inclusion of people on the Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPPD) benefit.

S. Hamel joined the meeting electronically at 5:06 p.m.

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (ACAI) recommend that Council approve the additional LEAP program changes to allow applicants to demonstrate financial need through alternate methods of proof as described in the 2022-JUN-22 Staff report and allocate them a valid pass for two years, and endorse the revised policy as attached to the 2022-JUN-22 report by the Manager of Recreation Services. The motion carried unanimously.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation Services, re: Mobi-Mat

Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation Services, advised the Committee that a Mobi-Mat was recently installed at Departure Bay Beach and is requesting that any member of the Committee who is in a wheelchair could meet with Staff to test the durability and accessibility of the mat.

9. QUESTION PERIOD:

No members of the public were in attendance to ask questions.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:12 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIR

DEPUTY CITY CLERK