



MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 4:00 P.M.
Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre,
411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC

- Members:
- Councillor S. Armstrong, Chair
 - Councillor H. Eastmure
 - T. Brzovic, At Large Member
 - L. Derksen, At Large Member*
 - S. Enns, At Large Member
 - W. Hall, At Large Member*
 - R. Harlow, At Large Member *
 - T. Hirasawa, At Large Member
 - B. Kinrade, At Large Member
 - J. Maffin, At Large Member*
 - A. Stuart, At Large Member
 - N. Sugiyama, At Large Member
- Absent:
- J. Cowan, At Large Member
- Staff:
- R. Harding, General Manager, Community Services/Deputy CAO
 - B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
 - K. Ing, Director, IT/CIO
 - A. Breen, Manager, Culture & Special Events
 - L. Brinkman, Manager, Community Planning
 - M. Bryson, Manager, Recreation Facilities & Custodial Services
 - A. Daly, Recreation Coordinator
 - K. Robertson, Deputy Corporate Officer
 - N. Sponaule, Communications Advisor
 - K. Lundgren, Recording Secretary

* Denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by "Council Procedure Bylaw 2018 No. 7272"

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting (ACAI) was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Special Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2023-NOV-08, at 4:01 p.m., be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. DELEGATIONS:

a. Veronica Buck, Regional Partnership Engagement Manager, Royal BC Museum re: Engagement on a More Accessible and Inclusive Museum

Veronica Buck, Regional Partnership Engagement Manager, Royal BC Museum, spoke regarding the Royal BC Museum's engagement process. Highlights included:

- The Royal BC Museum (the Museum) is currently in a multi-year BC-wide public engagement initiative to envision the future of the Museum
- There is a desire to bring forward a more inclusive and accessible museum as well as ensure the museum is a representation of all of BC's communities
- Seeking input on how the Museum can better represent Nanaimo

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Opportunities to bring Nanaimo's shared history into the Museum
- Collaboration with Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo Museum and Snuneymuxw First Nation
- Support for the engagement process and discussions around not just physical accessibility but also barriers such as financial and sensory accessibility
- School District 68's attendance to the Royal BC Museum for field trips and opportunities for virtual connection

Veronica Buck, Regional Partnership Engagement Manager, Royal BC Museum, informed the Committee that “Reimagining the Royal BC Museum” online survey will be available starting 2024-JAN-11.

Committee discussion continued:

- Opportunities for travelling exhibits and ensuring communities are aware that these are available
- The Chinese history in Nanaimo
- Increase affordability of the Museum
- Potential opportunity for the Museum to recognize the City of Nanaimo’s Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP)
- Suggestion to work with Nanaimo’s collector/archival/memory groups
- Access 2 card is designed for people with diverse ability to have access to entertainment at a lower cost

5. PRESENTATIONS:

a. Integrated Action Plan Overview

Introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Community Services/Deputy CAO.

Presentation:

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

- Purpose of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) is to communicate the full breadth of actions the City may consider undertaking
- The IAP is a library of actions, broken down into programs and projects and all actions are organized into timeframes (ongoing, immediate and future)
- Council has identified 200 priority actions
- Next steps include bringing forward to Council a monitoring strategy, being lead by the City’s sustainability team

Emily Notley, Planning Assistant, Community Planning, continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- Provided an overview of several of the priority actions that pertain to accessibility and inclusiveness

- The internal Style Guide is currently being reviewed to standardize gender-inclusive and gender-neutral language in municipal communications
- Staff are currently working on implementing phase two of the LEAP program
- Training with staff was done for the delivery of swimming and skating lessons for children with autism
- Adaptive Hockey and other sports programs are growing
- Work is being done regarding incentivizing adaptable housing and spaces

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Inclusive language is continuously evolving
- Possibility for organizations to partner with the City to allow their programming to be included in the Activity Guide
- The City's Community Program Development Grant provides start-up funding for new programs
- Program proposal forms are available on the City of Nanaimo website to submit new program ideas for the Activity Guide

6. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

Councillor Armstrong advised of the following:

a. Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Workplan

During the 2023-NOV-20 Regular Council Meeting, Council adopted the following motion:

"That Council endorse the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness 2023-2026 workplan as presented in the report titled 'Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Workplan', dated 2023-NOV-08."

b. Hearing Assistive Device Options for Installation at City Facilities

During the 2023-NOV-20 Regular Council Meeting, Council adopted the following motion:

"That Council approve the implementation of the following pilot project subject to funding:

- Installation of a hearing loop at the front counter at two City facilities, and an adaptive soundfield system in the Service and Resource Centre Boardroom; and,
- Direct Staff to return to a Finance and Audit Committee Meeting to determine funding options for the pilot project."

7. REPORTS:

a. Update on Accessibility Improvements to City Facilities

Introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Community Services/Deputy CAO.

Presentation:

1. Mike Bryson, Manager, Recreation Facilities and Custodial Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
 - The Rick Hanson Foundation audited three City facilities (Nanaimo Aquatic Centre (NAC), Frank Crane Arena and Bowen Complex) and provided a one-time funding allotment of \$82,000 to assist with the accessibility upgrading
 - Listed the key areas of improvement identified in the audit for each of the three facilities and identified their progress
 - Noted some of the next improvements:
 - A no slip coating added to surfaces at the NAC
 - Additional wayfinding blade signage
 - Four new wheelchairs added to inventory
 - Installing automatic door openers and special hand railings at the Frank Crane Arena
 - Two staff members received specialized training from the Rick Hansen Foundation to perform assessments/audits

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The Rick Hansen Foundation provided one-time funding and the rest will be funded by the City
- Rick Hansen Foundation training may not completely cover all aspects of accessibility
- There is opportunity for the Rick Hansen Foundation training to be offered to additional staff and/or committee members
- Noted the lack of elevators at the Beban Recreation Centre
- Requested Westwood Lake Trail be higher up on the priority list for accessibility improvements

- People with diverse abilities/real experience accessing the facilities after the upgrades
- Considering accessibility to and from bus stops
- The Rick Hansen Foundation is coming out with Rating Survey version 4.0 with updates including neurodiversity, universal washrooms, and comprehensive vision and hearing. Within the organization they are trying to govern a wider set of diversity
- The Rick Hansen Foundation training requires ongoing certification
- The path from the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre to the bus stop is not an accessible route
- The City's Transportation Section will be coming to the ACAI meeting in March to discuss transit stop accessibility

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recommend that Council direct Staff to work with School District #68 and the Regional District of Nanaimo Transit department to develop a plan to address accessibility challenges in navigating from the bus stop at Nanaimo District Secondary School to the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre and the Stadium District. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee discussion took place regarding the new Rating Survey version 4.0 of the Rick Hansen Foundation Audit Certification and ensuring any new City facility audits be conducted with the most recent version applied.

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recommend the following City Recreation Centres receive assessments/audits in 2024:

- Oliver Woods Community Centre
- Beban Park Pool
- Cliff McNabb Arena
- Nanaimo Ice Centre
- Nanaimo Museum
- Vancouver Island Military Museum
- City Hall/SARC

The motion carried unanimously.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Email from Alexandria Stuart dated 2023-JAN-02 Re: Inclusion BC Conference

Alexandria Stuart spoke regarding the Inclusion BC Conference to be held at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre from 2024-MAY-30 to 2024-JUN-01, which provides an opportunity to showcase Nanaimo's commitment to accessibility and inclusiveness.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Potential to have a presentation at the conference on what the City is doing around accessibility and inclusiveness
- Deadline for proposals for workshops is 2024-JAN-15

Karen Robertson, Deputy Corporate Officer, noted that there is a small budget attached to the ACAI that could potentially fund one of the committee members to attend the conference.

Committee discussion continued:

- Setting a milestone date and identifying what goals the Committee would like to see achieved by then
- MyCommunity BC map is an online map that shows spaces that other citizens have identified as inclusive

b. Inclusion BC Housing Campaign Fact Sheets Provided by Wendy Hall for Information

Introduced by Wendy Hall provided an overview of the Inclusion BC Inclusive Housing Campaign fact sheet.

9. QUESTION PERIOD:

The Committee received two questions from the public.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 6:00 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIR

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER