



MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING

Wednesday, July 10, 2024, 4:01 P.M.
Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre,
411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC

Members:	Councillor H. Eastmure, Chair T. Brzovic, At Large Member S. Enns, At Large Member T. Hirasawa, At Large Member J. Maffin, At Large Member* S. Pump, At Large Member A. Stuart, At Large Member* N. Sugiyama, At Large Member
Absent:	Councillor. S. Armstrong L. Derksen, At Large Member R. Harlow, At Large Member B. Kinrade, At Large Member
Staff:	J. Holm, Director, Planning and Development K. Robertson, Deputy Corporate Officer M. Lonsdale, Senior Project Manager N. Sponaule, Communications Advisor J. Tonella, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

The Chair expressed condolences acknowledging the recent passing of Committee Member Wendy Hall and her contributions to the Committee.

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

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Add Agenda Item 8(a) – Other Business – Committee Member Nicole Sugiyama re: Outdoor Playday

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2024-MAY-08, at 4:01 p.m., be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Westwood Lake Beach Accessibility Upgrades and Washroom Upgrades

Introduced by Michael Lonsdale, Senior Project Manager.

- This is the second phase of work happening at Westwood Lake Park
- This phase is focusing on the space between the new parking lot, lake, and beach
- The City is ready to submit for building permits
- Previous feedback from the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (the Committee) has been integrated into the design

Kelsi Hurlbut, Lead Consultant, The TULA Project, and Jesse Garlick, Architect, STUDIO 521 Architects, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- The beach in the site plan has significantly increased in area and is bordered by tiered seating
- A wide, accessible pathway will connect all trail systems, the existing washrooms, and second beach
- The design includes primary ramp access to the beach and washroom, both having direct access to and from the accessible parking
- Universally accessible site furniture will be included throughout the site and will be wheelchair, walker, and stroller friendly

- A dog watering station and a year-round water filling station will be located near the washrooms
- Four buildings are included in the site plan, the largest in the middle being the universally accessible washroom, and the other three surrounding buildings are accessible washrooms that can accommodate a diverse range of use
- Shade sails and trees have been integrated across the site
- There will only be vehicular access to the parking lot and boat launch to limit the interaction between vehicles and park users
- The height differential between the beach and gathering space area is accommodated by an accessible, graded ramp down
- All slopes will be under 2.5% and ramps under 8.3%
- Ramps to the beach will have a landing to increase ease and accessibility
- Belgard pavers will be used throughout the site as they exceed accessibility standards and maintenance over time is easier and less expensive

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recessed the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness reconvened the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

Kelsi Hurlbut, Lead Consultant, The TULA Project, and Jesse Garlick, Architect, STUDIO 521 Architects, continued the PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Seating will be available between the washrooms
- Doorways and pathways will be illuminated to increase visibility and accessibility and will appear as a warm glow at night
- There will be six gender neutral washrooms/changing stalls and one universal washroom/family change room with an adult change table
- The universal washroom will be 12x12 feet, designed with power locks and a motorized adult change table, sink, and toilet
- The six other change and toilet rooms are not fully accessible; however, they will be 5x7 feet which is significantly larger than a conventional change room, and will include grab bars, a bench, shelf, and accessible sink/fixtures
- Lockers will be available with accessible height options
- Signage will meet accessible and universal standards and will be used next to each individual room as well as throughout the park

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- A built-in lift was not incorporated into the design; however, the universal washroom is large enough to accommodate a mobile lift
- Power outlets are included on each wall of the universal washroom at an accessible height
- Concerns regarding having only one wheelchair accessible washroom that is also used as a family washroom
- Higher light levels are closer to the universal washroom and there will be individual lights over every doorway to increase visibility
- Discussion regarding diverging the uses of the universal washroom by providing a dedicated change space and more specially dedicated universal washroom space
- To make the six gender neutral bathrooms accessible and code compliant, the width would have to increase from 5 feet to 8 feet
- Discussion regarding the need for an additional universal washroom space

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recommend that Council direct Staff to draft a report that includes options for adding an additional accessible washroom at Westwood Lake beyond what is already included in the design. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Form and Character Development Permit Guidelines Project

Introduced by Jeremy Holm, Director, Planning and Development.

- This project is part of the implementation of the Official Community Plan which designates land within the City for form and character development permit area, for review of industrial, commercial, multi-family, and mixed-use developments
- The Development Permit Review Guidelines applies to private property, and it involves reviewing the exterior site and building design including landscaping and the accessibility of the site

Surabhi Shakkarwar, Kristen Elkow, Kevin King, Shane Oleksiuk, Jason McDougall, and Thaddeus Holland (Boniface Oleksiuk Politano), provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- A development permit is a land use permit used by local governments to look at the exterior of proposed buildings on private property

- Development permits help Nanaimo ensure that new buildings are in line with City Plan
- Design guidelines consider landscape elements, the presence of public art, and creating spaces to socialize
- By updating the guidelines, the City is hoping to respond to changes in the BC Building Code by promoting energy and water conservation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reinforcing City Plan, and creating one comprehensive document that contains all the guidelines, as well as updating and including robust landscape guidelines
- Currently in phase two (community engagement) of the project timeline
- The feedback will be reviewed in July and there will be another opportunity to review and comment on the draft policy in September, prior to Council's consideration in October
- Aspects of places to live that highlight connectivity include a flat pathway that connects the street to the front entrance, a large street number on the building, raised garden beds for all residents to use, balconies, and central social spaces
- Aspects of places to visit (or work) that highlight connectivity include flat pathways, uplifting art in public spaces, benches with space for wheelchairs to pull up to, and outdoor patios with planters and umbrellas to provide shade

The presenters turned the discussion over to the Committee to provide feedback on the following two questions:

1. Features around accessible and inclusive townhomes and apartments that have a big impact on people's experiences.
2. What is needed outside and around places like stores, restaurants, offices, and industrial buildings so they are accessible to everyone?

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Landscaping with large trees results in roots heaving the sidewalks causing accessibility issues
- Site line issues and narrowing pathways are caused by unmaintained shrubbery
- Overgrown shrubbery affects walkways when clearing snow
- Suggestion for edible landscaping opportunities for food security

- Encouraging buildings to be set back and have wide sidewalks to allow for more walking space or a place for patios
- Need for multiple accessible routes near residential buildings
- Creating opportunities for cultural distinction in different neighbourhoods
- Having chairs/seats without arm rests to ensure benches are accessible and inclusive
- Gradual ramps and ramps with platforms are preferred
- Importance of consistent surfaces

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

Nicole Sugiyama advised the Committee of an Outdoor Playday event, organized by the Nanaimo Child Development Centre, taking place at Westwood Lake's second beach on Monday, August 19th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

The Committee received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:52 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER