



## MINUTES

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING

Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 4:00 P.M.  
Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre,  
411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC

Present: Councillor H. Eastmure, Chair  
Councillor S. Armstrong  
L. Derksen, At Large Member\*  
S. Enns, At Large Member  
R. Harlow, At Large Member (vacated 5:50 p.m.)  
T. Hirasawa, At Large Member (vacated 5:45 p.m.)  
B. Kinrade, At Large Member\*  
J. Maffin, At Large Member\*  
S. Pump, At Large Member\*  
S. Roden, At Large Member  
A. Stuart, At Large Member\*  
N. Sugiyama, At Large Member

Absent: T. Brzovic, At Large Member

Staff: M. Bryson, A/Director, Facility and Parks Operations  
L. Clarkson, Manager, Recreation Services  
C. Davis, Manager, Parks Operations  
D. Johnston, Manager, Recreation Services  
M. Lonsdale, Senior Project Manager  
K. Robertson, Deputy Corporate Officer  
N. Vracar, Deputy Corporate Officer  
Z. Beck, Recreation Leader III  
A. Daly, Recreation Coordinator  
N. Sponaule, Communications Advisor  
L. Young, Steno, Legislative Services  
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 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:**

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-JUL-10 at 4:01 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. CHAIR'S REPORT:**

a. Introductions - Councillor Eastmure

Councillor Eastmure introduced Sahara Roden as the newest member of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness.

Committee and staff members introduced themselves in a round table discussion.

**5. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:**

a. Westwood Lake Beach Accessibility Upgrades and Washroom Upgrades

Introduced by Karen Robertson, Deputy Corporate Officer.

During the 2024-JUL-22 Regular Council Meeting, Council adopted the following motion:

“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.”

During the 2024-JUL-29 Special Council Meeting, Council adopted the following motion which Staff have acted upon:

“That Council direct Staff to proceed with Option 3 – Convert One Non-Accessible Washroom into One Accessible Washroom and increase the 2024 project budget by \$100,000 funded by \$35,000 from the City-Wide

Parks DCC Reserve Fund and \$65,000 from the Special Initiatives Reserve.”

## 6. PRESENTATIONS:

### a. Maffeo Sutton Park Amenity Building

Michael Lonsdale, Senior Project Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- The project includes a new washroom building with a preliminary configuration of two accessible and universal washrooms, eight universal washrooms and separate gendered washroom spaces
- Public art will be included as part of the new building
- Ground and park improvements are not part of the project
- The current plan is to locate the building near the Lions Pavilion, which would support park use, trails and events within the park
- A needs assessment was started in June 2024, the design is starting in September 2024, and construction is planned to start in 2025

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The need for accessible port-a-potties during large events
- The importance of considering the accessibility of the pathway leading to the amenity building
- The desire to plan for more accessibility needs than what is anticipated
- Consideration for bathroom stalls that have a turning radius for a wheelchair and overhead lift
- Preference to have a lift and raisable adult change table in the same washroom
- Providing clear signage to the accessible washrooms as they can be difficult to find
- Including outward facing stalls with sinks on the outside of the building to reduce the need to navigate through hallways
- Consideration for the addition of a change room facility including freeing up the accessible washrooms used for this purpose
- Preference for automatic bathroom sink taps as timed levers or push buttons are difficult to manage and require frequent touching of surfaces

The Senior Project Manager, noted that the project would include accessible wayfinding signage, news releases and social media posts to increase awareness of the building updates.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Consideration for designing a family washroom/change space so families can have everything they need in one space
- Tofino's public washrooms being unique for including showers, and fitting the aesthetic of the space
- Benefits of having foot-washing stations and a changing bench considering the nearby beach area
- Increasing safety by installing lighting in and around the space
- Colour choices with consideration for coordination with the nearby playground as well as impact of high contrasts on people with visual impairments
- Raised men's and women's washroom symbols are helpful to people with reduced vision to feel the shape
- Consideration for sprayers next to the toilet, similar to a bidet
- Having space in the stalls for strollers to mitigate the risk of theft if the stroller is left outside the stall
- Consider installing child-size toilets with quiet flushing and lower-height toilets for people with different weight and height
- The desire to install pull-down step stools near the sinks and soap dispensers on the side wall as opposed to the back wall for easier reach

Charlotte Davis, Manager, Parks Operations, noted that washroom facilities are currently open from 6:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. in the summer and until 9:00 p.m. in the winter.

Committee discussion continued regarding applying non-slip flooring to prevent slipping incidents due to rain or water from foot-washing stations.

The Senior Project Manager noted that the project design will be brought back to the Committee reflective of the feedback from the discussion.

b. Accessibility Audits Update

Mike Bryson, A/Director, Facility and Parks Operations, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Nanaimo Aquatic Centre (NAC), Frank Crane Arena and Bowen Park Complex were audited by the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF)
- An overview of several installations, improvements and replacements that have taken place at the three audited facilities
- Applying a non-slip coating to floors will likely become an operational maintenance
- The next facilities to be audited include the Oliver Woods building and playground, the Nanaimo Ice Centre (NIC), Westwood Lake Park and Serauxmen Stadium

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Feedback from the Oliver Woods Senior Activities noted that it was hard for seniors to navigate the park and the gate with walkers due to fallen trees and growing vegetation
- Consideration for people with a sensory processing disorder, including potentially having a designated time where the music and lighting is dimmed, choosing paint colours with sensory needs in mind, and providing a quiet space from external stimulus
- RHF recommended use of flashing lights for emergencies, and following up with the RHF auditor on ways to accommodate the lights with sensory needs
- Lack of accessible parking near the Rotary Bowl Track, particularly with the Special Olympics BC and BC Summer Games coming to Nanaimo
- The NAC accessible changing area with lift and change table not providing sufficient space for a wheelchair and caregiver
- Concerns regarding the accessibility of the path from the bus stop to the Stadium District
- The desire to review potentially obtaining para sled equipment for the NIC
- Concerns regarding chemicals in the pool irritating skin, and the goal to have fewer chemicals in the water and potentially increase the ventilation

### Inclusive Programming - Parks, Recreation and Culture

Introduced by Damon Johnston, Manager, Recreation Services.

Amanda Daly, Recreation Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Park, Recreation and Culture (PRC)'s inclusive programming. Highlights included:

- Changes to PRC's program registration day to improve customer service and reduce barriers resulting in increased registration numbers
- An overview of Camp Sunsatation and Camp Integration
- Partnerships with Ministry of Children and Family Development, Canucks Autism Network and School District 68 (SD68)
- An update on the Social Club at Beban Social Centre and the Adaptive Hockey Program

Zoe Beck, Recreation Leader III, continued the presentation and spoke regarding Camp Sunsatation and Camp Integration. Highlights included:

- Due to limited space in Camp Sunsatation, some campers were moved to Camp Integration
- Successful partnership with SD68 bus drivers for transporting campers to a number of different locations
- The identified barriers included receiving and submitting camp applications, applications being only available to families with a social worker, and challenges with getting to the Hammond Bay program location

Amanda Daly, Recreation Coordinator, continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- The Canucks Autism Summer Camp held with support from the Canucks Autism Network
- A new program, "Leisure Buddy Program", would provide a support person for those with diverse abilities
- Consideration for running Camp Sunsatation for a full summer
- Interest in expanding programs that can be run throughout the school year such as a Teen Social Club

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Suggestion to offer Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) card users an advance registration to address challenges with submitting the application to the camps
- Support of the “Leisure Buddy Program” and considerations around potential job opportunities for adults with diverse abilities
- Staff are determining feasible limits and staff training needs to be able to accommodate children with higher needs in the recently reconvened Camp Sunsatation

Tami Hirasawa, Member at Large, vacated the Boardroom at 5:45 p.m.

Committee discussion continued regarding following up with the Ministry of Children and Family Development to have electronic program applications and Bridging a gap and partnership with SD68 Learning Services.

Richard Harlow, Member at Large, vacated the Boardroom at 5:50 p.m.

Committee discussion continued relative to the potential opportunity to apply the “Leisure Buddy Program” to swimming lessons.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **a. Nanaimo RCMP Decal Project**

Councillor Eastmure advised of the Nanaimo RCMP Decal Project, noting decals are available for homes and vehicles to identify individuals with neurodiverse/autistic needs. The decals provide a visual cue for Nanaimo RCMP to be mindful in their interaction with residents.

### **b. Verbal Discussion re: Mobi Mats**

Introduced by Councillor Eastmure.

Charlotte Davis, Manager, Parks Operations, acknowledged the City’s recent communication relative to the removal of some of the Mobi Mats and resulting concerns in the community. It was clarified that the Mobi Mat in Departure Bay is installed year-round, and the others are seasonal. The Manager, Parks Operations noted the difficulty with maintaining the mats in the winter season; however, due to their popularity there may be potential to trial them for longer periods as well as in new locations.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The desire for greater engagement and clearer communication with the community around the removal of the mats

- Removed mats are intended to be re-installed by the May long weekend
- The potential for more permanent mats, noting relative affordability of the mats, deployment logistics and lack of environmental implications

**8. QUESTION PERIOD:**

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

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved and seconded at 6:01 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER