



MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 4:00 P.M.
Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre
411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC

- Members:
- Councillor H. Eastmure
 - T. Brzovic, At Large Member* (joined 4:12 p.m.)
 - L. Derksen, At Large Member*
 - S. Enns, At Large Member
 - T. Hirasawa, At Large Member
 - B. Kinrade, At Large Member
 - S. Pump, At Large Member*
 - A. Stuart, At Large Member
- Absent:
- Councillor S. Armstrong, Chair
 - R. Harlow, At Large Member
 - J. Maffin, At Large Member
 - S. Roden, At Large Member
 - N. Sugiyama, At Large Member
- Staff:
- C. Davis, Acting Director, Facility and Parks Operations
 - D. Osborne, Director, Recreation and Culture
 - M. Bryson, Manager, Recreation Facilities and Custodial Services
 - L. Clarkson, Manager, Recreation Services
 - K. Robertson, Deputy Corporate Officer
 - N. Sponaugle, Communications Advisor
 - L. Young, Steno, Legislative Services
 - A. Chanakos, 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 held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2024-SEP-11, at 4:00 p.m. be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

a. Accessibility Wayfinding Update Presentation

Charlotte Davis, Acting Director, Facility and Parks Operations, provided a presentation. Highlights included:

- Signage guidelines are being created to allow for increased connectivity, legibility and access to information for all City-owned parks
- Staff continue to work with Kelsi Hurlbut from The TULA Project and have used inspiration from other parks with successful signage
- QR codes are being considered that would provide audible information about the park, as well as braille
- Wayfinding information on the signs will be placed so it's available at as many eye levels as possible
- Asked for the Committee's feedback

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Suggestions included:

- Ensuring signage identifies which spaces are accessible in a way that maintains dignity, as well as marking accessibility levels at key mobility points to avoid the need to turn around part way
- Ensuring wayfinding can be displayed using high contrast universal symbols
- Guidelines for placement should be based on a standard wheelchair size
- Ensure there is adequate Wi-Fi if QR Codes are being considered

- Plain language experts should be consulted to review the draft signs

Tania Brzovic joined electronically at 4:12 p.m.

Committee and Staff discussion continued regarding an interest to see a draft set of guidelines to better provide input on aspects such as font size, boldness and height of the letters, and consideration for accessibility around signage, including surface types and lighting.

Staff committed to bringing back samples for the Committee's review

5. REPORTS:

a. Verbal Update re: MOBI Mats

Charlotte Davis, Acting Director, Facility and Parks Operations, noted that based on feedback from the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (ACAI), MOBI mats will remain set up throughout the fall and winter seasons.

Committee and Staff discussion took place regarding concerns around mats becoming icy, and support for providing increased accessibility to beach spaces year-round.

b. Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) Review Update

Darcie Osborne, Director, Recreation and Culture, provided a presentation. Highlights included:

- The Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) Program supports residents living below the poverty line to access Parks, Recreation and Culture programs and services
- LEAP previously offered 50 free admissions per year per person for drop-in swim, skate, gym and gymnasium programs, as well as four subsidies to be used towards registered programs or memberships. Updates to the Program now include free admission to the Nanaimo Museum, Nanaimo Art Gallery and the Bastion
- A LEAP Program review was conducted in 2020-2021, in response to a steady decline in Program participation, with the previous ACAI supporting 14 recommended changes which were all approved by Council.
- Following review of the Program, and updates made, the Program has since seen a 44% increase in participation since 2020
- Recommendations aim to reduce stigma for those who apply for the LEAP Program

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Work is being done to look at other cultural partners to participate in the LEAP Program, such as the Port Theatre
- Agency referrals to the LEAP Program work on the honor system, and do not require documentation to be submitted
- Support for the addition of a two-year LEAP Pass, and consideration for a lifetime LEAP membership for individuals whose financial situation is unlikely to change in their lifetime
- Most culture operators within City-owned facilities operate under leases, licences or co-management agreements, so inclusion of these facilities in the LEAP Program can only occur during agreement renewal
- UMO transit passes currently sold in Parks, Recreation and Culture facilities provide a small commission to the City, and Staff hope to eventually use this commission to provide transit passes to LEAP participants
- Updates on improvements made to the registration process for programs in the Activity Guide including increased staffing levels, earlier start times for phone and in-person registrations, and the return of printed Activity Guides

c. Local Community Accessibility Grant

Introduced by Darcie Osborne, Director, Recreation and Culture.

Presentation:

Mike Bryson, Manager, Recreation Facilities and Custodial Services, spoke regarding a grant application to allow for the purchase and installation of seven assistive hearing devices across the five recreation facilities. The grant application requires support from the Committee and a letter of support from Council

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The grant funding would provide an accessibility upgrade for all recreation facilities at one time
- Other accessibility concerns identified throughout the facility audit process can be considered for funding next year
- The assistive hearing devices were piloted at Bowen Complex and the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre and proved to be successful. Once

installed, signage will alert users of the technology so it can be used discretely

- Interest was expressed from the ACAI to establish a wish list of accessibility projects for future grant applications.

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (ACAI):

- support an application for the Local Community Accessibility Grant in the amount of \$24,052 to purchase and install seven (7) assistive hearing devices for the wickets at the front counters at all five (5) recreation centres; Beban Pool, Nanaimo Ice Centre, Nanaimo Aquatic Centre, Oliver Woods Community Centre and Bowen Complex; and,
- recommend that Council provide a letter in support of the City's application to SPARC BC.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Correspondence from Lisa Brinkman, Manager, Community Planning, re: Design Guideline Project Update

Karen Robertson, Deputy Corporate Officer, noted that feedback is being sought from the ACAI on the City's Form and Character Guidelines, and can be submitted on the City's Get Involved website between 2024-NOV-20 and 2024-DEC-13.

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

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

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:17 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIR

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER