



MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 4:00 P.M.
Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre
411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC

- Members:
- Councillor H. Eastmure, Chair
 - Councillor S. Armstrong*
 - L. Derksen, At Large Member*
 - S. Enns, At Large Member
 - R. Harlow, At Large Member*
 - B. Kinrade, At Large Member*
 - J. Maffin, At Large Member*
 - A. Stuart, At Large Member
- Absent:
- T. Brzovic, At Large Member
 - T. Hirasawa, At Large Member
 - S. Pump, At Large Member
 - S. Roden, At Large Member
 - N. Sugiyama, At Large Member
- Staff:
- B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
 - D. Osborne, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture
 - N. Vracar, Deputy Corporate Officer
 - D. Burgos, Manager, Corporate Communications and Community Relation
 - L. Clarkson, Manager, Recreation Services
 - J. Rose, Manager, Transportation
 - B. Thomas, Assistant Manager, Transportation
 - P. Entwistle, Parks Project Coordinator
 - M. Koch, Active Transportation Project Specialist
 - J. Vanderhoef, Zoom Moderator
 - 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. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Add Agenda Item 5(a) Local Community Accessibility Grant.
- (b) Add Agenda Item 5(b) 2024 Annual Report for the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness.
- (c) Add Agenda Item 7(e) Verbal Update re: Accessibility and Inclusion Events Related to the Luminous Paths: Nanaimo's 150th and Beyond.
- (d) Add Agenda Item 7(f) Verbal Update re: Draft Design for the Neck Point Parking Lot Paving Project.
- (e) Reorder Agenda Item 7(a) Transportation 2025 Workplan to precede Agenda Item 6(a) Dr. Adam Hoverman re: Social Prescribing in Nanaimo.

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-NOV-13 at 4:00 p.m. be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

5. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

Nikolina Vracar, Deputy Corporate Officer, advised of the following:

(a) Local Community Accessibility Grant

During the 2024-NOV-18 Regular Council Meeting, Council adopted the following motion:

“That Council provide a letter in support of the City’s application for a Local Community Accessibility Grant to SPARC BC in the amount of \$24,052 for the purchase and installation of 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.”

(b) 2024 Annual Report for the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness

During the 2024-DEC-16 Regular Council Meeting, Council adopted the following motion:

“That Council review and accept the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness 2024 Annual Report.”

6. REPORTS:

(a) Transportation 2025 Workplan

Introduced by Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation.

Madeleine Koch, Active Transportation Project Specialist, spoke regarding the Transportation 2025 Workplan and reviewed active transportation projects that are ongoing, are in the early planning stages, or are planned for construction this year.

Staff requested feedback from the Committee regarding which projects have accessibility and inclusion potential, and which projects are of greater interest for further discussion. Highlights included:

- The importance of the Vision Zero Strategy, and a desire to focus discussions around those with mobility issues navigating between crosswalks
- Under the “Communicating with the Community” project, providing clarification regarding the role the City has in active transportation
- Ensuring buildings provide adequate accessible parking throughout the city
- When preparing the “Vision Zero Strategy” toolkit, considering the lack of access points to move from the road to the sidewalk in a wheelchair or mobility scooter
- Consideration of accessible public parking in private areas
- Improving public transit can remove barriers of isolation
- Increased use of raised crosswalks to slow down vehicle traffic where pedestrians cross the street
- Ensuring the incorporation of curb cuts with accessible parking
- Using the “Pedestrian Unallocated” funds for items such as curb cuts and touchless crosswalk signals
- Desire to provide feedback on the Downtown Transit Hub

7. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Dr. Adam Hoverman re: Social Prescribing in Nanaimo

Darcie Osborne, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture, introduced the presentation and noted the following:

- Social Prescribing is an upstream solution for the social detriments of health and social isolation for lonely seniors in the community
- Social Prescribing ties into the Health and Wellness Services section of the City Plan

Dr. Adam Hoverman provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- The importance of including social well-being in overall health
- Non-medical determinants of health are vital to strengthening health systems
- Improved social relationships help reduce mortality rates
- Shared medical appointments have seen a reversal of diabetes in some patient studies
- Nanaimo Family Life's Social Prescribing pilot project has received two years of Shared Care funding to implement Social Prescribing into the community
- An array of activities will be planned for Social Prescribing Day on 2025-MAR-19

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Social Prescribing is still new to Nanaimo. The goal is to increase the number of link workers and community connectors over time
- Social Prescribing currently focusses on seniors, and any family doctor can write a prescription to connect seniors with a link worker
- Social Prescribing can be accessed without a doctor referral through Nanaimo Family Life Association

6. REPORTS (CONTINUED):

(b) Verbal Update re: Internal Style Guide for Internal and External Communications

Dale Burgos, Manager, Corporate Communications and Community Relation, noted that in October 2024, Staff reviewed the City's Internal Style Guide to look for areas of improvement. It was identified that tone and voice were important to ensure information is communicated in a bias-free way,

including avoiding the use of gender-specific pronouns and using gender-neutral terms for job titles.

(c) Verbal Update re: City Statement on Accessibility, Equity and Inclusion

Dale Burgos, Manager, Corporate Communications and Community Relation, advised the Committee of the proposed City statement on accessibility, equity and inclusion, and noted that the statement will be added to the Accessibility and Inclusion page of the City's website. They also reviewed the Accessibility and Inclusion webpage to identify the key points the page provides.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The statement should be placed at the top of the Accessibility and Inclusion webpage
- Providing an opening statement and a more elaborate description elsewhere in an easy-to-read version
- Plain language standards should be applied to ensure information is readable for as many people as possible
- Consider researching why accessibility, equity and inclusion policies have failed in other locations
- Readability is only one measure of plain language but it has gaps
- The City's IT Department is looking at ways to address accessibility on the City's website in anticipation of future Provincial requirements for improved accessibility

(d) Verbal Update re: Inclusion BC Everybody Belongs Conference

Darcie Osborne, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture, noted the Inclusion BC Everyone Belongs Conference will take place 2025-JUN-19 to 2025-JUN-21 in Richmond, and is open to anyone wishing to attend. The City hopes to send a Staff member to the conference in order to share their findings with the Committee.

(e) Verbal Update re: Accessibility and Inclusion Events Related to the Luminous Paths: Nanaimo's 150th and Beyond

Darcie Osborne, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture, provided an update, including the following:

- Luminous Paths: Nanaimo's 150th and Beyond is an event to celebrate Nanaimo's 150th year of incorporation, and the first Council meeting which took place on 1875-JAN-22

- The month-long event opens on 2025-JAN-22 at Maffeo Sutton Park, and will include temporary light-based art installations, live music, roving LED performers, food trucks, and an opportunity to tour the HMCS Nanaimo, a Royal Canadian Navy coastal defense vessel
- Art installations will remain active each day during park operating hours until 2025-FEB-17
- Descriptive audio will be available online for the art installations

(f) Verbal Update re: Draft Design for the Neck Point Parking Lot Paving Project

Introduced by Darcie Osborne, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Presentation:

1. Pete Entwistle, Parks Project Coordinator, provided a presentation. Highlights included:

- The proposed design includes a raised crosswalk just before the entrance to the parking stalls
- The design includes 32 standard stalls, eight small car stalls and three accessible stalls located outside the new washroom building
- The current design does not include curb cuts at the accessible stalls due to rain gardens outside the washroom
- The proposed location of the Mobi-Mat is approximately 63 meters from the new crosswalk, and 100 meters from the accessible stalls

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Consideration for an aisle between the accessible stalls to ensure easy exit from the sides of mobility vehicles
- The inclusion of curb cuts to avoid individuals with mobility devices having to enter the open parking lot to access the park
- The current proposed location of the Mobi-Mat is far from the accessible stalls; however, the location was chosen as it had the best slope grade, as well as access from a hard trail
- Consideration for installing a walkway through the garden, in lieu of curb cuts
- Installing a walking trail along the outer edge of the parking lot to limit the need to walk through a busy parking lot

- Preference to re-locate the Mobi-Mat to a location closer to the raised crosswalk and picnic tables
- Increasing the size of the small car spaces due to increasing vehicle sizes
- Accessible parking stalls should be located closest to the service individuals want to access, and should be located near the Mobi-Mat and trail access
- Adding a second raised crosswalk near the washrooms, and a yellow-painted pathway through the parking lot to direct pedestrians to safe walking zones at night
- Concerns regarding the size of raised crosswalks and speed bumps and the potential tipping hazards for wheelchairs
- Consideration for converting parking stalls along the garden to angled stalls

8. QUESTION PERIOD:

The Committee received two questions from the public regarding agenda items.

Discussion took place regarding the previous accessibility audits performed at City parks and facilities. An update regarding the facilities that have been audited by the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) and a list of facilities planned for future audits was provided in the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Minutes 2024-SEP-11.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:54 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER