



Staff Report for Decision

DATE OF MEETING DECEMBER 16, 2024

AUTHORED BY LAARA CLARKSON, MANAGER, RECREATION SERVICES
DARCIE OSBORNE, DIRECTOR, PARKS, RECREATION &
CULTURE

**SUBJECT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide the 2024 Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Annual Report to Mayor and Council for review. |

Recommendation

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

BACKGROUND

As per the City of Nanaimo's Committee Operating Guidelines, the Staff Liaison, on behalf of the Committee, will submit an annual report to Council. |

DISCUSSION

Committee Name: Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (ACAI)

Committee Members:

Councillor Eastmure, Chair
Councillor Armstrong, Co-chair
Tania Brzovic
John Cowan (resigned March)
Linda Derksen
Sean Enns
Wendy Hall (passed away June)
Richard Harlow
Tami Hirasawa
Bay Kinrade
Jocelyn Maffin
Sarah Pump (joined May)
Sahara Roden (joined Sept)
Alexandria Stuart
Nicole Sugiyama

Staff Liaisons:

Richard Harding, GM Community Services & Deputy CAO
Darcie Osborne, Director, Parks, Recreation & Culture
Laara Clarkson, Manager, Recreation Services

Number of Meetings: Six

Subjects Examined by Committee:

Presentations:

- Engagement on a more Accessible and Inclusive BC Museum – Veronica Buck, Regional Partnership Engagement Manager, BC Royal Museum
- Integrated Action Plan Overview – Lisa Brinkman, Manager, Community Planning and Emily Notley, Planning Assistant, Community Planning
- Regional District of Nanaimo Transit System - Lainy Stevenson, Superintendent, Transit Planning and scheduling and Michael Getchell, Manager, Transit Operations, Transportation Services, Regional District of Nanaimo
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – John Van Horne, Director, Human Resources
- Assistive Hearing Devices Update – Kerry Ing, Director, IT/CIO
- Accessibility, Inclusion and Special Events – Adrienne Mercer Breen, Manager, Culture and Special Events Megan Lum, Recreation Coordinator, Special Events
- Public Art and Culture Initiatives – Adrienne Mercer Breen, Manager, Culture and Special Events and Jaime-Brett Sine, Recreation Coordinator, Cultural Services
- Westwood Lake Beach Accessibility Upgrades and Washroom Upgrades – Michael Lonsdale, Senior Project Manager, Kelsi Hurlbut, Lead Consultant, the TULA project and Jessie Garlick, Architect, STUDIO 521 Architects
Recommendation:
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.
- Form and Character Development Permit Guidelines Project - Surabhi Shakkarwar, Kristen Elkow, Kevin King, Shane Oleksiuk, Jason McDougall and Thaddeus Holland (Boniface Oleksiuk Politano)
- Maffeo Sutton Park Amenity Building - Michael Lonsdale, Senior Project Manager
- Accessibility Audits Update – Mike Bryson, Acting Director, Facility and Parks Operations
- Inclusive Programming in Parks, Recreation & Culture – Amanda Daly, Recreation Coordinator and Zoe Beck, Recreation Leader III

- Accessibility Wayfinding Presentation – Charlotte Davis, Acting Director, Facility and Parks Operations

Reports:

- Update on Accessibility Improvements to City Facilities – Mike Bryson, Acting Director, Facility and Parks Operations.

Recommendation:

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recommend the following City recreation centres receive assessments/audit in 2024:

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

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.

- Update on Accessibility Improvements to City Parks and Trails – Kirsty MacDonald, Acting Manager, Parks Operations

Recommendation:

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recommend that Council direct Staff to conduct assessment audits on the following parks, trails and open spaces in 2024-2025:

- Westwood Lake Trail System
- Oliver Woods Park grounds
- Neck Point Park
- Stadium District
- Harewood Centennial Park
- Beaufort Park
- Bowen Park grounds adjacent to the Bowen complex
- Waterfront Walkway

- Verbal Update Re: Assistive Hearing Devices – Darcie Osborne, Director, Recreation & Culture
- Verbal Update Re: MOBI Mats performance – Charlotte Davis, Deputy Director Parks & Natural Areas
- Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) Review Update – Darcie Osborne, Director, Recreation and Culture

- Local Community Accessibility Grant – Mike Bryson, Acting Director, Facility and Parks Operations

Recommendation:

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.*

Other Business:

- Alexandria Stuart, ACAI committee member spoke regarding the Inclusion BC Conference to be held in Nanaimo 2024-May-30 to 2024-JUN-1.
- Inclusion BC Housing Campaign fact sheet provided for information by Wendy Hall, ACAI committee member.
- Karen Robertson, Deputy Corporate Officer, advised the Committee that John Cowan, At Large member, provided his resignation from the Committee, and noted that advertising for a new Committee member will begin next week.
- Darcie Osborne, Director, Recreation and Culture, verbal update re: NAC bus stop meeting.
- The Province is offering an Accessibility Standards engagement period from 2024-MAY-31 to 2024-JULY-31.
- 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.
- Verbal Update Re: MOBI Mats removal trial period – Charlotte Davis, Acting Director, Facility and Parks Operations
- Correspondence from Lisa Brinkman, Manager, Community Planning, Re: Design Guideline Project. 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.

Accomplishments:

2024 Work Plan

<p>The goal of the work plan is to reduce barriers and improve equity and access to City residents in alignment with City Plan, the Integrated Action Plan priorities, and the terms of reference of the ACAI committee.</p>		
Topic	Overview	Accomplishments
<p>Accessibility in City Parks, Facilities & City Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rick Hansen Foundation priorities for allocation of funds for the audited facilities. • Determine priority for accessibility audits for other City facilities • Advise City staff on procedures and best practices for reducing barriers in facilities & infrastructure • Advise City staff on specific projects as needed 	<p>Priority for accessibility audits was approved by ACAI and several facility and parks/trails audits have been completed. Two City staff completed Rick Hansen auditor accreditation.</p>
<p>REIMAGINE Nanaimo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input on internal style guide for inclusive language for municipal communications internally & externally • Statement on Accessibility, Equity and Inclusion • Input on other Integrated Action Plan items as needed 	<p>The internal style guide and statement on Accessibility, Equity and Inclusion have been deferred to 2025. Work has continued on IAP items in the areas of Equity & Inclusivity and Access for All.</p>
<p>Resource</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve as a resource for City of Nanaimo projects • Receive presentations to advance awareness & share knowledge 	<p>ACAI committee members served as resource on many topics such as accessible washrooms, special events, parks signage and many more.</p>
<p>Items referred by Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review & provide recommendations on issues and projects as directed by Council 	<p>ACAI committee is available to respond as directed by Council.</p>

Trends or Issues of Concern:

- Accessible facilities, events, parks & trails.
- Supporting those with barriers to access recreation programs, events and services.
- Tenant Protections (Mobile home tenants and Apartment renovation tenants)

Future Meeting Topics:

The Committee has proposed several topic areas for discussion in 2025, including, but not limited to:

- Internal Style Guide
- Statement on Accessibility, Equity and Inclusion

- Maffeo Washrooms design
- Parks accessible signage and wayfinding
- Housing Needs Policy – City Plan

The Committee will receive strategic direction from Council on matters that they would like to see addressed in the coming year.

Committee members are extremely committed and have much to offer based on their lived experiences. |

OPTIONS

1. That Council review and accept the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness 2024 Annual Report.
 - The advantages of this option: Meets the annual report requirement set out in the City of Nanaimo’s Committee Operating Guidelines.
 - The disadvantages of this option: None.
 - Financial Implications: None.
2. That Council amend the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness 2024 Annual Report.
 - The advantages of this option: Meets the annual report requirement set out in the City of Nanaimo’s Committee Operating Guidelines.
 - The disadvantages of this option: None.
 - Financial Implications: None. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- The 2024 Annual Report for the ACAI provides a snapshot of the Committee’s achievements for Council’s information.
- Two of the most significant projects that the ACAI contributed to in 2024 included prioritizing the locations for accessibility audits for City facilities and Parks and Trails; and, serving as a resource for the Westwood Lake and Maffeo Park projects.
- The Committee has also been actively engaged in many City projects, offering input to assist with enhanced levels of accessibility and inclusiveness through planning phases.

Submitted by:

Laara Clarkson
Manager, Recreation Services

Darcie Osborne
Director, Parks, Recreation & Culture

Concurrence by:

Richard Harding
General Manager Community Services &
Deputy CAO

Dale Lindsay
CAO