

UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 10, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7:01 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Steve Kim, Chair
Councillor Teri Towner, Vice Chair
Kiyo Breiting
Alex Kwan
Heather Lawson
Barbara Oliver
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services (arrived at 7:06 p.m.)
Georgette Reyes
Pat Roy, Canadian Council for the Blind – BC-Yukon Division
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society
Susan Williams, Tri-Cities Seniors Action Society (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)

REGRETS: Robert Bottos

STAFF: Andre Isakov, Manager Economic Development
Canisius Chan, Transportation Planning Manager
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair acknowledged that the City operates on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the kwikwəłəm (Kwikwetlem First Nation).

At the Chair's invitation, the new Canadian Council for the Blind – BC-Yukon Division representative and the Committee participated in a roundtable of introductions.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Economic Development Strategy Presentation

The Manager Economic Development provided a presentation, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Economic Development Strategy
- Agenda
- Background
- Planning Principles
- Components
- Coquitlam in Context
- Emerging Vision Based on Values
- Emerging Themes / Areas of Focus
- Potential Goals / Strategies to Explore
- Questions to Discuss
- Next Steps
- Thank You

The Committee considered the following focus questions:

1. What does a responsible future look like? How can we share the prosperity?
2. How do we make our local economy more inclusive to improve economic opportunities for all?
3. Thinking back to the emerging values and themes, is anything missing?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The belief that a responsible future would include keeping people employed locally
- Whether appropriate training programs were being offered at local educational institutions to help boost local employment
- Whether a seniors' caretaker training program could be offered locally
- The belief that caretaking services would continue to grow and be in greater demand as the number of seniors living in the city increased
- The challenges that some residents were experiencing when trying to find a local General Practitioner, and the desire that all types of social services be supplied locally
- The desire to retain the local pool of talented youth in the city
- The understanding that many Coquitlam graduates (youth) move eastward into jurisdictions with lower living costs
- The desire for improved rapid public transit between Fraser North jurisdictions and Coquitlam to support youth who commute in and out of the city for work and school
- The City's feedback to TransLink's Transport 2050 process, and details relative to TransLink's 2022 Investment Plan and 10-Year Priorities
- Observed shifts in regional economics and demographics resulting from COVID-19
- The many complex components of the discussion topic, including local affordability (cost of living), growing labour shortages, the rising cost of post-secondary education, and the minimum wage limits set by senior levels of government
- The suggestion that one solution to question 2 could be to consult and engage "untapped" marginalized populations, including disabled people and new immigrants
- The challenging impacts of rising local land costs relative to an affordable supply of

residential housing options and commercial and industrial (incoming-generating) spaces to meet the needs of residents and business owners

- The desire to see local post-secondary institutions offer the types of programming and training necessary to help create local business hubs
- The possibility that partnerships between the City and post-secondary institutions could help create local job opportunities for graduating students that would focus on accessible infrastructure, products, and solutions
- The “Project Greenlight” initiative and the opportunity it offered businesses to partner with the City
- The decentralized, community-embedded model of Simon Fraser University’s approach to education
- The understanding that some post-secondary institutions are taking steps to ensure students graduate with more employable, practical, day-to-day skills

At the request of the Committee, the Committee Clerk undertook to email a copy of the presentation to the members.

3. Working Group Updates

2022 BC Access Awareness Day Working Group

Volunteers: Alex Kwan (Group Leader), Kiyo Breiting, Georgette Reyes, and Pat Roy

The Working Group Leader referred the Committee to a document previously circulated by email titled “2022 BC Access Awareness Engagement Plan Proposal”, and verbally presented the proposed event engagement theme, goals, objectives, logistics, evaluation criteria, communications messaging, booth activities, and outcomes of engagement to the Committee for approval. He noted the preliminary nature of the event suggestions, the potential opportunity to partner with TransLink, the donation offered by the Canadian Council for the Blind in support of the event, and the desire for feedback regarding how to best utilize the donation. He further noted the Working Group’s hope that the Committee members would support the event suggestions and volunteer to work in the UAAC booth. He inquired whether the City could provide name tags or T-Shirts for UAAC booth volunteers to wear on the day of the event.

At the request of the Chair, the Transportation Planning Manager spoke to the potential event supports available to the Committee from the City. He provided a presentation, with on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Canada Day Map
- Join the UAAC at Canada Day – July 1
- Citypage Takeover

The Transportation Planning Manager noted the City’s planned layout for the Canada Day event, the proposed locations of the UAAC and Transportation booths, and that assigned booth space would dictate the activities that could be offered by the Committee. In terms of event supports, he noted the possibility of offering incentives to draw visitors to the booth, in addition to the UAAC materials typically utilized. He further noted staff’s support for the Working Group’s suggestion to offer interactive booth activities as a means to provide greater opportunities for the Committee to engage with and educate the public.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Transportation Planning Manager undertook to follow-up regarding the possibility of providing T-shirts to the UAAC booth volunteers. He encouraged the Committee members to share other ideas for the event.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Potential sources of discretionary funding to support the event
- The suggestion that UAAC booth visitors be provided with information about local, unique accessibility resources and programs
- The desire that Committee members and/or their networks provide information about such resources and programs to the Working Group
- Whether the City could create a repository of the shared accessibility information
- The suggestion that the Working Group could review the existing UAAC resource materials (poster board, buttons, postcards, and other handouts) prior to the event

The Committee members expressed no objections to the event suggestions as presented. It was noted that the Canadian Council for the Blind – BC-Yukon Division representative had recently volunteered to serve on the Working Group and her addition was accepted without comment.

The Working Group Leader noted that members were welcome to email him should they wish to volunteer in the booth and/or have any additional feedback, accessibility resources, and programs to share.

2023 Biennial Education Event Working Group

Volunteers: Heather Lawson (Group Leader), Kiyo Breiting, Ross Renaud, and Pete Stone

The Group Leader noted her intention to organize a Working Group meeting in the near future and to present 2023 event planning suggestions for the Committee's consideration during the next meeting.

2022 Welcome to Coquitlam

Volunteers: Rob Bottos (Group Leader), Barb Oliver, Georgette Reyes, and Susan Williamson

In the absence of the Group Leader, a Working Group member spoke on behalf of the group. She noted the following:

- That the Working Group had met to brainstorm ideas for the Committee's future participation in the event
- The purpose that had been discussed as the Committee's possible focus during Welcome to Coquitlam, i.e. to build awareness about the local resources, services, sports and other groups available to support people with accessibility challenges
- Support for the idea that a Welcome to Coquitlam "passport" could be offered by the City to event participants as it had in past years
- The belief that the requirement for a passport stamp could encourage participants to visit the UAAC table
- The desire for input from the Committee regarding the group's suggestions (thus far)
- Whether staff could confirm the event date and timeline

The Transportation Planning Manager undertook to follow-up with Community Planning staff

and report back regarding the event date and timeline.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Support for the suggested purpose of the Committee's participation in the event
- The suggestion that information regarding the City's Women's Only Time swim program and other adaptive programs, including the locations of pools with lifts, could be shared with event participants
- That staff would be on hand during the event to speak to the many parks and recreation programs and amenities offered by the City
- The possibility of co-locating City department tables during the event

In response to a question from the Chair, the Committee Clerk provided procedural information regarding the participation of Council representatives at Working Group meetings and limitations relative to a quorum of the principle Committee.

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Transportation Planning Manager undertook to follow-up regarding access to the City park or trail accessibility information via the 'QTheMap' link on the City's Accessibility webpage.

4. Transportation, TransLink and Other Departmental Updates (Standing Agenda Item)

The Transportation Planning Manager provided the Committee with an update, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Transportation, TransLink, Other Departments Update – May 10, 2022
- March Follow-up
- Considering Social Equity Option A: BICCS Recovery Methodology
- Considering Social Equity Option B: Evolution of BICCS Recovery

The Transportation Planning Manager shared that:

- All new, renewed, and expanded City facilities will include gender inclusive and accessible washrooms and change rooms
- New washrooms installed in City parks will include a single accessible stall that is gender inclusive
- Details of the Bicycle Infrastructure Capital Cost Share (BICCS) Program grant funding opportunity and the new social equity criteria introduced by TransLink to identify and support marginalized groups
- The comprehensive social equity criteria developed by the City of Vancouver
- The City was considering similar criteria within its Strategic Transportation Plan (STP) Update
- The possibility that affordability concerns, such as those raised during the Economic Development Strategy Presentation discussion earlier in the evening, could be included in the STP Update

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Why neuro-diverse populations were not included in TransLink's list of marginalized groups
- Whether TransLink's list of marginalized groups was ranked
- Whether the Committee could discuss and/or provide input (to staff) regarding future

Canada Census releases

The Transportation Planning Manager undertook to follow-up with TransLink staff regarding the neuro-diverse question.

The Chair requested that the members review the slide titled “Considering Social Equity Option B: Evolution of BICCS Recovery” and if they felt there were any communities or groups that were not represented and should be highlighted, to please email that information and any supporting data sources to the Transportation Planning Manager.

At the request of the staff lead, the Committee Clerk undertook to email a copy of the presentation to the members following the meeting,

5. Accessible Communities Emerging Issues and Updates (Standing Agenda Item)

The Chair invited the Committee members to share information regarding happenings and events occurring in their communities. The following information was shared:

- Concerns regarding the logistics of the City’s free compost pickup program (offered at Austin Public Works Service Centre on May 7th)
- That, as part of Seniors Week, the Tri-Cities Seniors Action Network would hold a forum titled “Pathways for Better Health” on June 8th at the Coquitlam Continuing Education Centre
- That Special Olympics Coquitlam was back in full swing and had returned home with gold medals from the recent Yukon Invitational Tournament
- Whether the City could offer residents a shuttle service back and forth from Poirier Sport and Leisure Complex (PSLC) to large City-hosted events such as Canada Day
- That Glen Pine Pavilion’s Annual General Meeting would be held in-person on Wednesday, June 1st, and anyone interested was welcome to attend.

The Chair noted that concerns regarding the logistics of the City’s free compost pickup program would be relayed to staff. He expressed his support for the idea of a shuttle service from PSLC to large events hosted by the City, and undertook to share the suggestion with staff. In response to a question from a Committee member, he spoke to the City’s proactive emergency planning and public engagement relative to future extreme weather events and places for residents to seek shelter.

The Chair acknowledged Council’s appreciation for the volunteer service of the past Canadian Council for the Blind – BC-Yukon Division representative, Iris Thompson.


OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, July 5, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeri Hohn", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk

CHAIR