

NORTH SHORE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Thursday, October 26, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting (In-person and Virtual via MS Teams)

MINUTES

Present:

Jennifer Branston
Louisa Bridgman
Alexis Chicoine (Chair)
Cyndi Gerlach
Pam Horton
Michelle Katerberg
Vanessa Mendoza
Loreigh Mitges
Marilynne Nowell
David Parke
Nancie Parker
Robert Richard

Staff Liaisons:

Nick Giannone, Staff Liaison, DNV
Christel Lindgren, Staff Liaison, CNV
Maeve Bermingham, Staff Liaison, DWV
Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk, DNV

Council Liaisons:

Mayor Mike Little, DNV
Cllr. Shervin Shahriari, CNV
Cllr. Nora Gambioli, DWV

Regrets: None

1. Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

On-line committee members indicated that their accessibility needs were met in terms of accessing the meeting remotely.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Loreigh Mitges and seconded by Jennifer Branston
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the September 28, 2023 Minutes

Moved by Jennifer Branston and second by Nancie Parker
To adopt the minutes.

CARRIED

4. Presentation – Belle Isle Park

Brad Snelling provided a presentation on the Belle Isle Park, including the 2023 current concept design, and the key accessibility features as follows:

- A flat site with hardscape pathways to access every corner of park
- a variety of accessible seating opportunities in all three areas (table and bench)
- Accessible rubber surfaced playground
- Select accessible play equipment
- Select accessible adult fitness equipment
- Accessible artificial turf surface in dog park
- Accessible amenities like water fountain and table tennis
- Accessible parking
- Park signage that is accessible to those with visual disabilities

5. Public Questions

No questions were presented from the public audience.

6. Business Arising

6.1. Well Being Strategy Presentation

Renee de St Croix provided an overview of the well being strategy noting that the document was previously brought to ACDI in July for feedback, and the feedback provided has been addressed.

Information was also provided around the City of North Vancouver policy structure and how accessibility shows up in the policy framework. In moving forward, the City will develop a consolidated document to show and reference all the different policies from all the different strategies and to have this in one place. In moving forward, work will be undertaken with ACDI on an action framework on how the actions can be undertaken. In this regard, at an engagement session on November 2nd, the draft well being strategy will be presented to ACDI for feedback on the overarching components of the draft well being strategy and the policy directions and objectives.

6.2. Community Safety Letter

Committee members reviewed the draft community safety letter relating to an incident that occurred on April 17 around Lions Gate Hospital.

On review and discussion of the letter, staff indicated that discussions will be undertaken with management about specific recommendations in the letter. In this regard, staff were directed to look into the matter and report back on what

possibly within the municipality sphere could be done to address the recommendations.

6.3. Accessible Parking in the Shipyards

As a follow up to the September discussion, staff provided the following updates:

- There is accessible parking at the Shipyards.
- Staff will require more time to investigate the pay parking around Lions Gate Hospital as this does not fall under municipal jurisdiction.
- In terms of the suggestion that there be advocacy by staff to ensure accessibility for parking maintained by third parties, information was provided that the City has it as a standard that Spark parking passes are recognized for parkades managed by the City. However, staff will need to further explore for private parkades.
- In terms of more accessible parking around Lions Gate Hospital, as the City is currently updating the zoning bylaw, the project manager has been informed of ACDI's suggestion around the possibility of increasing the number of accessible parking stalls at medical facilities in the zoning bylaw.

6.4. Access Awareness Event – Snoezelen Sensory Van

Committee members were informed that the Snoezelen sensory van can be booked for Thursdays around 5:00 or 5:30 pm. Committee members indicated their preference was that the van be scheduled for some time in the spring possibly prior to a month end meeting. In this regard, David Parke will figure out the logistics for a possible date in the spring.

6.5. Accessibility Plan Update

DNV staff reported that the accessibility plan went to Council on October 16 for endorsement, and direction was provided to staff to develop implementation plans by division. The process will take place early in the new year, and updates on the process will be provided to the committee.

DWV staff reported that the accessibility plan and the terms of reference were brought to Council on October 23. The terms of reference were approved, and the accessibility plan was endorsed with the direction to convene the inter-divisional staff group early in the new year.

7. New Business

7.1 Membership and the Terms of Reference

Staff provided information with respect to committee membership and terms of membership, the process for recruiting new members and retaining current members on the committee.

Information was provided that as ACDI is a tri-municipal committee in order to change the terms of reference, this needs to happen in all three municipalities for the change to be valid. In terms of a change in process at the District of West Vancouver, staff can take this back to Clerks to determine if the change still aligns with the terms of reference or if it requires a change to the terms of reference.

In addition, the municipalities do not have the same level of control in terms of membership selection or tenure. The ACDI is subject to Council policy and if there is a collision between the terms of reference and Council policy, the Council policy overrules the terms of reference.

A question was raised that as terms of reference were from 2006, whether there is a mechanism to update the document. Staff reported that the Clerks Department is going through the terms of reference for all committees, and are aware of the need to update the ACDI's terms of reference particularly with aligning to the new provincial legislation. In this regard, staff were requested to provide information on the process for updating the committee's terms of reference.

Committee members were provided with an update that the Rick Hanson Foundation will be including neurodiverse and autistic population and invisible disabilities in their regular scheduled ratings.

Alexis Chicoine announced that she will not be renewing her membership on the committee.

Staff will follow up with respect to rotation of meetings within the three municipalities.

8. Reports

No Reports.

9. Accessibility Issues in Front of Council

- District of North Vancouver

In the 10-year plan with TransLink, there are three bus rapid transit routes that will be moving forward one of which will be from Park Royal to Metrotown with rapid bus dedicated separate lanes.

- City of North Vancouver

Curbside management and accessible parking design guidelines will be brought to public engagement and to ACDI.

- District of West Vancouver

The pilot e-bike program will be on the Council agenda to move to a permanent program. It was noted that since the program was implemented, over 36,000 car trips were replaced by the bikes.

There will be a public hearing on November 20 with respect to changing the zoning to rental for approximately 31 buildings around the Ambleside/Dundarave area.

There is a notice of motion by some Councillors to make a change to the dog bylaws.

The West Vancouver Memorial library lift review will be brought to ACDI on November 23.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Date of Upcoming Meetings

- November 2 – Community Well Being Strategy
- November 9 – Ambleside Local Area Plan
- November 16 – Memorial Library Lift
- November 23 – Curb Access and Parking Plan
- November 30 - Month End Meeting