

NORTH SHORE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Thursday, March 28, 2024, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Hybrid (In-Person and Virtual via MS Teams)

MINUTES

Present:

Jennifer Branston, DNV
Louisa Bridgman, CNV
Cyndi Gerlach (Chair), DNV
Pam Horton, CNV
Michelle Katerberg (Vice-Chair), DWV
Loreigh Mitges, DWV
Nancie Parker, DWV
Robert Richard, CNV

Staff Liaisons:

Nick Giannone, Staff Liaison, DNV
Maria de Fatima Lazo, Staff Liaison, DNV
Christel Lindgren, Staff Liaison, CNV
Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk, DNV

Council Liaisons:

Cllr Catherine Pope, DNV
Cllr. Shervin Shahriari, CNV

Regrets:

Marilynne Nowell, DNV
Cllr. Christine Cassidy, DWV
Maeve Bermingham, Staff Liaison, DWV

Guests:

Renee de St. Croix
Heather Evans
Lisa Wambaa

1. Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and provided a land acknowledgement.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The following two items were removed from the agenda:

- #7.3 Working Group and Report Writing
- #7.6 Park Audit

MOVED by Louisa Bridgman and seconded by Michelle Katerberg
To adopt the amended agenda.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

- January 25, 2024

MOVED by Louisa Bridgman and seconded by Michelle Katerberg
To adopt the January 25, 2024 minutes.

CARRIED

- February 29, 2024

MOVED by Louisa Bridgman and seconded by Michelle Katerberg
To adopt the February 29, 2024 minutes.

CARRIED

4. Presentation - Wellbeing Strategy (CNV)

Renee de St. Croix and Heather Evans provided a presentation on the Wellbeing Strategy focussing on the structure of the document and how the committee's previous feedback was incorporated into the document. On discussion and review of the document, concern was raised that the committee had indicated they wished to have an accessibility plan from the City of North Vancouver. The presenters indicated that this issue has been raised with the leadership team and work is underway in trying to bring an accessibility plan forward particularly as a new staff member has been hired as a DEI manager and they will become involved in this work. The staff from the City of North Vancouver were requested to bring CNV's accessibility plan to a working group meeting in order to provide the committee members with an opportunity for a more thorough review of the document.

5. Questions from the Public

No questions were presented from the public.

6. Business Arising

6.1. Accessibility Plan Update (Staff)

In the previous stage of the DNV process, divisions were working on determining their individual actions. Once this work was completed and collated by Urban Matters, they have reviewed the document to ensure all departments can confirm their involvement. The deadline for the revised plan is March 29 and a further update will be brought to the committee at the next meeting.

6.2. Access and Awareness Event

Committee members reported that they have developed some ideas for a larger event for next year, but in the short term, committee members

discussed the possibility of creating a video wherein different disabilities and barriers could be highlighted. The video could also be shared with the school districts, police and fire departments to ensure that everyone is safe. In moving forward and implementing the project, staff can support the committee members and would reach out to the Communications Department to determine who could help the committee members with the project. In addition, it was suggested that the video not be just about barriers but highlight positives such as curb ramps, doors that open automatically, etc.

Committee members also discussed the possibility of granting an award to a business or organization who have been doing good work around accessibility which will also highlight people who are pushing inclusivity forward. In this regard, it was suggested to reach out to the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce regarding their annual award process to inquire if they would be receptive.

As next steps, staff will explore further the possibility of an award.

6.3. 2024 Workplan

The 2024 workplan and budget were included with the agenda package as an information item.

6.4. Community Safety Letter

In response to the community safety letter, staff consulted with clerks and the clerks advised that the requests within the letter fall outside of the scope of the committee and indicated that staff can recommend that the statements made in the letter be changed to information requests addressed to the different municipal bodies mentioned in the letter. In addition, if the committee wished to proceed with the letter, council liaisons may provide how to address their respective councils. The committee may wish to re-write the letter and remove the committee aspect and perhaps as individual residents.

On discussion, concern was raised that advice was previously received by council members to move the letter forward to ensure that everyone in the community remain safe. Further concern was raised that re-writing the letter as individuals with disabilities may not be able to write a letter of this nature that would fit within the parameters set out by staff.

As next steps, committee members will be provided with a copy of the letter with feedback from staff for review.

6.5. Executive Update

Originally when the Executive members were selected, it was on the understanding that there would not be much work required. However, on

further review of the terms of reference, it was determined that the Executive members are to assist reviewing the draft minutes, setting the agenda, and preparing for meetings.

6.6. Committee Requests to Staff

As staff receive several requests either by email or phone calls from committee members and as the topics that the members are inquiring about are relevant to the entire committee, moving forward, any sort of requests be directed to the Chair of the committee and the Chair will flag the request to staff and staff will respond within 48 hours. If the topic is relevant to the entire committee, the topic will be placed as an agenda item.

6.7. Recruitment Update

As David Parke has recently resigned from the committee, there were a few applicants on the waiting list. One applicant was selected, and a report was prepared recommending that the applicant be appointed as the fourth District member to fill the vacancy.

7. New Business

7.1. NSEM Extreme Heat Planning - Health & Accessibility - Community Representatives Meeting

Committee members were requested to provide their feedback on the documents relating to the North Shore Emergency Management (NSEM) extreme heat planning. The organization is interested in attending a committee meeting to provide further information. It was also noted that the NSEM is under the District of North Vancouver accessibility plan and ACDI is their accessibility committee.

7.2. Accessible Planter Prototype

CNV staff previously brought the Alder garden community garden to the committee for review at the design phase. Staff are implementing the recommendations and also exploring how community gardens can be done differently. In terms of feedback, it was determined that the accessible planters were not accessible and as such, a prototype was created for testing at the Queen Mary community garden. Committee members were requested to visit Queen Mary community garden to test the prototype and provide their feedback.

On discussion, committee members indicated that the location has a gravel path which may not be accessible, and that it may be difficult to evaluate the design if committee members do not know what is intended to achieve. In this regard, it was suggested that a working group be scheduled for further review of the prototype.

7.3. Working Group and Report Writing

This item was removed from the agenda.

7.4. Agenda Package Distribution

A decision was previously made that the agenda package be distributed on the Friday before the month end meeting. In moving forward, committee members indicated their preference was for the sooner the better. The agenda packages will now be distributed on the Thursday prior to the month end meeting.

7.5. Terms of Reference Update

Staff from all three municipalities are looking into the process of reviewing and updating the terms of reference particularly in bringing the terms of reference in line with the new legislation.

7.6. Park Audit

This item was removed from the agenda.

8. Reports

8.1. Curb Access & Parking Plan Report (CNV)

The revised report was provided for information.

8.2. Curb Access & Parking Plan - Engagement Summary

The engagement summary was provided for information.

9. Council Updates

• **District of North Vancouver**

An update was not provided.

• **City of North Vancouver**

In March, a development application was presented to Council for 149 West 3rd and Council asked questions regarding accessible and adaptable type units.

• **District of West Vancouver**

An update was not provided as both the staff liaison and councillor representative were absent from the meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Date of Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, April 11, 2024 – Place for Sports Working Group (DWV)
- Thursday, April 25, 2024 – Month End Meeting