



ACCESS ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAAC)
Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.
Council Chambers - City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone	- Chair
Bruce Cunnings	- SD40 Representative
Asifa Lalji	- Community Member
Karla Olson	- Community Member
Julie Schoennagel	- Community Member
Colleen Vogler	- Community Member

REGRETS:

Kendra Appleby	- Community Member
Anne Bélanger	- Community Member
Leslie Robinson	- Community Member

STAFF:

Gabe Beliveau	- Supervisor Streets and Sidewalks
Christine Edward	- Transportation Planning Analyst
Steve Kellock	- Senior Manager of Recreation Services and Facilities
Lisa Leblanc	- Transportation Manager
John Stark	- Senior Social Planner
Carol Lee	- Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1.1 Adoption of the Agenda of November 14, 2019

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the Access Ability Advisory Committee meeting held on November 14, 2019 be adopted with the addition of Item 5.3 – Changes to Committees.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of June 13, 2019

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Access Ability Advisory Committee held on June 13, 2019, be adopted.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 NWACC Project: Applied accessibility strategies and the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification program

Alexandra Kenyon and Fiona Jones, HCMA Architects and Design, joined the meeting.

Mses. Kenyon and Jones led the review of a presentation titled “New Westminster Aquatic & Community Centre” and highlighted:

- New Westminster Aquatic and Community Centre (NWACC) site plan
- Design of the building with the five main functions:
 - Day care
 - Fitness centre
 - Community centre
 - Recreation pool
 - 50 metre pool
- Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) program:
 - Promotes higher levels of accessibility and inclusivity to provide meaningful access
 - Accessibility is considered through a LEED model
 - Rating criteria categories
 - Comparison of RHFAC features to current building codes
- Design considerations incorporating RHFAC features within the NWACC:
 - Parking spaces include four van accessible spaces with wider aisles
 - Passenger drop-off with aisles
 - Power activated accessible revolving door
 - Reception desk has knee clearance and is an accessible height
 - Logical layout of the facility
 - Tonal contrast of 40% or greater which is particularly important in the pool area

- Accessible height recycling and waste bins integrated into the wall to avoid obstruction in circulation spaces
- Dispersed seating at regular intervals
- Accessible washroom facilities, including one outside the pay area
- Universal change rooms
- Pool access includes ramps, lifts and moveable floor
- Accessible equipment in the fitness centre
- Areas of refuge will have sufficient space for two wheelchairs to sit side-by-side and an evacuation chair or similar equipment
- Next steps:
 - Identification of innovative features to be considered for inclusion
 - Invitation to Committee members to provide additional suggestions to Councillor Johnstone or Mr. Kellock.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Suggestion that passenger drop-off area be covered to provide shelter on rainy days
- Concern that the number of designated accessible parking spaces have been reduced to provide the four van accessible spaces:
 - There is a high demand for accessible parking spaces due to the large demographic of New Westminster residents with mobility issues
- The benefit of a revolving door is for interior climate control
- A power operated swing door is being considered in addition to the power activated revolving door
- Suggestion that reception desk have the option of being raised and lowered to eliminate the creation of discrete service area for those in wheelchairs
- A braille map of the facility is being developed however the location has not yet been determined
- The need for the seating at different heights with arm rests on both sides
- There is a requirement for a signal to notify that people are in the area of refuge
- Staff will be trained in the use of all emergency equipment to remove wheelchairs from the facility
- Light and sound are considerations within the RHFAC design features
- The amount of glass may be an issue for people with a visual or cognitive impairment
- RHFAC is involved throughout the design phase
- Suggestion to include a small quiet room for individuals with autism
- Suggestion to include charging stations for electric wheelchairs in the facility
- Request that the planned updating of the Zoning Bylaw include an increase to the number of appropriately designed accessible parking spaces required.

Mses. Kenyon and Jones and Mr. Kellock departed the meeting.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 No items

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Snow and Ice Response

Gabe Beliveau, Supervisor Streets and Sidewalks, provided a verbal report on the development of the snow and ice clearing response plan:

- Bylaw requirement for business and resident to clear snow and ice from sidewalks in front of their homes by 10:00 a.m.
- Preference to utilize a complaint-based warning system rather than enforcement
- The need to raise the City staff awareness of the impact of road snow clearing on crosswalk let-downs and bus stops.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- The need to prioritize areas for snow clearing:
 - Suggestion to advise businesses to prioritize snow clearing from accessible parking spaces (On-street and off-street)
- The need to consider the requirements of those with mobility limitations in addition to those of business owners
- Suggestion that the City provide a dedicated telephone number for persons with disabilities to request City assistance in clearing the sidewalk in front of their homes:
 - The need to ensure that resources are allocated to respond to the requests if this suggestion is implemented.
 - Consideration of people who may feel vulnerable identifying that they are not able to exit their homes.

5.2 Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided an overview of the New Westminister Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan and highlighted:

- Projected increase in the number of New Westminister residents living with dementia
- Dementia-friendly action plan includes 46 City actions to be implemented over a three-year period in the following areas:
 - Awareness and education
 - Civic engagement and programming

- Civic facilities, parks and open spaces
- Mobility and accessibility
- Orientation and wayfinding
- Private development
- Safety and emergency services
- Staff education and training
- Proposed actions for 2019/2020.

In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Stark advised that the memory exhibit could be held at Century House, as well as the New Westminster Museum and Archives.

5.3 Changes to Committees

Councillor Johnstone advised that this is the last meeting of the AAAC as Council had decided to realign advisory committees to reduce the number from 38 to approximately 20. The advisory committees will be redistributed according to the functional areas of the City and will integrate the needs of special populations. In addition, Council has given staff more authority to review the applications and recommend the individuals to be appointed to the advisory committees.

Lisa LeBlanc, Transportation Manager, noted that two people with lived experiences with disabilities will be included on every committee.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- The current AAAC structure allows the disability lens to be applied to other areas of the City
- Concern that the new advisory committee composition and membership application process will create barriers to participation for people with disabilities
- The need to include youth representation on all advisory committees
- The benefit of the new advisory committee structure will raise the awareness of the barriers faced by those with disabilities
- The application to serve on advisory committees is available on the City's website:
 - The deadline to submit applications is December 1, 2019
- Request that the City reconsider the dissolution of the AAAC as it addresses the isolation experienced by disabled people and encourages their participation:
 - Suggestion that the mandate of the AAAC be broadened.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 No items

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 No items

8.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS & LINKS

**8.1 Attachment 1 – “New Westminster Aquatic & Community Centre”
Presentation**

**8.2 Attachment 2 – New Westminster Dementia-Friendly Community Action
Plan**

9.0 ADJOURNEMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Original Signed _____

PATRICK JOHNSTONE

CHAIR

Original Signed _____

CAROL LEE

RECORDING SECRETARY