



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

**Access Ability Advisory Committee
(AAAC)**

**Thursday, October 12, 2017, at 3:00 p.m.
Council Chamber & Chamber Meeting Room
City Hall
MINUTES**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone	- Chair
Julia Schoennagel (Arrived at 3:51 pm)	- Community
Hayley Sinclair	- Community
Colleen Vogler	- Community
Michael Wilson (Left at 4:36 pm)	- Community
Heather Boersma	- Community
Karla Olson	- Community

REGRETS:

Leslie Sayer	- Community
Anne Bélanger	- Community

STAFF:

Lisa Leblanc	- Manager, Transportation Engineering Services
Jason Haight	- Manager, Business Operations Parks & Recreation
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Secretary, Engineering Services
Dave Cole (Left at 4:00 pm)	- Manager, Engineering Operations
Gabe Beliveau (Left at 4:00 pm)	- Acting Supervisor Towing, Parking & Animal Services, Cemetery & Field Maintenance
Biliana Velkova (Left at 3:15 pm)	- Arts Coordinator, Parks & Recreation
Steve Kellock (Left at 3:40 pm)	- Senior Manager Recreation Services & Facilities
Jay Young (Left at 3:40 pm)	- Manager, Recreation Facilities
Wayne Werbovetski (Left at 3:40 pm)	- Project Manager Engineering, Building Maintenance

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

Procedural note: Unfinished Business Item 4.1, Public Art Inspired Bus Shelter will be addressed prior to Presentation Item 3.1, Draft Design – Queen’s Park Washroom & Concession to accommodate staff due at another meeting.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1.1 Additions to and adoption of the Agenda of October 12, 2017

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the Access Ability Advisory Committee meeting held on October 12, 2017 be received and adopted with the following addition:

1. *New Business, Item 5.3, Accessible Parking Stalls – Karla Olson.*

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 15, 2017

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Access Ability Advisory Committee held on June 15, 2017, be received and adopted.

CARRIED.

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

Members were informed that a special callout was underway during this civic committee recruitment time in order to get youth interested in participating on the Committee. Karla Olson, Committee member, volunteered to follow up with her contacts at Douglas College and New Westminster Secondary School to spread the word about recruitment.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Draft Design – Queen’s Park Washroom & Concession – Steve Kellock, Jay Young & Wayne Werbovetski (see Item 6.1)

After brief introductions, Jay Young (Manager, Recreation Facilities), Steve Kellock (Senior Manager, Recreation Facilities & Services) and

Wayne Werbovetski (Project Manager, Engineering Building Maintenance), commenced with their presentation. Members were informed that the existing washroom building in Queen's Park has reached the end of its service life, becoming functionally obsolete. In order to meet the needs of current and future park users, a new building is being designed that will have the ability to serve a greater number of park visitors at one time and maintain the current level of food concession service. In an effort to better meet the needs of park users, the new design will incorporate a fully-accessible washroom and change room facilitating users who require assistance.

The following feedback was provided by Committee members:

- Some users may not be comfortable with the baby change tables being located in the general area of the washroom;
- Consideration needs to be made with respect to scooters and wheelchairs fitting into and maneuvering inside the accessible washroom stalls – the minimum standard size of stalls does not provide enough room for this;
- An automatic door would not take up space;
- Auto sensors used for bathroom taps may be hard to reach for those with mobility issues. Longer levers and push buttons, much like what is used for automatic door openers, would be more user friendly;
- Thought should be given to providing a private sink for women who may need to deal with personal hygiene issues;
- A member stated that the Starbucks located at Columbia Street and Nelson's Crescent is a good example of an accessible sink as it is shorter and deeper than most;
- There should be signage requesting that priority of accessible stall usage be given to those with accessibility issues;
- It was noted that the installation of two accessible washroom stalls would have to be done at the expense of something else; limited space dictates the number of accessible stalls that can be installed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Access Ability Advisory Committee endorse the proposed Queen's Park Washroom and Concession, as presented on October 12th, with consideration of the following feedback from the Committee members:

1. Provide sufficient space in accessible stalls for wheelchairs and scooters to maneuver being cognizant of the door design and layout and make the doorway as wide as possible;
2. Include installation of a fully accessible automatic door;
3. Sink design: research other options, be sensitive to other kinds of usage and dexterity of those who will be using it;

4. Signage: remind patrons to be cognizant of accessibility-challenged patrons who may need to use the washrooms during peak times;
5. Consider putting baby change tables in more private areas.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Public Art Inspired Bus Shelter – Final Concept – Biliana Velkova & Lisa Leblanc (see Item 6.2)

Lisa Leblanc, Manager, Transportation, introduced Biliana Velkova, Public Art Coordinator, and briefly recapped the report which provided members an opportunity to review the final concept of the public art inspired bus shelter to be installed in front of the Queensborough Community Centre later this year. The bus stop design is based on feedback provided to the designer by the Committee.

The following discussion ensued:

- An attempt was made to incorporate knobs or hooks to hang bags, etc.; however, concerns were raised about the possibility of them being used by people to climb the shelter, or for clothing or other items to get caught on them;
- It was noted by Committee members that armrests should be avoided. If seating is high enough, people do not need armrests to use as leverage to stand up;
- Staff advised that construction of the shelter has commenced and it will be installed later this year. Once finished, it will be featured on the City's public art tour in 2018.

4.2 Review of City Snow and Ice Response: 2016-2017 – Gabe Beliveau & Dave Cole (see Item 6.3)

Gabe Beliveau, Acting Streets Supervisor, provided a brief summary of his report and the recommendations to the City's Snow and Ice Response Plan. Staff will be taking a more proactive approach to snow clearing by communicating expectations to each resident and business by way of pamphlets, social media, etc., which will continue throughout the season. The City will also be encouraging people to help their neighbours with snow clearing and reminding those that travel during the season to ensure they have made arrangements to have their sidewalks cleared if they are not in town to do it themselves.

The following discussion ensued:

- People should be asked to ensure that fire hydrants and storm drains are kept clear of snow and debris;
- Definitions of “transit landing” and “curb letdowns” need to be clear in the communications sent out;
- People should be encouraged to clear further than what is required;
- There should be an option for residents that are elderly, incapacitated, or out of town to receive aid with snow removal; however, it was acknowledged that the City does not have enough staff to provide this support;
- It was suggested that people who are going to be out of town during the winter months, make arrangements with a private contractor for snow removal prior to leaving town.

4.3 Massey Theatre Universal Accessibility Design Review Report to Council Update – Councillor Johnstone

Councillor Johnstone advised members that the report was received and passed by Council without further comment, noting that the Massey Theatre ownership transfer would likely be postponed to coincide with the construction of the new high school.

4.4 Consideration of Demoviction/Renovictions Report to Council Update – Councillor Johnstone

Councillor Johnstone stated that the report was received and adopted on consent. He reminded members that the City is aware of the problem with demovictions and renovictions, and that it is an even larger problem for those with accessibility issues. The City cannot stop the issuance of building permits; however, we can advise those affected of their rights.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Signage – Wayfinding and Street Names – Karla Olson

This item will be moved to the next meeting.

5.2 Q to Q Ferry – Accessibility Opportunities and Challenges – Lisa Leblanc

Lisa provided a short overview of the demonstration ferry service that was offered over the summer, running between Queensborough and the Downtown. The service was utilized by a lot people to get downtown for shopping and to visit Queensborough with many stating that they would like

to see it run during weekday commuting times. It was noted that it was difficult to make the service accessible to everyone due to the challenges faced with the Fraser River's tides, etc. A Q to Q demonstration ferry service report will be provided to members at the next meeting.

The following discussion ensued:

- A member stated that he finds it acceptable to have something like the ferry service and not have it fully accessible to everyone as long as there are other ways to access the locations that the ferry travels to. We must strive, within reason, to make things as accessible as possible to everyone (for example, buses do not accommodate scooters);
- Staff advised that longer ramps to the ferry to accommodate tidal changes pose problems with respect to grade, distance, transitional plates (which also introduces barriers as they get slippery), etc.;
- Some felt the signage used during the demonstration ferry service was unwelcoming to those with accessibility issues and should be changed;
- People should know beforehand if the ferry is accessible so they can plan their trip accordingly. It was also noted that as there is a spectrum of accessibility, what may be accessible to some, may not be accessible to others;
- Staff advised that a ferry service would be subsidized by the City or in partnership with another entity;
- Members were asked to email their questions and suggestions to Lisa prior to the next meeting.

5.3 Accessible Parking Stalls – Karla Olson

Karla addressed the Mews accessible parking stalls, including questioning the methodology used to determine how many stalls should be provided. She stated that the City has done a great job; however, does not feel that the figure is representative of the number of people who would use the stalls. She also stated that accessible parking was closed off for special events such as the opening of the Mews and Fridays on Front, and no temporary accessible parking spaces were provided. Members were reminded of the suggestion she made at a previous meeting which would see the installation of parking stalls that would be classified as accessible parking for part of the time and then open for everyone to use outside of those hours. Karla requested that the following items be addressed: 1) Revisit the number of accessible parking stalls available; they may be in keeping with city requirements but do not necessarily fit the need of New Westminster; 2) Consider not only the general use of stalls but also the exceptional use; if they are in an area in which an event is being held, are you actually using the spots for the event?; 3) Loading zone issues need to be addressed more

effectively. People are parking in loading zones and inhibiting people from utilizing the joint use loading zone/accessible parking stalls.

The following discussion ensued:

- Questions were posed as to whether or not the number of stalls was actually keeping up with what is needed in the community, and if alternate parking is being provided when accessible parking is blocked off during events;
- Members noted that a fourth item to consider is affordability, and that on-street metered parking should be complimentary for those with accessibility issues as they are often on a fixed income;
- With respect to accessibility information being made available for all City events, members were advised that a city events committee is currently working on a city-wide implementation plan to address this issue;
- Staff advised that parking enforcement actively deals with misuse of loading zones which are meant for active loading and unloading only and should not be inactive for more than 5 minutes at a time;
- Gabe Beliveau, Acting Street Supervisor, will be invited to address Karla's three points, as outlined above, at a future Committee meeting. Councillor Johnstone will address the fourth point –affordability – at a future meeting;

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Draft Design – Queen's Park Washroom & Concession – Steve Kellock, Jay Young & Wayne Werbovetski (see Item 3.1)

This was addressed under Item 3.1, Draft Design – Queen's Park Washroom & Concession.

6.2 Public Art Inspired Bus Shelter – Final Concept – Biliana Velkova & Lisa Leblanc (see Item 4.1)

This was addressed under Item 4.1, Public Art Inspired Bus Shelter.

6.3 Review of City Snow and Ice Response Plan: 2016 – 2017 – Gabe Beliveau & Dave Cole (see Item 4.2)

This was addressed under Item 4.2, Review of City Snow and Ice Response Plan: 2016 - 2017.

6.4 Action List – Committee

It was noted that the Action List will be updated for the next meeting.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, December 14, 2017

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 pm.

Certified correct,

Original Signed

PATRICK JOHNSTONE
CHAIR

Original Signed

CARILYN COOK
COMMITTEE SECRETARY