

NORTH SHORE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Thursday, April 25, 2024, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Hybrid (In-Person and Virtual via MS Teams)

MINUTES

Present:

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

Regrets:

Jennifer Branston, DNV
Marilynne Nowell, DNV
Maria de Fatima Lazo, Staff Liaison, DNV

Staff Liaisons:

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

Council Liaisons:

Cllr. Catherine Pope, DNV
Cllr. Shervin Shahriari, CNV
Cllr. Christine Cassidy, DWV

1. Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm and provided a land acknowledgement.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOVED by Loreigh Mitges and seconded by Robert Richard
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by Loreigh Mitges and seconded by Robert Richard
To adopt the March 28, 2024 minutes.

CARRIED

4. Questions from the Public

No questions were presented from the public.

5. Business Arising

5.1. Accessibility Plan Update (Staff)

No update was provided by the staff liaisons from the District of North Vancouver and the City of North Vancouver.

Staff from the District of West Vancouver indicated that a meeting was convened with the inter-departmental staff group wherein they reviewed the accessibility plan and the presentation received by Council. The next steps will be for staff to review their action items and provide Maeve Bermingham their work plan and the items that can be achieved.

5.2. Access and Awareness Event

The working group met and discussed ideas that could be achieved in the short term and ideas that could be put toward the long-term planning. Regarding the upcoming Accessibility Week, District of West Vancouver staff, with input from the Accessibility Week working group developed some recommendations, including the following events:

- A sensory swim at the aquatic centre, scheduled for June 1st, preferably from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Aquatic Centre, West Vancouver.
- A story time for Word Matter on May 27 at the West Vancouver Community Centre. This would be a 20-to-30-minute program incorporating songs and story time. All ages would be welcomed but geared toward a younger audience. The Memorial Library will also activate their display tablet with accessibility books and authors.
- A wheelchair basketball game, weather dependent in West Vancouver.
- Screening of the Canadian Congress on Disability Inclusion 2024 conference on May 23 at the West Vancouver Memorial Library.

The committee members were informed that the events would be facilitated by the program facilitator and the committee members were welcome to participate in the events or attend in a participatory role wherein they could provide brochures and speak to the public to provide awareness and education around accessibility issues.

In terms of the video, the timing to put this idea in place for this year may be short, and this can be explored further for next year.

Regarding the award highlighting an accessible business, this would require Council direction and further exploration by Council. As next steps, it was

suggested that the three Councillors on the committee put a notice of motion to direct their staff to either develop a business award for accessibility and/or work with the Chamber of Commerce. In addition, committee members indicated that it may be beneficial to form a working group to work with the three municipalities.

In moving forward, the committee will begin looking at the access and awareness event in September of each year to ensure there is sufficient time for planning and exploring different ideas.

5.3. Community Safety Letter

Committee members were provided with a presentation on the timeline of the community safety letter issue, as well as the suggested changes as provided by staff to the recommendations to Council. It was noted that the intent of the changes provided by staff is so that the letter is more specific and direct around the request to Council.

On discussion, it was suggested that the committee regularly revisit the issue of safety, and the following links were provided by committee members for reference:

“a protocol has been developed by the North Shore Anti-Racism Network” https://impactnorthshore.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Anti-Racism_Protocol_Web.pdf “See, Speak, Stop, Support” via NSN April 2024 “The Racism Response Protocol gives you tools to take charge in harmful situations, and follow up with reporting and care afterwards” <https://www.nsnews.com/in-the-community/what-to-do-if-you-witness-racism-on-the-north-shore-8630877> and NSN May 2023 “projects will use the funds to implement crime prevention and remediation projects in North Vancouver” <https://www.nsnews.com/highlights/north-vancouver-civil-forfeiture-grant-program-7039987>

5.4. Recruitment Update

District of North Vancouver – the Advisory Oversight Committee (AOC) was provided with a report recommending a new District of North Vancouver committee member, and accordingly, Chris Anderson was approved and will be joining the committee in May.

City of North Vancouver – Christel Lindgren, staff liaison, will be leaving the committee, and Jill Tapp will be serving as the new CNV staff liaison. In terms of filling the current vacancy from the City of North Vancouver, no applications have been received to date, and based on the advice from the Clerk’s Department, they will wait for the recruitment cycle to begin in the fall for 2025.

District of West Vancouver – no applications have been received to date.

On discussion, it was suggested that there could be an outreach to different disability organizations as a mechanism to recruit committee members as opposed to sending out a generic call.

5.5. Access Needs for Participation

Pam Horton provided some brief comments on the ongoing technical issues with the MS Teams platform.

Members emphasized the need for captions in the committee room.

The committee room at the Municipal Hall supports Zoom and is an option that could be explored for the hybrid ACDI committee meetings. Based on the discussion and comments provided by the committee members, the District of North Vancouver staff will explore Zoom as the possible platform for all ACDI hybrid and virtual meetings.

A test meeting using Zoom will be set up with the committee members.

6. New Business

6.1. Working Group and Report Writing

As a result of the change in staff liaisons within the City of North Vancouver, this item was deferred to the May meeting.

6.2. Terms of Reference Update

Staff provided a brief update on each municipalities' process with respect to updating the terms of reference. It was noted that each municipality has a different process, and that the Clerk's Department at the City of North Vancouver is proposing that a project manager be engaged to assist with the work.

Committee members suggested that the three municipalities work together and formulate a plan by the end of June so that in September a working group can be formed to work with staff in this regard.

Committee members also indicated that it may be beneficial to start collecting thoughts and suggestions around proposed changes to the terms of reference.

The terms of reference document will be circulated to the committee members.

6.3. Park Audit

A park audit has not been undertaken since the pandemic. The park audit normally takes place every year in July wherein committee members visit an existing park and propose changes to improve accessibility. For this year, the

City of North Vancouver will be hosting the park audit and the Park's Department had proposed a review of a dog park or the Moodyville playground.

The City Park's Department will be contacted to indicate which park would be most valuable to review.

7. Reports

7.1 Wellbeing Strategy (CNV)

As the report was not completed prior to the agenda distribution, this item was deferred to the next meeting. In terms of report writing, committee members were informed that staff prepare the notes, and the recommendations are developed by the members of the committee.

A meeting will be set up with Cyndi Gerlach, Michelle Katerberg, Robert Richard and the City staff liaison to review the process for report writing.

8. Council Updates

- District of North Vancouver

There will be a Council workshop on April 29th to review housing.

- City of North Vancouver

A delegation from the Vancouver District Labour Congress spoke on the use of taxis when HandyDART is not available. A report was provided, and Council passed a motion to encourage TransLink to utilize HandyDART.

The report from the Council meeting will be distributed to the committee for information.

- District of West Vancouver

The Engineering Department will be presenting on the Dundarave outdoor patios to ACDI at a working group meeting on May 16th.

The following items were raised by committee members:

- The outdoor fitness circuit at Ambleside has been launched.
- The North Shore Emergency Management Extreme Heat have set a date of May 29, 10am-12noon, for a Extreme Heat Resilience Forum and ACDI were invited to have one or two representatives attend.
- From May 31 to July 31 2024 -, people, organizations and industry groups within B.C. are invited to provide input on draft recommendations for Accessible Service Delivery and Employment Accessibility standards under the Accessible British

Columbia Act. May 31, 2024 to July 31, 2024 – Public Engagement phase
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/accessiblebcactstandards/>

- A new location close to City Hall has been identified to review the raised planter prototype.
- The City Communications Department are working on an engagement strategy for the City of North Vancouver on how to do public outreach. They will be presenting to the ACDI working group on May 2 and requesting feedback on accessible public engagement and how the committee members would like to engage with City staff.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Date of Upcoming Regular Meetings

- Thursday, May 30, 2024 – Regular Meeting
- Thursday, June 27, 2024 – Regular Meeting
- Thursday, July 25, 2024 – Park Audit
- August – No Meeting