

NORTH SHORE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Thursday, June 27, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Hybrid (In-Person and Virtual via MS Teams)

MINUTES

Present:

Chris Andersen, DNV
Jennifer Branston, DNV
Cyndi Gerlach (Chair), DNV
Pam Horton, CNV
Michelle Katerberg (Vice-Chair), DWV
Loreigh Mitges, DWV
Marilynne Nowell, DNV
Nancie Parker, DWV
Robert Richard, CNV

Regrets:

Louisa Bridgman, CNV
Cllr Shervin Shahriari, CNV
Cllr Christine Cassidy, DWV

Staff Liaisons:

Nick Giannone, Staff Liaison, DNV
Maria de Fatima Lazo, Staff Liaison, DNV
Jill Tapp, Staff Liaison, CNV
Maeve Bermingham, Staff Liaison, DWV
Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk, DNV

Council Liaisons:

Cllr Catherine Pope, DNV
Cllr. Christine Cassidy, DWV

Guests:

Magda Trespalacios, CNV Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion Leader
Sarah Manteuffel, Consultant, Urban
Matters
Blair Underhill, Transportation Planning
Development
Elicia Elliott, Manager, Transportation
Planning and Development

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

Magda Trespalacios, the new City of North Vancouver Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Leader was introduced and welcomed to the committee.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Bob Richard moved and Jennifer Branston seconded:
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

Bob Richard moved and Jennifer Branston seconded:
To adopt the May 30, 2024 minutes.

CARRIED

Michelle Katerberg was acknowledged for chairing the May meeting.

4. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

5. Presentation – DNV Accessibility Plan Update

Sarah Manteuffel, Consultant, Urban Matters provided a presentation on the District of North Vancouver Accessibility Implementation Plan.

The Accessibility Plan supports the achievement of six goals which have inspired the actions of the Implementation Plan. In terms of process, Urban Matters met with DNV task force three times to review the Implementation Plan draft. A decision was made due to emerging legislation changes, resource constraints and funding to phase the Implementation Plan to prioritize actions that can start in 2024. This will ensure that staff has capacity to provide feedback on and implement actions moving forward.

The draft Implementation Plan has 17 actions that have been prioritized in the executive summary presented. Each action is defined by four categories:

- Leading Divisions/Partners
- Collaborators
- Timeline
- Metrics of Success

A summary was provided of proposed actions for 2024 to 2025 as follows:

Goal 1 – Address attitudinal barriers towards people with visible and invisible disabilities.

Goal 2 – Build staff capacity to identify, remove and prevent barriers.

Goal 3 – Increase accessibility practices for service and program delivery.

Goal 4 – These actions were not included in the executive summary as these will be started and/or completed between 2025 and 2026.

Goal 5 – Improve the physical accessibility of public infrastructure and spaces within our community.

Goals 6 – Monitor and evaluate this plan to allow for improvement and adjustment as needed.

The following two actions were highlighted because they are designated to be led by the committee and the presenters required the committee's feedback on them:

- Action 6.2: Review annual reports on the progress of the Accessibility Plan and provide feedback for the continued identification, prevention, and removal of barriers.

- Action 6.3: Act as an advisory board to ensure appropriate review and implementation of accessibility projects and initiatives undertaken by the District and partner agencies.

As next steps, the executive summary will be finalized this July. Edits will resume on the entire plan in the Fall and the entire Implementation Plan will be completed by year end and the final document presented to senior leadership and ACDI.

The following comments were provided by the committee members:

A concern was raised that in the executive summary there were no actions in the action plan until 2025 and that staff explore what could be completed this year. Staff responded that the Executive Summary identifies the actions to be started in 2024 only as additional time is needed to confirm the resources and capacity for the actions to be undertaken in 2025 and 2026. Staff will spend the Fall finalizing this task and the remaining years of the Implementation Plan.

- Concerns were raised regarding external communications and public awareness as this was not included in Goal one.
- Clarification was requested around action 1.1 and why ableism was not included and that some of the language is outdated.
- The committee requested clarification on reviewing public feedback. Staff will consider this item and update accordingly.
- If resource constraints are holding back actions, then an application for the available SPARC funding should be an action item.
- A recommendation to identify all partner organizations (e.g., North Vancouver Recreation Commission and District Library) was proposed with the suggestion of setting up introductory opportunities.
- A suggestion was presented to ensure that acronyms are defined and plain language used where possible.

Committee members were invited to send further feedback to DNV staff by July 14, 2024.

6. Presentation - CNV Curb Access and Parking Plan

Blair Underhill, Planner, Transportation Planning and Development and Elicia Elliott, Manager, Transportation Planning and Development provided a presentation on the City of North Vancouver's Curb Access and Parking Plan.

The City of North Vancouver is developing a Curb Access and Parking Plan to improve the reliability of accessing curb space, while addressing the changing demands of the

curb in recent years. This Plan will help residents, visitors, and businesses meet a wider range of needs on curbs, today and into the future. Community members are being engaged to share their thoughts on 5 proposed policy changes. These changes are based on community feedback from the first phase of engagement in fall of 2023, technical analysis, and aligning with city-wide objectives.

The proposed policy changes are as follows:

- Change 1 - Expand pay parking in high-demand areas of the City to better manage parking turnover and demand
- Change 2 - Modernize the Resident & Visitor Parking Policy, including expansion of spatial coverage, and adjustment of eligibility criteria and costs.
- Change 3 - Provide more short-term loading zones for the efficient and safe movement of people and goods.
- Change 4 - Provide more accessible on-street parking spaces in close proximity to shops, services, and key destinations across the City.
- Change 5 - Enable unique special-use parking to ensure a wide range of curb space needs are achieved.

The following comments were provided by the committee members:

- A question was raised regarding accessibility to individuals with fixed income on Persons with Disabilities (PWD). The presenter responded that staff are exploring alternatives and that the lowest possible rate would be set.
- Members identified two areas where increased accessible parking and SPARC parking permits would be beneficial (i.e., Lions Gate Hospital and Public Library). In terms of hospital parking, the City does not oversee the private parking lot at Lions Gate Hospital but will continue to engage with the hospital to explore enhancing accessible parking. Accessible parking will be prioritized at the public library.
- Suggestion to consider pricing rates to increase over parking duration, to reduce the barrier for short term parking and to provide incentive for frequent turnover. The presenter responded that this was consistent with project objectives.
- Suggestion to consider site-specific characteristics at intersections particularly around setbacks on a slope (e.g., repurposing of the corner space and removing barriers to sight lines).
- Ensure there is a certain amount of parking spots for new developments.
- A suggestion to incorporate digital signage alerting the number of available parking spaces within parking lots. The presenter indicated that work is underway in developing an online option showing available off-street parking of both City managed spots and those from private operators, as well as real-time parking availability information.

7. Reports

7.1. Working Group and Report Writing

Staff proposed a way forward to streamline working group meetings and report writing. Moving forward, projects, initiatives and capital works projects would be presented and reviewed by the committee during regular meetings and that staff would take, administer and standardized notes. This would provide the opportunity to reduce volunteer hours, accommodate capacity for report writing, provide the opportunity for all members to receive and provide feedback on projects and to formalize a more efficient timeline moving forward.

A suggestion was made to reassess how implementation was progressing through a standing item on the agenda.

The timeline for the committee meeting room technological transition to Zoom has not yet been received, staff will provide once available.

7.2 Wellbeing Strategy (CNV)

7.3 Engagement Strategy (CNV)

7.4 Accessible Planter Prototype (CNV)

7.5 Wooden Boardwalk (DWV)

Staff will prepare outstanding notes and distribute for committee review and approval.

8. Business Arising

8.1. Accessibility Act / Plan Update

The District of North Vancouver update was provided during item #5 of the agenda.

No updates were provided from the City of North Vancouver or District of West Vancouver.

8.2. Access and Awareness Event

Committee members were informed that there was still an opportunity to work with the DNV Communications Department to develop a recruitment video in the fall, and further information will be provided to the committee.

Staff reported that the recent sensory friendly swim was not successful with one attendee. However, further discussions will take place with upper management to further explore this initiative and possibly secure a regular timeslot for this event.

It was suggested that in moving forward, it would be beneficial that committee discussions around an annual event begin in September to ensure there is sufficient time to plan the event.

In terms of acknowledging December 3 International Persons with Disabilities Day, committee members suggested whether this could be acknowledged with a Proclamation from Council.

8.3. Working Group Awareness Event 2025

This item was addressed during the discussion under agenda item #8.2.

9. New Business

9.1. Terms of Reference – Update from Meeting

At the June 30 working group meeting, staff met with key members to receive feedback on the terms of reference and a summary was provided of some of the key suggested changes from the committee and an informal timeline moving forward.

Pam Horton left the meeting at 7:30 pm.

9.2. Park Audit – Lynnmouth

The park audit will take place on Thursday, July 25 at the Lynnmouth Park. Detailed information will be provided to the committee members including information addressing accessibility for the members.

10. Community Updates

10.1. District of North Vancouver Council Update (Cllr Pope)

In light of the community safety letter sent to Mayor and Council, Cllr Pope developed a motion requesting that Council endorse the committee's request in the correspondence dated June 10. This motion will be presented to Council at the meeting on July 8 and committee members were encouraged to attend the Council meeting to support and speak on behalf of the motion.

10.2. City of North Vancouver Council Update (Cllr Shahriari)

Cllr Shahriari was absent from the meeting. An update was provided by the Chair that CNV was now working on getting their accessibility plan together, that a motion had been passed unanimously by council, and that Cllr Shahriari spoke to it, particularly referencing the Terms of Reference.

10.3. District of West Vancouver Council Update (Cllr Cassidy)

An update was not provided as Cllr Cassidy was absent from the meeting.

10.4. Committee Members Update

No committee member updates were provided.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Date of Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, July 25, 2024 – Park Audit Working Group Meeting
- August – No Meeting
- Thursday, September 26, 2024 – Regular Meeting

NORTH SHORE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

MINUTES – Thursday, June 27, 2024

- Thursday, October 24, 2024 – Regular Meeting
- Thursday, November 28, 2024 – Regular Meeting