

NORTH SHORE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Thursday, June 29, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting (In-person and Virtual via MS Teams)

MINUTES

Present:

Jennifer Branston
Alexis Chicoine (Chair)
Cyndi Gerlach
Michelle Katerberg
Vanessa Mendoza
Loreigh Mitges
Marilynne Nowell
David Parke
Nancie Parker
Robert Richard

Staff Liaisons:

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

Council Liaisons:

Cllr. Shervin Shahriari, CNV
Cllr. Nora Gambioli, DWV

Regrets:

Louisa Bridgman
Pam Horton
Mayor Mike Little, DNV

1. Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Jennifer Branston and seconded by Vanessa Mendoza
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the May 25, 2023 Minutes

Moved by David Parke and seconded by Marilynne Nowell
To adopt the minutes.

CARRIED

4. Public Questions

No public questions were raised.

5. Business Arising

5.1. Park Audit – City of North Vancouver

At the May meeting, committee members indicated an interest to review a dog park as part of this year's park audit. However, as this is a unique year in terms of aligning to the *Accessible Act* which becomes effective as of September 1, there are several tasks to be completed it is anticipated a full meeting schedule from now until September when the *Accessible Act* becomes effective. In this regard, it may be beneficial for this year, to skip the park audit and use the meeting time to complete tasks related to the *Accessible Act*. Therefore, the July 27 meeting time will be used as a second engagement session with the District of North Vancouver.

In terms of the review of the dog park, information was provided that the policy for the dog strategy in the City of North Vancouver has already been approved and will be going into the implementation plan. As there will be ongoing work in this regard, there is value in visiting the dog park as part of next year's park audit.

Committee members discussed the proposed process for developing the accessibility plan in the municipalities. Information was provided that the accessibility plans have not yet been created, and the purpose of the subcommittee meetings is for internal staff to engage, and collaborate, with ACDI for input when developing the plan. In addition, the consultants will develop the plan based on ACDI's feedback during the sessions.

5.2. Accessible Events Letter Follow Up

Previously ACDI provided a letter to the District of West Vancouver regarding accessibility to events in the municipality. The West Vancouver events team subsequently sent a response to ACDI indicating that many of ACDI's recommendations were provided to their third party promotional organizational team who look after the logistical components of events. Some of the recommendations incorporated were mowing the grass prior to events, providing additional accessible parking spots, moving those to more convenient locations, barrier free access including identifying the ramps that go over the cables.

In terms of the City of North Vancouver, the shipyards group also received the letter from ACDI and the recommendations were incorporated in their events checklist. There is a public engagement framework strategy wherein the City will be looking at how to improve public engagements.

5.3. Access Awareness Event

Work is underway in determining whether the sensory van will be available at the North Vancouver District Hall for the September meeting.

5.4. Letter re Grants to MLA and MP

With respect to the recent letter prepared by ACDI on accessible grants, committee members were informed that based on the committee's terms of reference, ACDI is not authorized to send letters directly to MLA's and MPs. In this regard, the letter will be re-addressed to Mayor and Council of all three North Shore municipalities and Mayor and Council can subsequently distribute the letter to their MP contacts.

6. New Business

6.1. Phibbs Update

Committee members were informed that as construction continues at Phibbs Exchange, District staff are working on a possible contribution agreement with TransLink that would see the District of North Vancouver contribute towards the design of customer washrooms at Phibbs. Should the washroom strategy be approved, the washrooms could be available by transit riders by the end of 2024.

6.2. Letter to Light House Park

Committee members reviewed and discussed the proposed letter to Light House Park with respect to the three interpretive signs for Birdsong Path.

Moved by Alexis Chicoine and seconded by Jennifer Branston

To accept the letter as revised and distributed to Light House Park Preservation Society and to Mayor and Council, District of West Vancouver.

CARRIED
1 Opposed

6.3. Community Safety

As background, a committee member requested that a letter be created in support of a discussion with the City of North Vancouver with respect to a community safety issue. In this regard it was suggested that the letter, once completed, be distributed to all three North Shore municipalities.

6.4. Accessible Parking in the Shipyards

As a follow up to a previous question with respect to whether the parking under the museum was accessible, the City of North Vancouver staff liaison will provide information at the next meeting.

6.5. District of West Vancouver – Remuneration

Committee members were provided with a summary of other consultation practices particularly when members of committees provide life experiences and expert input and are remunerated for their work. With the upcoming consultation around the Accessibility Plan and as this work may be outside of the realm of ACDI, committee members discussed the possibility of remuneration for the upcoming consultation sessions. In this regard, it was suggested that when consultation sessions begin, the idea of possible remuneration be shared and discussed with the consultant team.

Clarification was requested around the need for hiring consultants. Information was provided that internally, the District is not establishing committees but working groups of key staff members from different departments to gather information, background, policies, initiatives, etc., and the consultants will assist the District seek through the information and engage with ACDI to develop an accessible plan and are the experts in drafting plans/policies. On discussion, a concern was raised that although the ACDI committee members will provide feedback, the consultants are not in fact collaborating with the committee members. It was noted that the approach from all three municipalities will be for a collaborative engagement between the ACDI members and the consultants.

A further concern was noted that although ACDI will be consulted, the plan may be brought back to ACDI for “rubber stamping” by the committee, and that one meeting for consultation is not enough. Information was provided that the consultants will facilitate the conversations between ACDI and the municipalities. In addition, prior to the meetings there is work underway wherein department heads are gathering all relevant information, previous reports and anything related to accessibility to prepare for the engagement with ACDI. The September deadline is to show that work is in process, but not to have a completed Accessibility Plan.

As there were some concerns around timing, committee members requested that each municipality provide a timeline for the consultants and the consultation process.

7. ACDI Terms of Reference Update

Committee members were informed that one of the requirements of the *Accessible Act* is to have Indigenous representation on the committee. Currently there was no reference to Indigenous representation in ACDI’s terms of reference, and that the document refers to “municipalities” and if there was Indigenous representation they would not belong to a municipality.

On discussion and review of the terms of reference document, committee members provided feedback on the document, including possibly changing the committee’s name and clarification around the language with respect to the committee’s

responsibility to work cooperatively with municipal departments, boards, etc., whose activities affect people with disabilities. However, committee members were reminded, that the terms of reference document was from 2006 and staff recognize that the document will require a more thorough review. The change currently being proposed was only around the addition of three spots to the committee that would be dedicated to Indigenous representation. If the spots were not filled those positions would not be filled and the committee would stay at 12 with the possibility of going to 13, 14 or 15 given those applicants are Indigenous identifying individuals from the North Shore.

Moved by Alexis Chicoine and seconded by Loreigh Mitges

To incorporate the highlighted revisions on Indigenous representation to ACDI's terms of reference, as presented.

CARRIED

8. Reports

8.1. Fitness Equipment Ambleside

The report was not completed and will be completed by the Chair and provided to the committee through email for ratification.

9. Accessibility Issues in Front of Council

- District of North Vancouver
A secondary update on Phibbs will be provided at the next meeting.
- City of North Vancouver

During development applications, the developers are requested to provide assurance around accessible parking and adaptable units.

- District of West Vancouver

The first meeting with the consultants regarding the Accessibility Plan will take place on Thursday, July 6th at the District of West Vancouver. In terms of process, the first meeting will be the kick-off meeting and about committee members ideas, orientation about the *Act*, and discussion on the barriers. The facilitator will meet with internal staff team and collate background information to find a baseline. In the first week of August, there will be a second meeting with the facilitator who will bring all the information and present what they heard and ensure that they have interpreted the feedback accurately.

Information was provided that in terms of consultation, the approach for the District of North Vancouver will be similar to that of the District of West Vancouver.

10. Any Other Business

No other business was presented.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Date of Upcoming Meetings

- July 6 – DWV Accessibility Plan
- July 13 – DNV Accessibility Plan
- July 20 – CNV Accessibility Plan
- July 27 – DNV Accessibility Plan