

NORTH SHORE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Thursday, September 28, 2023, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

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

MINUTES

Present:

Jennifer Branston
Louisa Bridgman
Alexis Chicoine
Cyndi Gerlach
Michelle Katerberg
Vanessa Mendoza
Nancie Parker
Robert Richard

Council Liaisons:

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

Guests:

Mo Bot, CNV

Staff Liaisons:

Nick Giannone, Staff Liaison, DNV
Maeve Bermingham, Staff Liaison, DWV
Justin Hall, CNV
Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk, DNV

Regrets:

Pam Horton
Loreigh Mitges
David Parke
Marilynne Nowell
Mayor Mike Little, DNV
Christel Lindgren, Staff Liaison, CNV

1. Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Alexis Chicoine and seconded by Cyndi Gerlach
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the June 29, 2023 Minutes

Moved by Alexis Chicoine and seconded by Cyndi Gerlach
To adopt the minutes.

CARRIED

4. Public Questions

No public questions were presented.

5. Business Arising

5.1. Community Safety Letter

The community safety letter will be prepared and brought to the next committee meeting.

5.2. Accessible Parking in the Shipyards (Christel)

Staff were requested to report back on whether the parking around the museum will remain free for those with a mobility placard even though the parking is now controlled by a private company.

Staff were also requested to explore the pay parking around Lions Gate Hospital and whether people who have a mobility placard could be exempted from having to pay for parking. It was also suggested that there be some advocacy by staff to ensure accessibility for all parking maintained by third parties.

5.3. Access Awareness Event – Snoezelen Sensory Van

This item was not addressed as the presenter was absent.

6. New Business

6.1. Inclusive Bus Stop Pilot

Mo Bot provided a presentation on the TransLink Design Guide for Bus Stops Adjacent to Cycling Infrastructure: Pilot Project, noting that the study goals were as follows:

- Provide an environment that feels safe and comfortable for all
- people needing to access or interact with a bus stop, whether they have a disability and whether they are travelling as a pedestrian, cyclist, or transit user.
- Strive to maximise accessibility to accommodate the broadest range of accessibility needs in all designs and contexts.
- Promote respectful behaviour between people when they are travelling as a pedestrian, cyclists, or transit user.
- Encourage consistency in the design and implementation of bus stops adjacent to cycling infrastructure across British Columbia.
- Ensure engagement feedback is meaningfully incorporated in design guidance.

The pilot evaluation will run from October 16 – November 17, and field visits with 1-2 people at a time will be set up. Detailed feedback will be captured on

all interventions incorporated into the stops and shared back to TransLink. Interested volunteers will be sent a link to sign up.

6.2. Members' Phone Numbers

Committee members were requested to provide their consent to share their telephone numbers with the staff liaisons. There were no objections from the committee members present; however, an email will be distributed to the entire committee membership to indicate and confirm their consent.

6.3. Accessibility Plan Update

- District of North Vancouver

The draft plan was posted on the website on September 1st and open for public feedback. On October 16 Corporate Services will present the plan to District Council and if endorsed, Council will instruct staff to develop implementation plans.

- District of West Vancouver

The plan was posted on the website and the dedicated accessibility webpage is up and running. It is anticipated that the plan will be brought to Council on October 23rd for endorsement as well as the updated terms of reference.

- City of North Vancouver

The planning team brought the well being strategy to ACDI in July for feedback. Once the feedback is incorporated, the document will be brought back to ACDI for review, as well as to the broader public, in October, for additional feedback. In terms of the ACDI review, committee members indicated their preference was for the plan to be brought to a subcommittee meeting as opposed to the month end meeting.

It was noted that the plans developed were inclusive of other bodies, i.e., the library, recreation centres, etc. and accordingly, a concern was raised with respect to who would be responsible for the accountability/oversight to ensure changes were made towards accessibility. In this regard, staff reported that the accountability/oversight would be a component of the implementation plan wherein the other bodies would be reporting on their progress and identifying actions taken or planned.

7. Reports

No reports were presented for approval.

8. Accessibility Issues in Front of Council

- District of North Vancouver
Committee members noted that currently there were some issues around the construction at Phibbs Exchange particularly with the lack of accessibility for people with mobility challenges and as well as a lack of support for people with autism particularly in terms of accessing the buses.

- City of North Vancouver

As background, in 2022, the City implemented some changes to St. Andrews to add a northbound bike lane, and currently there is an engagement process underway with the community. Some changes will be made in October and this will be going back to Council to explore more options.

The well being strategy engagement with the broader community will begin in October.

- District of West Vancouver

At the recent Council meeting, there were three readings on prohibiting the sale and use of fireworks.

During a broader discussion, a concern was raised on the status of the committee's terms of reference and whether the terms of reference would be updated. In this regard, staff indicated that ACDI will be involved in the review of the terms of reference and which would require several subcommittee meetings and would begin after the accessibility plans have been endorsed by Council.

9. Presentation

Susie Chant, MLA for North Vancouver – Seymour attended the meeting for a question-and-answer session.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Date of Upcoming Meetings

- October 26 Month End Meeting