

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE: 2016 January 27

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1750 20
Reference: BAAC

SUBJECT: BURNABY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2016 WORKPLAN

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2015 and to propose a workplan for 2016.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee request Council to approve the proposed Burnaby Access Advisory Committee 2016 workplan, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Burnaby Access Advisory Committee (BAAC) was established in 1988 to provide advice and direction to the Planning and Building Department on access and inclusion issues. The Committee is comprised of Burnaby residents, as well as staff from a number of City Departments and the Fraser Health Authority. Some citizen members of BAAC are also members of organizations representing persons with disabilities, but they do not formally represent these organizations on BAAC. Planning staff coordinate the Committee's bi-monthly meetings and facilitate the work program.

Since its establishment, the Committee has pursued several initiatives directed toward the improvement of private and public services and facilities to better accommodate persons with disabilities. Examples include:

- recommendations for amendments to Burnaby's Zoning Bylaw to specify requirements for designated parking spaces, as well as public awareness activities about the regulations;
- provision of recommendations to the Engineering Department regarding the installation of curb cuts and accessible bus stops at various street intersections; and
- participation in or sponsorship of annual 'Access Awareness Day' and 'United Nations Day of Persons with Disabilities' community events.

Each year, BAAC develops a workplan which is submitted to the Social Planning Committee and Council for approval. This report describes the Committee's 2015 activities and outlines proposed activities for BAAC's 2016 workplan.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF 2015 ACTIVITIES

2.1 Access Improvements in City Facilities

On an annual basis, funds are included in the Planning and Building Department's Operating Budget to finance access and inclusion improvements in City facilities. BAAC, in consultation with City staff, annually establishes a list of priority access improvements to be supported with the available funds. The following items were completed under a \$50,000 allocation provided in 2015:

Bonsor Recreation Complex

- Purchase of a portable wheel chair lift to enable easy transfer from a wheelchair to fitness equipment or classes such as adapted yoga.

Burnaby Lake Sports Complex

- Installation of handles and grab bars in men's and women's washrooms.
- Installation of dropdown seating and accessible coat hooks in the men's and women's change rooms.

Shadbolt Centre for the Arts

- Purchase and installation of accessible, automatic doors to south entrance to the building and the main set of washrooms on the first floor to assist community members with access needs in entering the building and accessing the washrooms.

C.G. Brown Memorial Pool

- Purchase and installation of accessible, automatic doors in men's and women's change rooms.

Eileen Dailly Leisure Pool

- Purchase of a lift to enable easy transfer from a wheelchair to the hot tub.

Swangard Stadium

- Installation of accessibility upgrades to the men's and women's washrooms.

2.2 'United Nations (UN) International Day of Persons with Disabilities' Events

To mark the 2015 UN Day of Persons with Disabilities, BAAC participated in the Mobility and Access Planning Stoney Creek accessibility and walkability audit event on 2015 November 25. The event engaged over 60 participants and audited six different routes around Stoney Creek Community School and Cameron Recreation Centre and Library.

2.3 Other Activities

In 2015, the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee continued to monitor needs for curb cuts, audible pedestrian traffic signals, sidewalk improvements, street furniture and other access improvements to City facilities. Issues and areas of concern identified through the audit and by the Committee are advanced to staff for consideration in determining priority improvements for 2016 and future years.

3.0 PROPOSED 2016 WORKPLAN

Propose the following accessibility and inclusion-related initiatives for the Committee's 2016 workplan are proposed:

1. Assist staff in the identification of priority accessibility and inclusion improvements in City facilities for 2016;
2. Support community events and initiatives for the United Nations International Day of Disability in December 2016;
3. Support community events and initiatives for Access Awareness Day in June 2016;
4. Support the implementation, as appropriate, of accessibility and inclusion-related actions contained in the Social Sustainability Strategy;
5. Support staff with the development of a training opportunity for City staff to build awareness of accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities;
6. Monitor accessible transportation services including public transit and taxi service, advocate through Council, as appropriate, for Customized Transit service, and identify the need for better transit routing and accessible bus stops;
7. Liaise with relevant external organizations (including the Voices of Burnaby Seniors) that work on accessibility-related issues in Burnaby;
8. Provide accessibility-related comments on major plans and new civic developments early in the process, with appropriate follow-up;
9. Monitor effectiveness of designated parking regulation standards and encourage related public education efforts; and
10. Identify the need for curb cuts, audible pedestrian traffic signals, sidewalk improvements, and access improvements to City facilities.

Acknowledging the availability of Committee resources and staff time, it should be noted that workplan items six to ten are anticipated to occur on an 'as needed' basis. The Committee's

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priorities will be focused on workplan items one to five. It is expected that all of the suggested activities can be undertaken with existing staff resources and within the existing departmental budget.

From time to time, other issues of interest to BAAC may arise. Staff will advise the Social Planning Committee of any significant additions to the proposed 2016 workplan for BAAC.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Since its establishment 27 years ago, BAAC has played an important role providing valuable advice and recommendations to the City regarding accessibility and inclusion issues. Implementation of items identified in the workplan for 2016 will enable BAAC to continue to assist the City to enhance access to facilities and inclusion in services for all Burnaby residents.

As such, it is recommended that the Committee request Council to approve the proposed Burnaby Access Advisory Committee 2016 workplan, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.



Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

CS:sa

cc: City Manager
Deputy City Managers
Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
City Clerk
Chief Librarian
Fire Chief
OIC, RCMP