

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE: 2017 January 19

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1750 20
Reference: BAAC

SUBJECT: BURNABY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2017 WORKPLAN

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2016 and to propose a workplan for 2017.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee request Council to approve the proposed Burnaby Access Advisory Committee 2017 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 2016 activities and outlines proposed activities for BAAC's 2017 workplan.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF 2016 ACTIVITIES

2.1 Access Improvements in City Facilities

In 2016, funds were 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 2016:

Bonsor Recreation Complex

- Purchase of an aquatics wheelchair to enable access to the pool deck, change rooms and showers.

Eileen Dailly Leisure Pool

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

Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion

- Installation of automatic doors to the main entrance of the building to improve access.

Burnaby City Hall

- Installation of automatic doors to cafeteria entrance to improve access.

Kensington Arena

- Installation of automatic doors to the main entrance of the building to improve access.

McGill Library

- Installation of automatic doors on family washroom to improve access.

2.2 Awareness Events

In early June 2016, BAAC celebrated Access Awareness Day by holding a Human Library event. For this initiative, two BAAC members volunteered to be "human books" for grades 6 and 7 students from Edmonds Community School. The BAAC members shared personal stories with the students about living with a disability.

To mark the 2016 United Nations Day of Persons with Disabilities, which falls on December 3 each year, BAAC planned to host a guest speaker and film night at Tommy Douglas Library. The film selected was "Darius Goes West", which features a wheelchair-bound, young man living with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy who travels the country to test wheelchair-accessibility.

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This event was scheduled for December 7, 2016 however due to winter conditions (snow and ice) it has been rescheduled for February 6, 2017.

2.3 Other Activities

In 2016, 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 were advanced to staff for consideration in determining priority improvements for 2017 and future years.

3.0 PROPOSED 2017 WORKPLAN

Staff, in consultation with BAAC, propose the following accessibility and inclusion-related initiatives for the Committee's 2017 workplan:

1. Assist staff in the identification of priority accessibility and inclusion improvements in City facilities for 2017/2018 under the capital program;
2. Support community events and initiatives for Access Awareness Day in June 2017;
3. Support community events and initiatives for the United Nations International Day of Disability in December 2017;
4. Support the implementation, as appropriate, of accessibility and inclusion-related actions contained in the Social Sustainability Strategy;
5. Revise the Burnaby Access Guidebook to reflect updates at community facilities;
6. Support staff with the development of a training opportunity for City staff to build awareness of accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities;
7. Monitor accessible transportation services including public transit and taxi service, and identify any need for better transit routing and accessible bus stops;
8. Liaise with relevant external organizations (including the Voices of Burnaby Seniors) that work on accessibility-related issues in Burnaby;
9. Provide accessibility-related comments on major plans and new civic developments early in the process, with appropriate follow-up;
10. Identify the need for curb cuts, audible pedestrian traffic signals, sidewalk improvements, and access improvements to City facilities; and
11. Connect with other municipal accessibility advisory bodies to share information and lessons learned.

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Acknowledging the availability of Committee resources and staff time, it should be noted that workplan items six to eleven are anticipated to occur on an 'as needed' basis. The Committee's 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 2017 workplan for BAAC.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Since its establishment 29 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 2017 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 2017 workplan, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.


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PLANNING AND BUILDING

KL:sa

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