

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 2020 January 10

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1750 20
Reference: BAAC

SUBJECT: BURNABY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – FUNDING REQUEST
AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

PURPOSE: To request the use of Gaming Reserves to finance the 2020 Access Improvements Program and to provide a summary of recent Burnaby Access Advisory Committee activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Financial Management Committee recommend that Council authorize the use of Gaming Reserves in the amount of \$56,000 to finance the access improvement projects at City facilities as outlined in *Section 3.0* of this report.
2. **THAT** the Committee recommend Council authorize the allocation of \$500 from the 2020 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to the City of Burnaby Access Advisory Committee, in order to provide access supports as needed for Committee members, as detailed in *Section 5.0* of this report.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Social Planning Committee for information.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

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 group is comprised of Burnaby residents, as well as staff from a number of City Departments (Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services; Human Resources; Engineering), Burnaby Public Library, 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 the Committee. Planning staff coordinate the Committee's regular meetings and facilitate members' participation in, and input on, City initiatives.

The 2020 – 2024 Provisional Financial Plan will provide funding for various access improvement projects at City facilities. This report is to seek Council approval of fund allocation for 2020 access improvement program in advance of council adoption of the 2020 - 2024 Provisional Financial Plan. Upon approval of this funding request by Council, these expenditures will be included in the 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan (Planning Section).

2.0 POLICY SECTION

The 2020 Access Improvement Program is aligned with the City of Burnaby's Corporate Strategic Plan by supporting the following goals and sub-goals of the Plan:

- An 'Inclusive Community',
 - 'Ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community'.
- A 'Healthy Community',
 - 'Encourage opportunities for healthy living and well-being'.
- A 'Dynamic Community',
 - 'Build and maintain City facilities and infrastructure that meets the needs of our growing community'.

3.0 2020 ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - BAX.0028 *Estimated \$56,000*

On an annual basis, funds are included in the Planning and Building Department's Capital Budget to finance access and inclusion improvements in City facilities. The following items have been identified by staff as priorities for 2020. BAAC members were consulted and provided input on the proposed improvements

Wesburn Community Centre

Minor upgrades to the existing single-user washroom, and installation of an automatic door at the building's entrance.

Kensington Arena

Renovations to the customer service desk, including lowering a section of the counter for more inclusive service provision. Also, an automatic door opener will be installed on the existing single-user washroom.

Swangard Stadium

Automatic door openers will be installed on the northern set of doors on both the men's and women's washrooms, accessed via the main concourse.

Cameron Recreation Complex

Minor renovations in the main floor men's and women's washrooms, and installation of a secured automatic door opener on the existing single-user washroom.

These expenditures will be included in the 2020 – 2024 Provisional Financial Plan and sufficient Gaming Reserves are available to finance the capital projects outlined in this report.

4.0 OVERVIEW OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

In 2019, BAAC members participated in, or provided input on, a number of City initiatives.

4.1 2019 Access Improvements in City Facilities

The following items were completed within an \$81,200 gaming-funded allocation provided in 2019.

Bonsor Recreation Complex

Automatic door openers were installed on the cardio room and washrooms doors on the ground and second floors.

Edmonds Community Resource Centre

This City-owned facility provides low-cost operating space to non-profit organizations active in the Burnaby community. Many of the patrons have enhanced access requirements. Minor renovations (lowering of sinks, installation of grab bars) were completed in the ground floor washrooms and automatic door openers were installed at each end of the corridors on both floors.

Burnaby Lake Clubhouse

Access upgrades to two of the change-rooms were completed (e.g. installation of shower seats, reconfiguration of bathrooms stalls) to enhance access for all users.

4.2 Community Education Event

In recognition of Access Awareness Day, a provincially recognized day that raises awareness of access and inclusion issues, the Committee worked with Autism BC to provide customized training to Recreation summer camp staff. The training included an overview of the autism spectrum, and a detailed discussion of support and intervention approaches for young people with autism. Over 100 staff participated.

4.4 Pedestrian Realm Improvements

BAAC members have continued to identify, as appropriate, needed curb cuts, audible pedestrian traffic signals, sidewalk improvements, and other access related public realm improvements. As well, BAAC members took part in five accessibility assessments undertaken by Voices of Burnaby Seniors in partnership with the non-profit 'Better Environmentally Sound Transportation'. These assessments took place in Metrotown, Edmonds and Lougheed. Results assisted City staff (Planning, Engineering) in the identification of necessary improvements.

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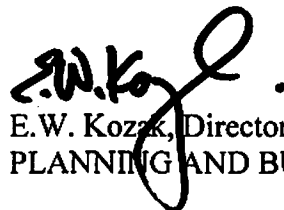
5.0 ACCESS SUPPORTS

The Burnaby Access Advisory Committee typically meets 3-4 times a year. From time-to-time citizen members of the BAAC require additional access supports in order to attend and participate in meetings. For example, this includes the provision of sign language interpreters for committee members who are Deaf, and the arranging of accessible taxis for individuals who are unable to drive or utilize public transit options such as HandyDART, due to the nature of the disability with which they live. As such, in order to ensure BAAC members are able to fully participate in meetings, it is recommended that \$500 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions budget be allocated to the Committee.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Since its establishment 31 years ago, BAAC has played an important role providing valuable advice and recommendations to the City regarding accessibility and inclusion issues. With this support, the City continues to enhance accessibility of its facilities and inclusion in services for all Burnaby residents.

For 2020, a list of prioritized access improvements is proposed at a broad cross-section of City facilities. As such, it is recommended that the Financial Management Committee recommend that Council authorize the use of Gaming Reserves in the amount of \$56,000 to finance the accessibility improvement projects at City facilities, as outlined in *Section 3.0* of this report. As well, it is requested that the Committee recommend Council to authorize the allocation of \$500 from the 2019 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to the City of Burnaby Access Advisory Committee, in order to provide access supports as needed for Committee members, as detailed in *Section 5.0* of this report. Finally, it is recommended that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Social Planning Committee for information.



E.W. Kozak, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

RM:sa

cc: City Manager
Director Corporate Services
Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Public Safety and Community Services

Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Chief Librarian
City Solicitor
City Clerk