

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 2021 April 12

**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 2021 Access Improvements Program and to provide a summary of recent Burnaby Access Advisory Committee activities.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** the Financial Management Committee recommend that Council authorize the use of Gaming Reserves in the amount of \$80,000 to finance access improvement projects at City facilities as outlined in *Section 3.0* of this report.
2. **THAT** the Committee recommend Council to authorize the allocation of \$1,000 from the 2021 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget to the City of Burnaby Access Advisory Committee, in order to provide access support 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 2021 – 2025 Provisional Financial Plan references funding for various access improvement projects at City facilities. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of a funding allocation for the 2021 access improvement program.

## **2.0 POLICY FRAMEWORK**

The 2021 Access Improvement Program is aligned with the following Council-adopted City policies and plans/strategies:

- *Corporate Strategic Plan* adopted 2017;
- *Social Sustainability Strategy* adopted 2011;
- *Equity Policy* originally adopted 1994, updated policy adopted in 2020; and,
- *Healthy Community Policy*, adopted 1991.

## **3.0 2021 ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - BAX.0032      *Estimated \$80,000***

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 2021. BAAC members were consulted and provided input on the proposed improvements.

### **Bonsor Recreation Complex (55+ Building)**

Create an accessible walkway around the building, which also provides access to the Main Building and central parking lot through the installation of curb ramps.

### **Barnet Marine Park**

Further accessibility pedestrian enhancements (e.g. creation of flat landings with benches) along the pathway from the vehicle parking lot to the main beach access point.

Monies for these expenditures are included in the 2021 – 2025 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 2020, BAAC members provided input on a number of City initiatives, despite a necessary pivot to remote participation given the COVID-19 pandemic. A summary of activities is included below.

### **4.1 2020 Access Improvements in City Facilities**

The following items were completed within a \$56,000 gaming-funded allocation (BAX.0028) provided in 2020.

To: Financial Management Committee  
From: Director Planning and Building  
Re: Burnaby Access Advisory Committee – Funding Request  
and Overview of Activities  
2021 April 12 .....Page 3

### 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 was installed on the existing single-user washroom.

### Swangard Stadium

Automatic door openers were 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.

## **4.2 Input into Civic Projects and Pedestrian Improvements**

BAAC members remotely (via Zoom) reviewed plans and provided input into key civic projects including the replacement of Cameron Recreation Complex and the new Burnaby Lake Aquatic Centre and Arena. Members of the Committee also participated in focussed discussions and interviews providing input to the Burnaby Housing Needs Assessment, the draft Burnaby Housing and Homelessness Strategy, and the Burnaby Transportation Plan. Committee members have also continued to identify, as appropriate, needed curb cuts, audible pedestrian traffic signals, sidewalk improvements, and other access related public realm improvement.

## **5.0 ACCESS SUPPORTS**

The Burnaby Access Advisory Committee typically meets 3-4 times a year. Since the pandemic these meetings have occurred on Zoom. 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. These accommodations are now provided virtually. As such, in order to ensure BAAC members are able to fully participate in meetings, it is recommended that \$1,000 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions budget be allocated to the Committee.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Since its establishment 33 years ago, BAAC has played an important role in 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 2021, two prioritized access improvements are proposed at two well-utilized City sites. As such, it is recommended that the Financial Management Committee recommend that Council authorize the use of Gaming Reserves in the amount of \$80,000 to finance the accessibility

To: Financial Management Committee  
From: Director Planning and Building  
Re: Burnaby Access Advisory Committee – Funding Request  
and Overview of Activities  
2021 April 12 ..... Page 4

improvements, as outlined in *Section 3.0* of this report. As well, it is requested that the Committee recommend Council to authorize the allocation of \$1,000 from the 2021 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:	Acting City Manager	Fire Chief
	Director Engineering	Chief Librarian
	Director Corporate Services	Chief Information Officer
	Director Finance	OIC - RCMP
	Director Public Safety and Community Services	City Solicitor
	Director Human Resources	City Clerk
	Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services	

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