

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: 1997 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive the attached report for information.

REPORT

The Community Issues and Social Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 1997 March 26, received and adopted the attached report providing a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's accomplishments in 1996 and an outline of its proposed activities for 1997.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Redman
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Vice Chair

: COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIRECTOR FINANCE
- DIR. PLNG. & BLDG.
- A/DIR. REC. & CULT. SERV.
- OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, R.C.M.P.
- MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

TO: COMMUNITY ISSUES &
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

1997 MARCH 18

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

OUR FILE: 17.908

SUBJECT: 1997 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's accomplishments in 1996 and an outline of its proposed activities for 1997.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee forward this report to Council for information.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee has been in operation since 1988. The Committee is composed of Burnaby residents who are disabled, as well as City staff from various departments. The Committee assists Planning Department staff in researching and developing proposals to improve access for persons with disabilities.

Since its inception, the Committee has participated in a number of initiatives directed towards the improvement of private and public services and facilities to better accommodate persons with disabilities. Some of those initiatives have included:

- ▶ planning and implementation of the Metrotown Access Review
- ▶ production of two editions of the Burnaby Access Guidebook
- ▶ amendments to Burnaby's Zoning Bylaw to specify requirements for designated parking spaces
- ▶ development of regulations regarding the posting and enforcement of designated parking spaces, as well as sponsorship of public awareness activities about the regulations
- ▶ development of a program providing for the installation of audible pedestrian traffic signals to assist persons who are visually impaired

- ▶ development of adaptable housing guidelines
- ▶ development of a checklist of Council-endorsed building requirements for persons with disabilities to be used in the renovation or construction of City facilities
- ▶ participation in National Access Awareness Week events

Each year, the Access Advisory Committee establishes a workplan. This report describes the Committee's 1996 activities and outlines a broad range of proposed activities for the Access Advisory Committee's attention in 1997.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF 1996 ACTIVITIES

The Access Advisory Committee focused its attention in 1996 primarily on the issue of designated parking. As part of a public awareness campaign on the issue, the Committee:

- 1) requested Burnaby City Council to declare the week of May 26 to June 1 as Access Awareness Week in Burnaby
- 2) sponsored an article in the May 1996 issue of InfoBurnaby requesting the co-operation of non-disabled Burnaby residents in not parking in spaces displaying the disabled persons' parking sign
- 3) advertised in both local newspapers in May 1996 regarding the appropriate use of designated parking spaces
- 4) facilitated an interview between one of the Access Advisory Committee members and a reporter with the Burnaby NOW, which resulted in a feature article on designated parking in May 1996
- 5) sponsored 15 Burnaby bus shelter advertisements in autumn 1996 on the appropriate use of designated parking spaces.

During 1996, the Committee also helped to establish the priority list for City facilities requiring accessibility modifications. City-sponsored accessibility renovations completed during 1996 include the installation of wheelchair lifts to Bonsor, C.G. Brown and Eileen Dailly Pools, and the installation of automatic doors at the Kingsway Branch of the Burnaby Public Library.

The Access Advisory Committee also continued to monitor emerging needs for TDD telephones, telephones with volume controls, audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, accessible bus service, and sidewalk improvements.

3.0 PROPOSED 1997 WORKPLAN

The following list represents a wide range of accessibility issues requiring some attention. Conditional upon the Committee's resources and staff time, the Committee proposes to further its work on all or some of the following issues in 1997:

- ▶ accessibility renovations to City facilities
- ▶ accessible/adaptable housing
- ▶ accessible bus service in Burnaby
- ▶ designated parking - enforcement and public education
- ▶ the need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, TDD and volume control telephones, and any necessary public education associated with them
- ▶ consideration of disabled access during snow removal

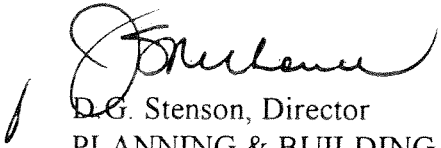
The costs associated with the implementation of the workplan, aside from accessibility renovations to City facilities, are expected to be minimal. Limited funds for accessibility renovations have been provided for in the City's Capital Budget. Incidental costs will be covered through the Planning Department's budget.

Details on the proposed Workplan are *attached* as Appendix 1.

From time to time, other issues of interest to the Access Advisory Committee may arise. Should any of them spawn potential activities which would significantly deviate from the proposed Workplan, staff would advise and seek authorization from the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee before action was taken.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee has accomplished much since its establishment in 1988. Approval of the proposed Workplan outlined in Section 2.0 and detailed in Appendix 1 of this report will continue the City's commitment to ensuring access to facilities and services for all Burnaby residents.


D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING & BUILDING

JS/db
Attachment

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cc: City Manager
Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Recreation and Cultural Services
Officer-in-Charge, RCMP
Medical Health Officer

Burnaby Access Advisory Committee - 1997 Workplan

Accessibility Improvements to City Facilities

The Committee through the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee will act as a resource to various City departments in providing advice in accessibility improvement proposals to City facilities.

Accessible/Adaptable Housing Policy/Guidelines

The Committee through the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee will build on work it conducted in 1994 and 1995 to forward recommendations to Council regarding a revised Adaptable Housing Policy or Guidelines for Burnaby. Requests for such guidelines have been made by the Housing and Community Planning Committee and the Advisory Planning Commission.

Accessible Bus Service

The Committee will build on research it conducted during 1996 on accessible bus routes in and through Burnaby. During 1997, the Committee will discuss its findings with relevant City departments and, if appropriate, forward suggestions to B.C. Transit, through the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee, Council and its other relevant committees, on ways to improve accessible bus service in Burnaby.

Designated Parking Spaces

a. Public Education

The Committee through the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee proposes to continue its public education campaign during 1997 to raise awareness in the community of the consequences for persons with disabilities when others park in designated spaces. Potential tools for the campaign include articles in Information Burnaby and local newspapers; posters for bulletin boards at schools, libraries, recreation centers, and other public facilities; posters/brochures for the Metrotown kiosk; brochures/letters to Burnaby businesses. The Committee will also keep abreast of the activities of other related organizations, such as Social Planning and Research Council (SPARC) of B.C., in order to complement or supplement their activities.

b. Enforcement

The Committee through the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee will consider the development of recommendations for improved regulation of parking spaces designated for persons with disabilities. In particular, the Committee will consider the ramifications of and forward recommendations on new Provincial legislation enabling municipalities to regulate and enforce designated parking on private property.

Audible Pedestrian Traffic Signals, Curb Cuts, Sidewalk Improvements, On-Street Designated Parking, Snow Removal

The Committee will continue to monitor the provision/need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, on-street designated parking and special considerations during snow removal, and forward any requests for these improvements through the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee to the Burnaby Engineering Department.

Telephone Service

The Committee through the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee will continue to promote the provision of telephones with volume controls and the installation of TDD telephones at various locations.

Other

The Committee through the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee will request Council to proclaim an "Access Awareness Week" in the spring of 1997. A proposed theme for the week is Safety for Pedestrians and Wheelchair Users. Public education during the week will focus on safety in crosswalks. As part of its activities during the Week, the Committee will also consider producing and/or distributing information regarding the prevention of falls.

The Committee through the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee will explore partnerships with other organizations in order to make the information contained in the Burnaby Access Guidebook accessible to sight-impaired persons, through translation to Braille, conversion to a "talking book" or some other means.