

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: 2000 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION:

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

REPORT

The Community Issues and Social Planning Committee at its Open meeting held on 2000 March 22 received and adopted the attached report providing a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 1999 and an outlined of its proposed activities for 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor N. Harris
Vice Chair

<p>: COPY - CITY MANAGER - DIRECTOR ENGINEERING - DIRECTOR FINANCE - DIR. PLNG. & BLDG. - DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULT. SERV. - OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, R.C.M.P.</p>
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TO: COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE 2000 MARCH 14

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING OUR FILE: 17.908

SUBJECT: 2000 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 1999 and an outline of its proposed activities for 2000.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** this report be received for information purposes.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee was established in 1988. The Committee is composed of Burnaby residents who are disabled, as well as City staff from several departments. The Committee assists Planning Department staff to research and develop proposals to improve access in Burnaby for persons with disabilities.

Since its establishment, 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:

- 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
- regulations regarding the posting and enforcement of designated parking spaces, as well as public awareness activities about the regulations
- the installation of audible pedestrian traffic signals to assist persons who are visually impaired
- an inventory of required accessibility renovations to City facilities, and annual prioritization of renovations to be carried out
- draft adaptable housing guidelines
- National Access Awareness Week/Day events

Each year, the Access Advisory Committee develops a workplan. This report describes the Committee's 1999 activities and outlines a broad range of proposed activities for the Access Advisory Committee's attention in 2000.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF 1999 ACTIVITIES

2.1 Accessibility Renovations to City Facilities

In 1999, the Access Advisory Committee helped to establish the priority list for City facilities requiring accessibility modifications. City-sponsored accessibility renovations completed during 1999 include:

- **Swangard Stadium:** extension of the pavement from the small parking lot containing parking stalls designated for persons with disabilities to the new ticket booth location
- **Burnaby Tennis Club:** creation of one parking stall designated for persons with disabilities
- **Eastburn Recreation Centre:** modification of the showers in the women's changeroom to be wheelchair accessible
- **Bonsor Recreation Complex:**
 - ✓ creation of interim disabled/family change cubicles on swimming pool deck
 - ✓ accessibility improvements in both the men's and women's swimming pool changerooms to enable those with mobility disabilities to participate in programs
- **Ceperley Mansion:** installation of lift for persons with disabilities.

2.2 Access Awareness Week and Day

At the request of the Access Advisory Committee, Burnaby City Council proclaimed May 30 - June 5, 1999 as Access Awareness Week in Burnaby. To complement a province-wide initiative of the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, Council also declared June 5, 1999 as Access Awareness Day in Burnaby. On that day, the Committee participated in Hats Off Day with a float in the parade and an information booth. The float consisted of a truck decorated with over-sized posters designed to raise awareness of the need for parking stalls for persons with disabilities. The booth, which was shared with the Planning Department, displayed posters and brochures designed to raise general awareness of accessibility barriers faced by persons with disabilities. Posters and brochures were also on display at City Hall and several of the City's recreational and arts and cultural facilities.

2.3 Accessible Transportation

With a view to making future recommendations, should they be deemed necessary, the Access Advisory Committee examined accessible transit service, including accessible buses, and the Handydart and Taxi-Saver programs sponsored by B.C. Transit. Wheelchair accessible taxi service was also discussed.

2.4 Audible Traffic Signals

Committee members examined new technology in audible traffic signals and discussed with Burnaby Engineering staff the possible installation of the new type of signal at one or two intersections in Burnaby on a trial basis. The new audible signals are likely to be installed later in 2000. During 1999, the Access Advisory Committee continued to monitor ongoing needs for audible traffic signals.

2.5 Other

During 1999, the Access Advisory Committee also continued to monitor emerging needs for TTY telephones (teletype technology for the hearing impaired) or alternative technology, hearing-aid compatible telephones, telephones with volume controls, curb cuts, and sidewalk improvements.

3.0 PROPOSED 2000 WORKPLAN

The following list represents a range of accessibility issues and projects that the Access Advisory Committee anticipates addressing or undertaking in 2000:

- development of accessible/adaptable housing guidelines
- public education on designated parking
- prioritization of accessibility renovations to City facilities
- accessible transportation (eg. accessible buses, wheelchair accessible taxi service, Handydart)
- the need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, TTY, hearing aid compatible and volume control telephones, and any necessary public education associated with them
- production of updated version of the Burnaby Access Guidebook
- participation in Access Awareness Day/Week activities

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

Acknowledging the constraints on Committee resources and staff time, it should be noted that the Committee will not likely be able to address all the foregoing issues in 2000. The Committee's priorities are the production of the revised Burnaby Access Guidebook, access renovations to City facilities, participation in access awareness activities to mark Access Awareness Day/Week, and the development of new adaptable/universal housing guidelines.

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 2000 Capital Budget. The costs of producing the Access Guidebook and incidental costs will be covered through the Planning Department's budget.

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 will advise the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee before taking action.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee has accomplished much since its establishment in 1988. Approval of the workplan outlined in Section 3 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.

This report is presented for information purposes.


D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING & BUILDING

JS/sa

Attachment

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

APPENDIX 1

BURNABY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 2000 WORKPLAN

This workplan consists of a wide range of accessibility initiatives which Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee is interested in pursuing. Acknowledging constraints on Committee resources and staff time, it is not likely that the Committee will be able to undertake all of them in 2000. The Committee's priorities for 2000 are production of the third edition of the Burnaby Access Guidebook, access renovations to City facilities, participation in access awareness activities during Access Awareness Day/Week, and development of new accessible/adaptable housing guidelines.

Accessible/Adaptable Housing Policy/Guidelines

The Committee will build on work it completed in 1994, 1995 and 1997 to forward recommendations to Council regarding a revised Adaptable Housing Policy/Guidelines for Burnaby. Requests for such guidelines have been made by the Housing and Community Planning Committee and the Advisory Planning Commission. The Committee will also engage in public and consumer education about specially designed housing; this latter may be a focus of Access Awareness Day activities.

Designated Parking

a) *Enforcement*

The Committee will consider the development of recommendations for improved regulation of parking spaces designated for persons with disabilities. In particular, the Committee will consider issues pertaining to designated parking on private property.

b) *Public Education*

The Committee will continue its public education campaign to raise awareness in the community of the consequences for persons with disabilities when others park in designated spaces. The Committee will also keep abreast of the parking-related activities of other related organizations, such as Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, in order to complement their activities. Both the education and any collaboration on the issue will most likely take place as part of Access Awareness Day activities.

Accessibility Improvements to City Facilities

The Committee will act as a resource to City departments in prioritizing accessibility improvements to City facilities.

Accessible Transportation

The Committee will build on research it conducted during 1996, 1997 and 1998 on various components of the accessible transportation system. The Committee will discuss its findings with relevant City departments and, if appropriate, forward suggestions, through Council and its relevant committees, to B.C. Transit and Burnaby's taxi companies on ways to improve accessible transportation service in Burnaby.

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 suggestions for improvements to the Burnaby Engineering Department.

Telephone Service

The Committee will continue to promote the provision of telephones with volume controls and hearing-aid compatibility, and the installation of TYY telephones or alternative technology at various locations.

Access Awareness Week/Day

The Committee will request Council to proclaim both Access Awareness Week and Access Awareness Day in 2000. The Committee will also participate in province-wide Access Awareness Day/Week activities. Those activities are expected to focus on designated parking and accessible and affordable housing.

Burnaby Access Guidebook

The Access Advisory Committee is planning to release the third version of the Burnaby Access Guidebook to mark Access Awareness Week. The Guidebook, first produced in 1991 and last updated in 1996, is intended to assist Burnaby residents with disabilities to access City facilities and services by providing facility-specific information on parking, entry points, interior access, washrooms, and special services and equipment. Barriers that may present a problem for people with disabilities are also noted. The 1996 edition of the Guidebook included a section on the Metrotown Core Area, given its importance as Burnaby's Regional Town Centre. The 2000 edition will also include information on accessible transit options for each City facility, as well as wheelchair-accessible urban and nature trails in the City.

