

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: 2003 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

The Social Issues Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2003 January 22, received and adopted the *attached* report summarizing the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2002 and outlining proposed activities for 2003. The Committee advised that the Access Advisory Committee has accomplished much since its establishment in 1988. The Committee also advised that priorities in the 2003 Workplan include the development of new guidelines for accessible/adaptable/universal housing, the examination of disabled parking requirements and standards and continued liaison with TransLink regarding accessible transportation.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston,
Chair

Councillor L. Rankin,
Vice Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Member

COPY: - CITY MANAGER
- DIR. ENGINEERING
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE 2003 January 16

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 17.908

SUBJECT: 2003 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2002 and an outline of its proposed activities for 2003.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee was established in 1988. The Committee is comprised of persons with disabilities who are residents of Burnaby, representatives of disabled persons' organizations and City staff. 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. Those initiatives have included:

- the Metrotown Access Review
- production of three editions of the Burnaby Access Guidebook
- amendments to Burnaby's Zoning Bylaw to specify requirements for designated parking spaces, and 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 2002 activities and outlines a broad range of activities that the Access Advisory Committee anticipates addressing in 2003.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF 2002 ACTIVITIES

2.1 Accessibility Renovations to City Facilities

In 2002, \$50,000 was included in the Planning Department's Capital Budget for access renovations. The Access Advisory Committee helped to establish the priority list for City facilities requiring accessibility modifications. City-sponsored accessibility renovations completed during 2002 include:

Kensington Arena:

- provision of automatic entry doors on the main level
- installation of a curb cut and wheelchair only sign on Curtis Street next to the sidewalk leading to the main entrance
- installation of a unisex disabled person's washroom

Bonsor Recreation Centre:

- automatic entry doors on the upper/seniors' centre level
- washroom stall improvements in the women's change room

C.G. Brown:

- installation of an interim disabled/family change room

City Hall:

- installation of handles on the doors of the disabled stalls in the men and women's washrooms on the main floor.

2.2 Access Awareness Day

To complement a province-wide initiative of the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, and at the request of the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee, Burnaby City Council proclaimed Saturday June 1 as Access Awareness Day in Burnaby. Given that Access Awareness Day coincided with Hats Off Day in north Burnaby, the Committee was instrumental in encouraging the parade organizers to set aside designated areas for parade viewing and pick-up and drop-off for people with disabilities. To raise awareness of access issues, the Committee also coordinated the installation of posters on the accessibility theme in recreation centres, libraries, City Hall and other City-owned facilities. In addition, large bus shelter advertisements that were developed

four years ago were used again to advertise access awareness on nine bus shelters around the City during the month of August.

2.3 Other

During 2002, the Access Advisory Committee continued to monitor needs for audible traffic signals, curb cuts, TTY telephones (teletype technology for the hearing impaired) or alternative technology, and sidewalk improvements. The Committee was also involved in the following activities:

- providing input on a report to the then Community Issues and Social Planning Committee and the Community Planning and Housing Committee on User-Friendly Homes;
- meeting with staff from the Falls Prevention Initiative, a project funded by Health Canada and Veterans Affairs;
- surveying other Lower Mainland municipalities on their disabled parking requirements and standards;
- providing comments on the National Accessible Pedestrian Signals Committee's proposed Canadian position of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) in the development of an international standard for APS;
- contacting TransLink regarding accessibility issues related to the new Millennium Line; and
- establishing more formal links with the Civic Building Project Coordination Committee in order to be involved in the planning stages of new (or renovated) civic facilities.

3.0 PROPOSED 2003 WORKPLAN

The following list represents a range of accessibility issues that the Access Advisory Committee anticipates addressing in 2003:

- development of accessible/adaptable/universal housing guidelines in conjunction with the Housing Committee
- review of designated parking standards in Burnaby
- review of the adequacy of accessible transportation (e.g., accessible buses and routes, wheelchair accessible taxi service, Handyart)
- assessment of the need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk

improvements, TTY, hearing aid and volume control telephones, and any necessary public education associated with them (e.g. articles in InfoBurnaby)

- establishment of the priority list for accessibility renovations to City facilities

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

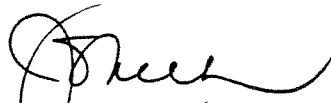
Acknowledging the constraints on Committee resources and staff time, it should be noted that the Committee may not be able to address all the foregoing issues in 2003. The Committee's priorities are the development of new guidelines for accessible/adaptable/universal housing, the examination of disabled parking requirements and standards and continued liaison with TransLink regarding accessible transportation. The costs associated with the implementation of the workplan are expected to be minimal. The 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 involve potential activities which would significantly deviate from the proposed workplan, staff will advise the Social Issues Committee before taking action.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee has accomplished much since its establishment in 1988. The workplan outlined in Section 3.0 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.

This report is presented for information.



J. S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

BS/
MM/sa
Attachment

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

BURNABY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 2003 WORKPLAN

This workplan consists of a wide range of accessibility initiatives which Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee is interested in pursuing. Acknowledging constraints on resources and staff time, the Committee may not be able to undertake them all in 2003. The Committee's priorities for 2003 are the development of new guidelines for accessible/adaptable/universal housing, the examination of designated parking standards and requirements, and continued liaison with TransLink regarding accessible transportation.

Accessible/Adaptable/Universal Housing Policy Guidelines

The Committee will build in the work it completed in 1994, 1995, 1997 and 2002 to forward recommendations to Council regarding guidelines for accessible/adaptable/universal housing in Burnaby. Requests for such guidelines have been made by the Community Issues and Social Planning Committee (now called the Social Issues Committee), the Community Planning and Housing Committee (now called the Housing Committee) and the Advisory Planning Commission. The guidelines would also be useful to Planning Department staff. The Committee will also engage in public and consumer education about the need for specially designed housing which meets the needs of persons with disabilities.

Designated Parking

a) *Standards*

The Committee will examine the adequacy of designated parking standards in Burnaby in light of recent changes to standards in other local municipalities. In particular, the Committee will consider: the number of designated spaces for all uses; separate standards for some uses/groups of uses e.g., seniors care facilities and housing, multi-family housing, medical facilities, churches, funeral parlours and hotels; and the width of designated spaces given the popularity of side-loading vans. Locational requirements for designated spaces within a parking lot may also be considered, as well as requirements for the accessibility of ticketing machines in parking lots.

b) *Enforcement*

The Committee will consider the development of recommendations for improved regulation of parking spaces designated for persons with disabilities.

c) *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 the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, in order to complement their activities.

Accessible Transportation

The Committee will continue to liaise with TransLink and consumer advocates such as ComPACT (Committee for the Promotion of Accessible Conventional Transit) regarding accessible transit service delivery. The Committee will also continue to keep apprised of accessible taxi service.

Audible Pedestrian Traffic Signals, Curb Cuts, Sidewalk Improvements, On-street Designated Parking and 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. The Committee will also endeavour to provide any necessary public education associated with these needs and services (e.g. articles in InfoBurnaby).

Telephone Service

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

Accessibility Improvements to City Facilities

The Committee will act as a resource to City departments in setting priorities for accessibility improvements to City facilities. \$50,000 is contained in the Planning Department's Provisional Capital Budget for access renovations. The Committee will also ensure that the website copy of the Burnaby Access Guidebook is updated to reflect new accessibility improvements.

Access Awareness Day

The Committee will request Council to proclaim Access Awareness Day in 2003 and may undertake awareness-raising activities in conjunction with the Day.

