

A**SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: 2006 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 2006 March 29, received and adopted the *attached* report providing a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2005 and an outline of its proposed activities for 2006. The 2005 activities included accessibility improvements to City facilities and participation in Access Awareness Day. Priorities for 2006 include participation in a review of adaptable housing guidelines and requirements and monitoring accessible transportation service delivery.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Sav Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor Dan Johnston
Vice Chair

Councillor Garth Evans
Member

COPY – CITY MANAGER DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING DIRECTOR ENGINEERING DIRECTOR FINANCE DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULTURAL SERV. OIC, RCMP

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

DATE: 2006 March 22

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1750 20

SUBJECT: 2006 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2005 and an outline of its proposed activities for 2006

RECOMMENDATION:

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

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee (BAAC) was established in 1988 to provide advice and direction to the Planning Department on accessibility issues. The Committee is comprised of Burnaby residents who have disabilities and City staff who coordinate meetings and facilitate the work program of the Committee. Although some citizen members of the Committee may be members of organizations representing people with disabilities, they do not formally represent these organizations at BAAC.

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

- production of three editions to the Burnaby Access Guidebook and yearly updates of the online version of the guidebook;
- amendments to Burnaby's Zoning Bylaw to specify requirements for designated parking spaces, and regulations regarding posting and enforcement of designated parking spaces, as well as public awareness activities about the regulations;
- identification of the need for curb cuts and audible pedestrian traffic signals at various street intersections;
- preparation of an inventory of needed accessibility improvements to City facilities and annual prioritization of improvements to be carried out; and
- Access Awareness Day events.

Each year BAAC develops a workplan. This report describes the Committee's 2005 activities and outlines a broad range of proposed activities for BAAC's possible attention in 2006.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF 2005 ACTIVITIES

2.1 Accessibility Improvements to City Facilities

In 2005, a Capital Expenditure Bylaw in the amount of \$31,000 was approved to finance accessibility improvements at various City facilities. The Access Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, helped establish the list of improvements. Improvements were made to four City facilities during 2005 as follows:

Edmonds Community Centre for 55+

- provision of an "Equalizer" – a piece of weight lifting equipment for upper body strength training. The equipment is designed to be equally accessible for people with disabilities and those without disabilities.

Central Park Pool

- provision of a water-accessible wheelchair. In the previous year, an accessible change room and aquatic lift were installed at Central Park Pool, making it fully accessible for people with disabilities.

Eileen Dailly Leisure Pool

- minor expansion to the designated accessible change compartment of the family change room. The compartment now accommodates a portable lift.
- provision of two water-accessible wheelchairs.

Bonsor Recreation Centre

- replacement of carpets at the main entrance with low pile carpets that provide easier access to the building for wheelchair users.
- installation of a security bar to lock-up scooters

2.2 Access Awareness Day

Access Awareness Day is a province-wide initiative of the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. To support the

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initiative, City Council adopted a recommendation of the BAAC to proclaim 2005 June 4 as Access Awareness Day in Burnaby.

In celebration of Access Awareness Day, BAAC coordinated an Access Awareness Discussion at City Hall on May 31. Two lunch hour sessions were held. The discussion was called "A Day in My Life – Home, Work and Community". Four people with disabilities headed the panel discussion. Each spoke about daily barriers and challenges at home, work and in the community. The discussion was followed by questions and answers. The event was promoted at recreation centres, libraries and in the local papers. About 25 people attended each session. BAAC received positive feedback from those attending and were encouraged to host similar events in the future.

2.3 Other

During 2005, BAAC continued to monitor needs for curb cuts, audible pedestrian traffic signals, TTY telephones (teletype technology for people with hearing impairments), and sidewalk improvements. The Committee was also involved in the following activities:

- meeting with Peter Julian, Member of Parliament for Burnaby-New Westminster to learn about his plans to submit a private member's bill to create a national Canadians Living with Disabilities Act.
- providing feedback on TransLink's process to develop new design guidelines for bus stops.
- liaising with the Committee to Promote Accessible Conventional Transit (ComPACT) on transit issues.
- monitoring accessible taxi service in Burnaby. A member of the Committee presented her concerns about accessible taxi service in the Lower Mainland to City Council in conjunction with Access Awareness Day. A report to Council on taxi service will be forthcoming in spring 2006.
- visiting the City of Vancouver's Wellness Walkway near Main Street and Kingsway. Some members of the Committee toured the Walkway with City of Vancouver staff. The Walkway is in the vicinity of a number of care facilities and incorporates various innovative accessibility features including curb cuts with directional grooves, sidewalks with saw-cut joints to eliminate bumps, tinted concrete and benches located mid-block and at corners.
- meeting with Patrice Pratt of the Accessible and Inclusive Cities and Communities Project. The purpose of the project is to ensure people with disabilities can fully participate in and contribute to the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. The project received funding for its first phase through the Vancouver Agreement.
- providing feedback on accessibility features of the Central Valley Greenway
- monitoring TransLink's Access Transit planning process. TransLink has initiated a strategic planning process to ensure the transit system is accessible to as many

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people as possible. Three representatives from BAAC attended TransLink's Stakeholder Workshops in June and November 2005.

- meeting with the Pacific Assistance Dogs Society to learn about the work of the Society and discuss access issues in Burnaby

3.0 PROPOSED 2006 WORKPLAN

The following list represents a range of accessibility issues that the Access Advisory Committee anticipates addressing in 2006:

- coordinating accessibility improvements to City facilities;
- assisting staff with a review of the City's adaptable housing policy;
- reviewing accessible transportation services (e.g., reporting on accessible taxi service and reviewing a draft of TransLink's Access Transit Plan due in mid 2006);
- monitoring designated parking (e.g., regulation of designated parking, adequacy of designated parking standards, public education about the importance of observing designated parking regulations);
- assessing the need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, TTY, hearing aid and volume control telephones, and initiating associated public education measures, as deemed appropriate (e.g. articles in InfoBurnaby);
- providing accessibility-related comments on major plans and any new civic developments; and
- sponsoring Access Awareness Day events and initiatives in recognition of Access Awareness Day on Saturday June 3, 2006.

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 2006. The Committee's priorities are coordination of access improvements to City facilities, participation in a review of adaptable housing guidelines and requirements, monitoring accessible transportation service delivery, and sponsoring Access Awareness Day initiatives. 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.

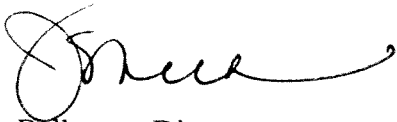
From time to time, other issues of interest to BAAC may arise. Should any such issues involve activities which could significantly deviate from the proposed workplan, staff will advise the Social Issues Committee before taking action.

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From: *Director Planning and Building*
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4.0 CONCLUSION

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee has accomplished much since its establishment in 1988. Through pursuit of the workplan outlined in this report, the BAAC should be able to continue to help the City with its ongoing efforts to improve access to facilities and services for all Burnaby residents.

This report is presented for information.



J.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM:sa
Attachment

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

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BURNABY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 2006 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 2006. The Committee's priorities for 2006 are coordination of access improvements to City facilities, participation in a review of adaptable housing guidelines and requirements, monitoring accessible transportation service delivery, and sponsoring Access Awareness Day initiatives.

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 and improvements and is being advanced for Council's consideration as part of the 2006 Annual Capital Program. The Committee will also ensure that the website version of the Burnaby Access Guidebook is updated to reflect new accessibility improvements.

Adaptable Housing Policy Guidelines

The Committee will participate in a review of the City's adaptable housing policy. A review of the policy has been requested by the then Housing and Social Issues Committees. The Access Advisory Committee will build on work it completed to develop interim adaptable housing guidelines.

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 review accessible taxi service.

Designated Parking

The Committee will monitor the adequacy of designated parking standards in Burnaby and keep informed of changes in parking standards in other local municipalities. It will also 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 keep abreast of the parking-related activities of other 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.

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 accessible telephone service for people with disabilities including telephones with volume controls, hearing-aid compatibility and teletype technology for people with hearing impairments as well as wheelchair accessible telephones.

Access Awareness Day

The Committee will request that Council proclaim Access Awareness Day in 2006 and will undertake awareness-raising activities in conjunction with the Day.

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