

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: 2007 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 2007 March 15, received and adopted the *attached* report providing a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2006 and an outline of its proposed activities for 2007. The 2006 activities included accessibility improvements to City facilities and participation in Access Awareness Day. Priorities for 2007 include a review of accessible transportation services and the City's adaptable housing policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Sav Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor Dan Johnston
Vice Chair

Councillor Garth Evans
Member

<p>COPY – CITY MANAGER DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING DIRECTOR ENGINEERING DIRECTOR FINANCE DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULTURAL SERV.</p>

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

DATE: 2007 February 26

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1750 20

SUBJECT: 2007 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2006 and an outline of its proposed workplan for 2007.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Burnaby 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, supported by City staff who coordinate meetings and facilitate the Committee's work program. Some citizen members are also members of organizations representing people with disabilities, but they do not formally represent these organizations on 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. Examples include:

- Production of three editions to the Burnaby Access Guidebook and yearly updates to the online version hosted on the City's website;
- 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 priority list of improvements to be advanced for consideration; and
- Access Awareness Day events.

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Each year BAAC develops a workplan which is submitted to the Social Issues Committee and Council for information. This report describes the Committee's 2006 activities and outlines a broad range of proposed activities for BAAC's 2007 workplan.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF 2006 ACTIVITIES

2.1 Accessibility Improvements to City Facilities

In 2006, a Capital Expenditure Bylaw in the amount of \$50,000 was approved to finance accessibility improvements at various City facilities. BAAC, in consultation with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, and appropriate City and RCMP staff helped establish the list of priority improvements. The following improvements were identified for 2006:

Eileen Dailly Leisure Pool

- Provision of a portable adjustable change table with side rails for the accessible change room.

Shadbolt Centre

- Provision of a wheelchair accessible ramp into Studio 211 (drama studio) to allow wheelchair access to the Studio.

RCMP Main Detachment

- Provision of a standard accessible toilet, grab bars and other access modifications to the men's washroom in the front reception area.

City Playgrounds

- Provision of curb cuts and wheelchair accessible paved pathways into playground areas for Ron McLean, Squint Lake, Wesburn, Lakeview, Parkcrest, Suncrest, Burnaby Heights and Greentree park sites.

The above improvements are scheduled to be completed in 2007.

2.2 Access Awareness Day

Access Awareness Day is a province-wide initiative of the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). To support the initiative, City Council proclaimed 2006 June 3 as Access Awareness Day in Burnaby.

In celebration of Access Awareness Day, BAAC hosted City Staff on a tour of four City facilities (Eileen Dailly Leisure Pool, McGill Library, Confederation Seniors Centre, and Burnaby Heights Resource Centre) on May 30. The purpose of the tour was to: a) raise awareness of the importance of accessibility features in allowing people with disabilities

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to actively participate in community life; and b) increase understanding of what designs work best. BAAC received positive feedback from those who attended and were encouraged to host similar events in the future.

2.3 Other

During 2006, BAAC continued to monitor needs for curb cuts, audible pedestrian traffic signals, TTY telephones (teletype technology for people with hearing impairments), sidewalk improvements, and other access improvements to City facilities. The Committee was also involved in the following activities:

- Monitoring accessible taxi service in Burnaby, and advising staff on licencing requirements to ensure that service adequately meets the needs of disabled people. A report to Council on taxi service will be forthcoming in 2007;
- Providing feedback on accessibility features for the new Edmonds Town Centre Library on Kingsway and Walker Avenue;
- Advising staff on how to improve access to Burnaby City Hall. Based on advice of BAAC members, and in consideration of comments submitted by a local resident on a customer feedback card, new signage was installed to demarcate the accessible route to City Hall from the parking lot. During the busy tax payment period, two additional accessible parking stalls that are temporarily located near the building will also be made available for people with disabilities; and
- Providing feedback on accessibility features of the proposed Evergreen Rapid Transit Line. Three BAAC members attended and participated in Translink's presentation and discussion session on this line in December 2006.

3.0 PROPOSED 2007 WORKPLAN

The following list represents a range of accessibility initiatives that BAAC has proposed for its 2007 workplan:

- Assist staff in the identification of needed accessibility improvements to City facilities;
- Prepare a revised edition of the Burnaby Access Guidebook, including updates to the online version;
- Assist staff with a review of the City's adaptable housing policy;
- Review accessible transportation services (e.g. reporting on accessible taxi service and reviewing HandyDART service);
- Monitor effectiveness of designated parking regulation standards and public education efforts;
- Assist staff to assess need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, TTY, hearing aid and volume control telephones;
- Initiate public education/awareness measures, as deemed appropriate (e.g. articles in Info Burnaby);

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- Provide accessibility-related comments on major plans and new civic developments; and
- Sponsor Access Awareness Day events and initiatives in recognition of Access Awareness Day on Saturday June 2, 2007.

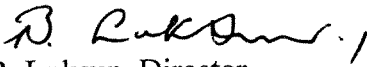
Acknowledging the constraints on Committee resources and staff time, it should be noted that the Committee may not be able to address all the foregoing issues in 2007. In order, the Committee's priorities are coordination of access improvements to City facilities, production of a 4th edition of the Burnaby Access Guidebook, participation in a review of adaptable housing guidelines and requirements, monitoring accessible transportation service delivery, and sponsoring Access Awareness Day initiatives.

From time to time, other issues of interest to BAAC may arise. Staff will advise the Social Issues Committee should any of these issues significantly deviate from the proposed 2007 workplan.

4.0 CONCLUSION

BAAC has accomplished much since its establishment in 1988. Approval of the workplan outlined in Section 3.0 of this report will allow BAAC to continue to assist the City to meet its commitment to ensuring access to facilities and services for all Burnaby residents.

This report is presented for information.


B. Luksun, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

ZM/sla/sa

Copied to: City Manager
Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services