

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: 2008 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

The Social Issues Committee, at its meeting held on 2008 March 20, received and adopted the *attached* report providing a summary of the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2007 and an outline of its proposed workplan for 2008.

The Committee believes that the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee has played a very important role, providing valuable advice and recommendations to the City regarding accessibility issues. Implementation of items identified in the workplan for 2008, will allow BAAC to continue to assist the City to meet its commitment to enhancing access to facilities and services for Burnaby residents with disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor D. Johnston
Vice Chair

Councillor G. Evans
Member

<p>Copied to: City Manager Director Finance Director Engineering Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director Planning and Building</p>

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

DATE: 2008 March 13

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

FILE: 1750 20

SUBJECT: 2008 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2007 and an outline of its proposed workplan for 2008.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Social Issues Committee forward a copy of this report to Council 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 as well as staff from a number of City Departments and the Fraser Health Authority. Some citizen members of BAAC are also members of organizations representing people with disabilities, but they do not formally represent these organizations on BAAC. Planning staff coordinate the Committee's bi-monthly meetings and facilitate the work program.

Since its establishment, the Committee has pursued several initiatives directed toward the improvement of private and public services and facilities to better accommodate persons with disabilities. Examples include:

- Production of four editions of 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;
- Provision of recommendations to the Engineering Department regarding the installation of 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.

Each year BAAC develops a workplan which is submitted to the Social Issues Committee and Council for information. This report describes the Committee's 2007 activities and outlines proposed activities for BAAC's 2008 workplan.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF 2007 ACTIVITIES

2.1 Access Improvements to City Facilities

In 2007, a Capital Expenditure Bylaw in the amount of \$50,000 was approved to finance access improvements at various City facilities. BAAC, in consultation with City staff, established the list of priority improvements. The following projects were funded and implemented in 2007:

Edmonds Community Centre for 55+

- Purchase and installation of an Active Passive Trainer machine.

Shadbolt Centre for the Arts

- Installation of a wheelchair accessible ramp from the Mathers House Pottery Studio to the kiln shed.

City playgrounds

- Provision of curb cuts and wheelchair accessible paved pathways at playgrounds throughout the City.

Central Park playground

- Purchase of an accessible swing.

City Hall Main Building

- Installation of a lowered customer counter at the Finance Department tax counter.

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 2007 June 2 as Access Awareness Day in Burnaby. In celebration of Access Awareness Day, BAAC hosted a presentation by Carol Evans from TransLink on May 31, 2007. Ms. Evans provided information on a number of TransLink initiatives relating to accessibility including HandyDART service, the TransLink Access Transit Advisory Committee, and the proposed Evergreen Rapid Transit Line.

2.3 Burnaby Access Guidebook 4th Edition

The Burnaby Access Advisory Committee assisted staff in the preparation and distribution of a fourth printed edition of the Burnaby Access Guidebook. This Guidebook is intended to assist persons with disabilities to access City facilities, as well as services in the Metrotown core area.

For each facility reviewed, information is included on the availability of designated parking, entry points, interior access, washrooms, special services or equipment, and options for reaching the facility by public transit. Barriers that may present a problem for people with disabilities are also noted. Access information is provided in both text and map format.

A reference copy of the Guidebook has been distributed to all public City facilities and to each City department. More than 100 copies have been distributed to disability organizations in the community. The Guidebook is also available on the City's website at www.burnaby.ca/_shared/assets/2007_Access_Guidebook4407.pdf.

2.4 Other Activities

In the past year, the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee 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 in 2007:

- Reviewing accessible transportation services (e.g. reporting on accessible taxi service and reviewing HandyDART service);
- Monitoring effectiveness of designated parking regulation standards and public education efforts;
- Assisting staff with a review of the City's adaptable housing policy;
- Providing accessibility-related comments on civic developments and major plans including the proposed Evergreen Rapid Transit Line.

3.0 PROPOSED 2008 WORKPLAN

BAAC proposes the following accessibility related initiatives for its 2008 workplan:

1. Assist staff in the identification of priority accessibility improvements to City facilities for 2008, and review of the policy and criteria for allocation of access improvement capital funds;
2. Advise staff with respect to a continuing review of the City's adaptable housing policy;

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Re: 2008 Workplan for Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee
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3. Assist staff as appropriate with the development of the City's Social Sustainability Plan;
4. Identify the need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, TTY, hearing aid and volume control telephones;
5. Provide accessibility-related comments on major plans and new civic developments;
6. Sponsor events and initiatives for Access Awareness Day on 2008 June 2;
7. Monitor accessible transportation services including public transit and taxi service;
8. Initiate public education efforts on accessibility related topics, as deemed appropriate (e.g. articles in Info Burnaby);
9. Monitor effectiveness of designated parking regulation standards and public education efforts.

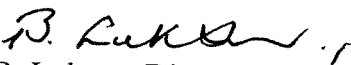
Acknowledging the constraints on Committee resources and staff time, it should be noted that BAAC may not be able to address all the foregoing workplan items in 2008. The Committee's priorities will be items 1 – 6, focusing on the topics of access improvements, adaptable housing policy, Social Sustainability Plan development, and Access Awareness Day.

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 2008 workplan.

4.0 CONCLUSION

BAAC has played a very important role since its establishment twenty years ago, providing valuable advice and recommendations to the City regarding accessibility issues. Implementation of items identified in the workplan for 2008, outlined in Section 3.0 of this report, will allow BAAC to continue to assist the City to meet its commitment to enhancing access to facilities and services for Burnaby residents with disabilities.

It is recommended that a copy of this report be forwarded to Council for information.


B. Luksun, Director
PLANNING & BUILDING

SJS:sa

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

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