

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: 2009 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 2009 February 26, received and adopted the *attached* report providing a summary of the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2008 and an outline of its proposed workplan for 2009.

BAAC has played a very important role since its establishment twenty-one years ago in providing valuable advice and recommendations to the City regarding accessibility issues. Implementation of items identified in the workplan for 2009 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 P. Calendino
Chair

Councillor P. McDonell
Vice Chair

Councillor A. Kang
Member

<p>Copied to: City Manager Director Finance Director Engineering Director Planning & Building Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services</p>
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

DATE: 2009 February 19

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

FILE: 1750 20

SUBJECT: 2009 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2008 and an outline of its proposed workplan for 2009.

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 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 (1991, 1996, 2001, 2007) 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, 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 an 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 2008 activities and outlines proposed activities for BAAC's 2009 workplan.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF 2008 ACTIVITIES

2.1 Access Improvements to City Facilities

In 2008, a Capital Expenditure Bylaw in the amount of \$100,000 was approved to finance access improvements at various City facilities. BAAC, in consultation with City staff, established the list of priority improvements for Council approval. The following projects were funded and implemented in 2008:

Swangard Stadium

- Improved toilets in accessible washrooms on concourse level.

Eileen Dailly Pool

- Automatic door to weight room.

Edmonds Neighbourhood Resource Centre

- Stair lift to second floor.

Parks

- Paved pathways and maintenance to improve accessibility.

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). In celebration of Access Awareness Day, BAAC hosted a presentation with Patrick Simpson, the Executive Director of SaferHome on June 6, 2008. The presentation focused on providing information on adaptable housing and the positive impact adaptable housing makes in a community.

2.3 Burnaby Access Guidebook 4th Edition

The Burnaby Access Advisory Committee assisted staff in the 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.

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 2008:

- Assisting staff with successful application for grant funding from 2010 Legacies Now Accessibility and Inclusion Fund, Measuring Up, intended to undertake research to further City's adaptable housing policy;
- Assisting staff with a review of the City's adaptable housing policy;
- Reviewing the taxi bill of rights, new taxi bylaw, and providing input on accessible taxi service to the City and the Province;
- Providing input on metered parking standards and accessibility – contributing suggestions on where to increase designated metered parking;
- Providing accessibility-related comments on civic developments including the new Kingsway Library.
- Providing input to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department on new accessible equipment purchases.

3.0 PROPOSED 2009 WORKPLAN

Staff, in consultation with BAAC proposes the following accessibility related initiatives for its 2009 workplan:

1. Assist staff in the identification of priority accessibility improvements to City facilities for 2009;
2. Assist staff with implementing the Measuring Up project, specifically the public education component on adaptable housing¹;
3. Advise staff with respect to a continuing review of the City's adaptable housing policy;
4. Provide input on accessibility issues as part of the development of the City's Social Sustainability Strategy;
5. Identify the need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, TTY, hearing aid and volume control telephones in the City;
6. Provide accessibility-related comments on major plans and new civic developments;
7. Sponsor events and initiatives for Access Awareness Day in June 2009;
8. Monitor accessible transportation services including public transit and taxi service;
9. Initiate public education efforts on accessibility related topics, as deemed appropriate; and

¹ The grant application was successful with the City receiving \$25,000 toward research to further the City's adaptable housing policy. Staff will be advancing the research program as approved by Council through the subject application.

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From: Director Planning & Building
Re: 2009 Workplan for Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee
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10. 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 2009. The Committee's priorities will be items 1-7, focusing on the topics of access improvements, Measuring Up/adaptable housing policy, Social Sustainability Strategy 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 2009 workplan.

4.0 CONCLUSION

BAAC has played a very important role since its establishment twenty-one years ago in providing valuable advice and recommendations to the City regarding accessibility issues. Implementation of items identified in the workplan for 2009, 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.

This report is presented for information.



B. Luksun, Director

for PLANNING & BUILDING

DP/sla

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

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