
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: 2010 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 2010 January 21, received and adopted the *attached* report providing a summary of the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2009 and an outline of its proposed workplan for 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Pietro Calendino
Chair

Councillor Paul McDonell
Vice Chair

Councillor Anne Kang
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Deputy City Manager Director Finance Director Engineering Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Chief Librarian RCMP - OIC Fire Chief
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

DATE: 2010 January 7

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

FILE: 1750 20

SUBJECT: 2010 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2009 and an outline of its proposed workplan for 2010.

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 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 2009 activities and outlines proposed activities for BAAC's 2010 workplan.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF 2009 ACTIVITIES

2.1 Access Improvements to City Facilities

In 2009, 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 approved by Council. The following projects were funded and implemented in 2009:

Edmonds Community Centre

- Purchase and installation of automatic doors on men's and women's washrooms

McGill and Metrotown Libraries

- Purchase and installation of mechanical swing gates to replace turnstiles at entrance

Charles Rummel Park

- Provision of universal access pathways to the playground

City Amenity Office Space at 6140 McKercher Avenue

- Purchase and installation of automatic doors at entrance

Bonsor Recreation Complex

- Purchase of 4 zero clearance mats for wheelchair access

Cameron Recreation Complex

- Purchase and installation of automatic doors to replace aging doors

Curb Cuts

- Installation of curb cuts in various locations

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 worked with Parks, Recreation and Culture to launch the City's new handcycle. The handcycle is a human-powered tricycle operated by the strength of one's arms, used for navigating park pathways. On June 6, 2009, citizens were invited to Edmonds Community Centre, where it is permanently

located, to demonstrate the new handcycle. The handcycle is available to the public for use at a rental rate of \$5.20 for 2 hours.

2.3 Measuring Up – Adaptable Housing Project

The Burnaby Access Advisory Committee assisted staff in the implementation of the Measuring Up Adaptable Housing Project. The project is focused on conducting a needs assessment to determine the demand for adaptable housing in Burnaby. BAAC members provided input on the methodology of the study, and participated in focus groups to provide input to the project. The forthcoming results of the research project will help inform recommendations on a revised adaptable housing policy.

2.4 Other Activities

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 2009:

- Assisting staff with a review of the City's adaptable housing policy;
- Reviewing the provincial taxi bill of rights, the Burnaby 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; and
- Providing input to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department on new accessible equipment purchases.

3.0 **PROPOSED 2010 WORKPLAN**

Staff, in consultation with BAAC, proposes the following accessibility related initiatives for its 2010 workplan:

1. Assist staff in the identification of priority accessibility improvements to City facilities for 2010;
2. Continue to assist in reviewing the City's adaptable housing policy;
3. Identify the need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, TTY, hearing aid and volume control telephones in the city;
4. Provide accessibility-related comments on major plans and new civic developments;
5. Sponsor events and initiatives for Access Awareness Day in June 2010;
6. Liaise with relevant external organizations who work on accessibility issues in Burnaby, including the Voices of Burnaby Seniors;
7. Initiate public education efforts on accessibility related topics, as deemed appropriate;
8. Monitor accessible transportation services including public transit and taxi service, and advocate for improved Handy Dart service. Identify the need for better transit routing and accessible bus stops; and

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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 2010. The Committee's priorities will be items 1–5, focusing on the topics of access improvements, adaptable housing policy, and Access Awareness Day.

From time to time, other issues of interest to BAAC may arise. Staff will advise the Social Issues Committee of any significant additions to the proposed 2010 workplan for BAAC.

4.0 CONCLUSION

BAAC plays a very important role, since its establishment twenty-two years ago, providing valuable advice and recommendations to the City regarding accessibility issues. Implementation of items identified in the workplan for 2010, outlined in Section 3.0 of this report, will allow BAAC to continue to assist the City to enhance access to facilities and services for Burnaby residents with disabilities.

This report is presented for information.



B. Luksun, Director
PLANNING & BUILDING

DP/sa

Copied to: City Manager
Deputy City Manager
Director Finance
Director Engineering
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Chief Librarian
RCMP – OIC
Fire Chief