



Report to Council

From the Office of Councillor Diana Dilworth and Councillor Amy Lubik

Date: September 6, 2022

Subject: Proposed Social Inclusion, Accessibility, Anti-racism, and Reconciliation Committee

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to review civic committee roles and responsibilities, specifically around social planning issues – supporting inclusivity, anti-racism, accessibility, equity and reconciliation – and to propose a new civic committee for the 2023 calendar year which takes a more holistic approach to these aspects in our community.

Recommendation

THAT staff be directed to develop a terms of reference for a new committee that includes providing advice and recommendations to Council on social equity, inclusion, public engagement and initiatives relating to reconciliation.

Background

Historically, the City addressed social planning issues through the Community Care Committee. The mandate of the committee was to provide Council with advice and recommendations on services for or related to seniors, family, youth, homeless people, physical accessibility, affordable housing and a livable, diverse and inclusive community. The Committee was also tasked with reviewing nominations for the Peter Hulbert Accessibility Award, which focused specifically on physical mobility and accessibility.

In late 2015 the Seniors Focus Committee was established with the mandate to review the recommendations in the Age Friendly Community Planning Project; Identify physical space needs and potential locations for a seniors recreation facility; and work in conjunction with other civic committees with respect to seniors' issues, strategies and initiatives.

In late 2016, the Community Care Committee, which as responsible for was disbanded with its roles being divided up amongst other existing committees.

It was previously responsible for:

- reviewing existing or proposed bylaws, policies, and programs related to services for or relating to seniors, family, youth, homeless people, physical accessibility, affordable housing, and a livable, safe, diverse, and inclusive community;
- reviewing new development or redevelopment within the City, as referred by Council, in terms of accessibility, affordability, and livable community issues and the needs of seniors, family, youth, and homeless people;
- researching and exploring opportunities for facilitating an environment and accommodating services for seniors, family, youth, and homeless people and enhancement of physical accessibility for all Port Moody citizens;
- any other matters referred to the Committee by Council.

Responsibility for the Peter Hulbert Accessibility Award was passed to the Seniors Focus Committee and over the years, the award criteria expanded to include a broader definition of accessibility, opening up to address accessibility from the perspective of age, ethnicity and language, and other demographics.

While other aspects of social planning found new venues for dialogue, there currently exists a gap where the concepts of inclusivity, equity, anti-racism and reconciliation are not currently being discussed at our civic committee level.

Discussion

There is no need to reinvent the wheel but look to our municipal neighbours who have created new ways to look issues that are being more prevalent (ie: reconciliation, racism).

The City of New Westminster, in 2021, established their Social Inclusion, Engagement and Reconciliation Advisory Committee which supports and facilitates social equity and inclusion for under-represented groups and vulnerable populations. ¹

In 1991, the City of North Vancouver established the Social Planning Advisory Committee to advise on broad social, cultural and ethnic concerns that affect residents of the City and to make recommendations regarding the planning and development of municipal strategies to meet community social needs. ²

And the City of Vancouver addresses equity, diversity and inclusion through a number of civic committees and staff initiatives to make recommendations on issues related to accessibility, racism, reconciliation, health city, 2SLGBTQ+, multiculturalism, seniors, women and youth. ³

¹ <https://www.newwestcity.ca/committees/articles/8017.php>

² <https://www.cnv.org/get-involved/committees/social-planning-advisory-committee>

³ <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/equity-diversity-inclusion.aspx>

The City of Surrey's former Social Planning Advisory Committee has recently evolved into the Social Equity and Diversity Committee, which makes recommendations that support building a strong, equitable, and health community. ⁴

Following on the work of the above jurisdictions, the proposed duties of the committee could be:

- *Reviewing proposed or existing policies, programs, and bylaws related to services for, or relating, to accessibility in all its forms, New Comers to Canada and people from diverse backgrounds, and Reconciliation.*
 - *Reviewing short-, medium-, and long-term goals to accessibility and equity within municipal jurisdiction;*
 - *Opportunities for strengthening the City's existing recreation programs and services for all residents;*
 - *Opportunities for Reconciliation, anti-racism and inclusion actions and programs;*
 - *Providing feedback on how to more meaningfully connect with communities and groups not always reached by traditional challenges, with opportunities to act as liaisons where warranted.*
 - *Hearing and providing recommendations to delegations by community groups, social service agencies and others and makes recommendations to Council;*
 - *Reviewing proposed or existing or proposed policies, programs, and bylaws related to services for or relating to people experiencing homelessness or housing precariousness that are not within the purview of the Tri-Cities Homelessness and Housing Task Force;*
 - *Considering other social planning issues as may be referred by Council*
- *Any other matters referred by Council.*

Other Options

1. THAT the report dated September 6, 2022 from Councillor Diana Dilworth and Councillor Amy Lubik titled Proposed Social Inclusion, Accessibility, Anti-racism, and Reconciliation Committee be received for information.
2. THAT the social issues identified in this report be addressed in a different manner than proposed.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications in receipt of this report. There may be implications for staff time costs of developing Terms of Reference, recruitment of committee members and attending committee meetings.

⁴ <https://www.surrey.ca/city-government/committees-commissions-boards/social-equity-and-diversity-committee>

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

There are no communications or civic engagement initiatives required by the recommendations in this report.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

Council's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan identifies "Inclusivity" as one of our key values: We are a welcoming community that celebrates and defends diversity.

Contained with the Strategic Priority focused on Community Evolution,