



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: February 13, 2024
Submitted by: Community Services Department – Facilities Division
Subject: Civic Facilities Accessibility Update

Purpose

To update Council on the progress of the Civic Facilities Accessibility project.

Recommended Resolution(s)

THAT the report dated February 13, 2024, from the Community Services Department – Facilities Division regarding Civic Facilities Accessibility Update be received for information.

Background

Recent capital plans have included projects to review and improve accessibility at key civic facilities, including two projects included in the Corporate Project Plan:

- Civic Facility Accessibility Improvements - Phase 1 (operational project)
- Civic Facility Accessibility Assessments (operational project)

The provincial Accessible BC Act also includes requirements that the City of Port Moody has met including developing an Accessibility Plan, forming an accessibility committee, and developing a feedback mechanism on accessibility.

In late 2022, the City was selected as a participant in the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) B.C. Accessibility Grants Program. As part of this program, the City of Port Moody received support for accessibility audits at three civic facilities; implementing funding of \$85,000 towards prioritized improvements from the audits; broad accessibility training for all staff provided by the RHF; and technical accessibility training courses for three staff members.

This report provides Council with an update on the grant program as well as next steps.

Discussion

Civic Facility Accessibility Improvements - Phase 1 (operational project)

As part of the RHF grant program, the City had accessibility assessments conducted at the Civic Centre (including City Hall and the Library), Recreation Complex, and the Arts Centre in spring 2023. The assessments looked at 10 different areas of meaningful access at each facility, such as vehicular access, exterior approach, and entrance and interior circulation. All

three buildings were then registered with Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) and based on the assessment scoring, became “RHF Accessibility Certified”. RHF Accessibility Certified means that the facility rating score is between 60%-79% AND meets mandatory certification requirements (in comparison, facilities with a rating score below 60% are not certified, and those scoring above 80% achieve RHF Accessibility Certified Gold).

Following the accessibility assessments and scoring, an RHF professional was retained to provide a detailed report at each of the three facilities, identifying specific areas of accessibility improvements and prioritizing them as short-term, medium-term, or long-term improvements. Out of all the improvement recommendations, staff shortlisted wayfinding and signage as the category that could be funded by the RHF grant that would make an immediate impact on the level of accessibility. Through a competitive process, staff have now engaged a wayfinding and signage consultant to identify and design wayfinding and signage where it may be lacking, non-existent, unsuitable, or incorrect, all from a functional and accessible perspective. The consultant has recently provided proposed signage types and designs for staff review, with the next step to finalize the signage types, designs and quantities along with a sign location plan and fabrication specifications so that the signs can be quoted and fabricated. The planned timeline is as follows:

Milestone	Planned Deliverable Date
Final signage design and specifications	January 2024
Signage Fabrication	February – March 2024
Signage Installation	March – April 2024

Other short-term improvements are being included in the current or pre-planned capital renewal projects, such as the 2024 approved capital project to improve accessibility aspects of the Skate Shop. Using existing budget, the Facilities Division also recently completed additional curb-cuts to improve accessibility curbside at the Recreation Complex and expanded the accessible parking stalls with the addition of hatching lines to allow more space for patrons using these spaces (recommendations that also came from the RHF audits).

Civic Facility Accessibility Assessments (operational project)

Concurrently, staff have engaged through a public competitive process an RHF professional to conduct accessibility assessments at the rest of the civic facilities, including:

- Artist Studios
- 3016 Murray St.
- Carpenter Shop
- Fire Hall No. 2
- Glenayre Centre
- Heritage Mountain Community Centre
- Heritage Woods (North Shore Fieldhouse)
- Inlet Centre Fire Hall
- Kyle Centre
- Old Fire Hall
- Old Mill Boathouse
- Old Orchard Hall

- Rocky Point Park Service Building
- Rocky Point Pool Building
- Westhill Building
- Works Yard

Note the Public Safety Building is not included because the Port Moody Police Department have chosen to have the accessibility assessment conducted independently.

The RHF professional has completed site reviews of all 16 buildings above. All assessment reports are expected to be submitted to staff for review in January 2024. These reports, including those completed for the Civic Centre, Recreation Complex, and the Arts Centre, will be shared with the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee as well as the internal accessibility committee for discussion and input on implementation. From the assessments, and with the input of the committees, staff will then follow the same process to prioritize improvements and integrate these projects into future capital planning for consideration by Council. Grant opportunities will also continue to be identified where appropriate to support this work.

Other Option(s)

This report is for information only; therefore, no other options are being provided.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Communications and Public Engagement Initiatives

There are no communications or public engagement initiatives associated with the recommendations in this report. The report can be shared on the newly expanded Accessibility section of the City's website.

Council Strategic Plan Goals

The recommendations in this report align with the following Council Strategic Plan Goal(s):

- Strategic Goal 3.3 – Enhance community wellbeing; and
- Strategic Goal 4.3 – Leverage public spaces.

Report Author

Val Tepes
Manager of Facilities

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Civic Facilities Accessibility Update.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Feb 5, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Anna Mathewson, General Manager of Community Services - Jan 30, 2024

Stephanie Lam, City Clerk and Manager of Legislative Services - Jan 30, 2024

Lindsay Todd, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Jan 30, 2024

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Jan 30, 2024

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Feb 5, 2024