

ST. JOHN'S

Inclusion Advisory Committee

March 5, 2020

12:00 p.m.

Kenmount Park Community Center

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Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes

October 30, 2019

12:00 p.m.

Kenmount Park Community Center

Present: Taylor Stocks, Chair - LGBTQ
Councillor Deanne Stapleton
Debbie Ryan, CNIB
Dave Saunders, Public Rep
Donna Power, Metrobus/GoBus, Accessible Transit
Heidi Dixon, First Light NL
Margaret Tibbo, Public Rep
Megan McGie, NL Assoc for Deaf
Grant Genova, NL Assoc of Architects, Universal Design
Trevor Freeborn, Coalition of Persons with Disabilities
Joby Flemming, Empower NL

Regrets: Kim Pratt Baker, Can Hard of Hearing Assoc
Sarah White, Autism Society
Kimberly Yetman-Dawson, Empower NL
Nancy Reid, Coalition of Persons with Disabilities
Tilak Chawan, Association for New Canadians
Hope Colbourne, NL Association for Community Living
Tess Hemeon, Autism Society

Staff: Natalie Godden, Manager of Family & Leisure Services
Vanessa Bambrick, Acting Inclusive Services Coordinator
Trisha Rose, Fieldworker III, Inclusion Services
Shanna Fitzgerald, Legislative Assistant

Others: Garrett Donaher, Manager of Transportation Engineering -
City of St. John's
Catherine Burgess Collins – Social Work Student - Empower
Lindsay Joseph and Maggie Aziz, Canadian Tire JumpStart
(via Video Conference)

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**2.1 Agenda of October 30, 2019****Recommendation****Moved By** Margaret Tibbo**Seconded By** Joby Flemming

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED**3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES****3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of July 17, 2019****Recommendation****Moved By** Debbie Ryan**Seconded By** Grant Genova

That the minutes of July 17, 2019 be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED**4. DELEGATION****4.1 Canadian Tire Jumpstart® Playground - Mundy Pond**

via Video Conference

Lindsay Joseph and Maggie Aziz of Canadian Tire JumpStart were in attendance via video conference to present information about the Canadian Tire Jumpstart program. The presentation about the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Playground was not available to be distributed to the committee. The following points were noted:

- The playground in St. John's is the 8th in Canada.
- Large-scale inclusive accessible playgrounds in every Province and Territory.
- Hoping for advocates in the Community to support the community in understanding the unique features of the playground and encouraging

family and friends to visit the playground and experience it for themselves.

- 5-year \$50 million fundraising commitment from Canadian Tire Corporation, Jumpstart's Inclusive Play Project is helping Canadian kids overcome physical barriers to sport and recreation. Included in this initiative are the following:
 - Playground Initiatives
 - Accessibility Infrastructure Grant which was utilized by the City of St. John's.
 - Parasport grants are also available and it was noted that if there is anyone interested in applying, they can contact Jumpstart for more information on the application process.
 - Coaching resources are available online and can be used towards accreditation.
 - Affordable equipment is a focus for Canadian Tire and they are currently looking at affordable adaptive equipment for kids that want to take part in sport for a reasonable price.

Jumpstart Inclusive Playground at Mundy Pond Park

Overall Inclusive Design features include:

- Over 11,010 square feet.
- Double Wide Ramps - the entire main structure has double wide ramps which allow for at least 2 mobility devices in play at one time.
- There are multiple entry and exits points so that children don't have to retrace their entry path to exit the structure.
- Unitary Surfacing - surfacing is a pour in place rubber that will lead directly and without barrier from the pathways directly onto the surface of the playground. The surface is a safe feature of the playground.
- Rhapsody Music Collection - includes a combination of drums and chimes that provide children with a range of musical tones allowing to explore an assortment of rhythms. The arched design of each element allows for easy roll-up access for those using wheelchairs and allows children of all abilities to explore music together. This music centre provides an opportunity for all sensory systems to be engaged.

- We Saw - provides children with movement up and down in space. During onboarding the equipment stays in a level state. Children can find the "just right" movement experience by sitting in the molded seats or on the center console, with both seating options providing varying degrees of support that can be used as children need or want to engage in movement. The seats are large enough to accommodate teens and adults, providing a fun vestibular experience for people of all ages.
- Swing Structures - includes a wide variety of swing types so that children can find their "just right" swing. Friendship swing and two molded bucket swings with harnesses. Standard and toddler swings also will be incorporated into the design.
- Omni Spin - great place for a group of children of all abilities to explore movement together. As the updated version of the traditional "Merry-Go-Round". This feature will include different transfer heights, scooped seats for core stability and an option to ride or push.
- Sway Fun Glider - provides a social gathering point where children can rest and still play. Together children can make the Sway Fun move providing them with vestibular input. The placement of the table in this element is a key component of its design, this creates an opportunity for children using mobility devices to actively participate in creating motion. Children using mobility devices do not need to transfer onto the equipment; they can roll onto same.
- Roller Slide - provides a tactile and auditory experience while children slide. It is wide enough for children to slide down together. The rollers eliminate any possible static electric build-up which allows children with cochlear implants to use the slide without fear of static electricity discharging into their hearing device.
- Transfer Bench - allows children to slide with their peers and easily transfer themselves to and from their mobility device. It is also a great area for children with sensory issues to take a break.
- A double steel slide which you see in traditional playgrounds is also planned.
- Cozy Dome - special climber that can also be used as a get-away place for children who want a break from all the sights and sounds of the playground. It's the perfect mix of a fun climber with round

openings for hand and foot placement as well as a cozy place on the inside to escape and observe others playing.

- Sensory Play Center - has numerous features that provide stimulation and visual play. The KaeleidoSpin Panel encourages children to explore visual patterns in the world by spinning the viewers on the panel, helping them understand cause and effect. The Fun Mirror Panel encourages visual play. There is also a serving window for imaginative play.
- SwiggleKnots Bridge - encourages children to develop a variety of motor skills including balance, motor coordination and overall body strength. The design is not fully accessible for kids of all abilities but can be used by occupational therapists and physiotherapists because it allows them to provide different levels of challenge to build motor skills.
- We Go Round - (St. John's is only the second to receive this piece) inclusive merry-go-round that offers ample room for kids and families to interact and play together including those using mobility devices. The integrated roof provides shade and the center handhold allows riders to participate in the spinning fun. Once aboard, everyone faces the center so they can easily share smiles, laughter and conversation while in orbit. There is barrier free entry and no transfer. There is a built in regulator to remain in safe operation. The mechanics of this piece is in the upper dome for easy maintenance access. This piece is large enough to fit several wheelchairs as well as users without chairs. Large motorized chairs will also fit.
- 7 Post Netplex with Disc Net Climber - challenges children to constantly respond to their own movements as well as the movement of other children climbing on the net. The subtle movements of the net help build core trunk muscle strength, while improving balance, flexibility and motor coordination.
- Educational Panels - introduce children to various forms of communication as they play while creating an inclusive learning environment for children of all abilities. Panels will include concepts such as sign language, braille and clocks.

The following was also noted:

- The We Go Round can accommodate a large assisted mobility device.

- Tactile features were considered for people who are blind or partially sighted. Tactile sensory features are included for some of the structures included on the playground. Each feature has a different texture to it which provides opportunity for mind mapping of the playground site.
- It was noted by a member of the Committee that there may be contrast concerns for children with vision loss in using the colors of red and charcoal. The response from the presenters was that playground design has an ability advisory committee and through that communication it was recommended to use those colors. There is a grey roller slide planned for the City of St. John's playground which is alternative to the color of the surfacing.
- Canadian Tire to get feedback on the use of the playgrounds using a research team that will visit the sites and report back on the key findings on use of playgrounds and the reflections from the community on what they like or what they would change. The feedback allows them to change design elements if needed and creates opportunities for improvement. Each City will receive an information document that will be shared with the occupational therapy community and the physiotherapy community, teachers, support workers and parents that will allow to use the playground intentionally as a tool. Feedback will be requested from groups such as the Inclusion Advisory Committee. There have been 5 post build analyses completed across the country to date.
- It was noted that Canadian Tire Parahockey will be hosted in Paradise the first week of December.
- Concerns about vandalism were raised by a member of the Panel and it was noted that to this point there has not been significant damage in other provinces. The City of Prince Albert installed motion sensor lights and extensive lighting. Currently the City is reviewing the lighting needs for this new playground. There is between a 3 to 100 year warranty on the large playground structures for damage. Items which should have normal wear and tear have a shorter warranty. Most of the structures are steel and wood but the main posts are aluminum. These posts have a 100 year warranty.
- It was noted that the climate in the City of St. John's has been considered in the choices for the playground structures to be installed at Mundy Pond Park.

5. BUSINESS ARISING**5.1 Information Note dated October 16, 2019 re: Accessible Parking in Churchill Square**

The Manager of Transportation Engineering was in attendance to speak on the above cited Information Note. The following points were noted:

- Staff to review curb cuts and possible increased spaces.
- Churchill Square is a challenge due to the configuration of the buildings and recently the City is considering a redesign for it to become a more accessible space.

Based on the information provided to the Committee in the Information Note dated October 16, 2019 re: Accessible Parking in Churchill Square, the Inclusion Committee put forth the following motion:

Recommendation

Moved By Debbie Ryan

Seconded By Trevor Freeborn

That the revised parking plan based on feedback from Service NL, noted as Alternative 3, be forwarded to Council for approval.

MOTION CARRIED

5.2 Drive Thrus and Healthy Neighbourhoods Working Group - Request

The Panel was presented with a request for participation in a Drive Thrus and Healthy Neighborhoods Working Group. An email will be sent around with an option to participate in this initiative.

5.3 Information Note dated October 17, 2019 re: Key2Access Accessible Pedestrian Signal Update

The Manager of Transportation Engineering was in attendance to speak on the above cited Information Note. Key messages of the announcement will be shared with the Panel and a presentation on this initiative can be provided by CNIB.

5.4 Decision Note dated October 23, 2019 re: Closed Captioning – Council Technology Upgrade (Live-Streaming/Council Meetings)

A request will be sent out to the applicable members requesting participation in a Closed Captioning working group to review the

automated Closed Captioning functionality of the upgrade to the technology in the Council Chamber that includes live-streaming and provide feedback on its effectiveness.

5.5 Paratransit Working Group Update

This item was deferred to the next Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting.

5.6 Inclusive Meetings and Events Working Group - Request

The Panel was presented with a request for participation in an Inclusive Meetings and Events Working Group. An email will be sent to determine interest.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Presentations by Peers - Discussion

Debbie Ryan from CNIB agreed to present at a future meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.

CHAIRPERSON, TAYLOR STOCKS

INFORMATION NOTE

Title: American Sign Language Training for Lifeguards

Date Prepared: February 27, 2020

Report To: Inclusion Advisory Committee

Councillor and Role: Councillor Deanne Stapleton, Inclusion Champion

Ward: N/A

Issue: To provide the City of St. John's aquatics staff with the tools necessary to communicate common pool phrases with patrons who communicate using American Sign Language (ASL).

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

Lifeguards observed patrons at the H.G.R. Mew Community Centre swimming pool, who appeared not to hear the pool whistle at the end of the swim. The lifeguards did communicate through writing and hand gestures that it was time to vacate the pool; patrons were pleased and thankful.

The City of St. John's Inclusive Services team connected with Megan McGie, Community Support Worker with the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of the Deaf to determine if a resource existed to teach aquatics staff how to communicate common phrases used in pool settings. Megan agreed to provide the following sign language training options:

- Manuals with photos
- Video

The common pool phrases which will be found within these resources were gathered by Paul Reynolds Community Centre and H.G.R. Mews Community Centre Head Lifeguards, and can be seen below:

1. Away from the water, please
2. Swim is over or, Time to go
3. Walk please or, No running
4. Slow down
5. Off the rope! or, don't hang on the rope
6. On your back on the slide/feet-first
7. No floats in the deep end
8. No diving
9. No flippers! or, don't walk in your flippers
10. No facemasks
11. We have spare goggles
12. Under 8 years old needs a guardian

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13. Where's your guardian? or, Who's with you? Or, Who're you with?
14. Can you swim?
15. I'll ask my supervisor/head lifeguard.

A manual, DVD and USB will be available to:

- Bowring Park swimming pool
- Bannerman Park swimming pool
- H.G.R. Mews Community Centre
- Paul Reynolds Community Centre
- Inclusive Services Team
- Inclusion Advisory Committee

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications:
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:
 - a. Newfoundland Association of the Deaf
 - b. Inclusion Advisory Committee
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:
 - i. A Connected City: A city where people feel connected, have a sense of belonging and are engaged in community life.
4. Legal or Policy Implications:

n/a
5. Privacy Implications:

n/a
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations:
 - i. Promotion through City of St. John's, NLAD and other Inclusion Advisory Committee member organizations
 - ii. Should NLAD approve, promotion through Recreation NL to ensure inclusivity with all recreational pools
7. Human Resource Implications:
8. Procurement Implications:
9. Information Technology Implications:

10. Other Implications:

Conclusion/Next Steps: A completion date is yet to be determined, however; once the manuals and videos have been received, they will be distributed to the appropriate facilities. Should staff require additional training, same will be arranged with the NLAD.

Prepared by/Date:

Vanessa Bambrick, Inclusive Services Coordinator

Reviewed by/Date:

Natalie Godden, Manager – Family & Leisure Services

Carla Squires, Manager – Facilities

Attachments: