



Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes

December 1, 2020

12:30 p.m.

Virtual

Present:

Dr. Sulaimon Giwa, Co-Chair - Anti-racism
Joby Fleming, Co-Chair - Empower NL
Councillor Deanne Stapleton, Council Representative
Debbie Ryan, CNIB
Donna Power, Metrobus/GoBus, Accessible Transit
Megan McGie, NL Association for the Deaf
Renata Lang, Association for New Canadians
Heidi Edgar, Mental Health
Jane Simmons, Physical and Neurological Disabilities
Alyse Stuart, Women's Issues
TjJJones, LGBTQ2S
Brittany Hiscock, CHHA NL
Natalie Godden, Manager of Family & Leisure Services
Sherry Mercer, Inclusion Coordinator
Cindy Kenway, WP 1

Regrets:

Trevor Freeborn, Coalition of Persons with Disabilities
Ashley Gosse, Autism Society
Grant Genova, NL Association of Architects, Universal Design
Hope Colbourne, NL Association for Community Living
Shanna Fitzgerald, Legislative Assistant

Others:

Bruce Knox, Healthy Communities Fieldworker

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

3. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

4. **DELEGATION**

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

5.1 **Healthy City Strategy Consultation**

Natalie Godden, Manager of Family & Leisure Services and Bruce Knox, Healthy Communities Fieldworker presented on the Healthy City Strategy, a copy of this presentation is appended to the agenda. At the meeting of November 26, members were invited to review the discussion guide and provide edits to bring back for discussion.

Implementation strategies will be going to CSJ Council in January for approval, with community engagement occurring throughout 2021. Goals reviewed and subsequent discussion include:

Healthy City Strategy Chart

The 6 Pillars of Healthy Neighbourhoods & People, Urban Design, Environment, Housing, Inclusion, and Transportation were discussed. It was suggested to add bullets to each pillar to ensure accessibility is clearly defined as a focus of the Healthy City Strategy. For example, “Accessible & Affordable Housing” under the Housing pillar.

Healthy Neighbourhoods & People

Supporting Asset: Neighbourhood Services, Identity & Place-Making

- Discussion around what "place-making" means. It was noted as a process where strengthening public spaces and supporting healthy living to connect with a good quality of life occurs.

It was noted that this is similar to the [8-80 Cites initiative](#).

Supporting Asset: Safety

- 1.4 Change “Improve the safety of neighbourhoods and streets” to “Improve the safety and accessibility of neighbourhoods and streets”. More than physical barriers. Want to lead in Inclusion.
- Safety includes physical safety, social safety, and harm reduction.

Supporting Asset: Mental & Physical Health

- 1.8 “Work with Partners to increase social programs and resources for new parents, guardians, and caregivers that support mental health” to

“Work with partners to increase social programs and resources for parents, guardians, and caregivers that support mental health”. Not all parents are new parents. (ie. Grandparents taking care of grandchildren).

- Add Gender segregation in various areas. (ie. Community sports can be alienating for nonbinary youth in the process of transition.)

Supporting Asset: Early Childhood Development & Lifelong Learning

- 1.10 “Work with partners to design programs & services that support early childhood development. Action: Work with Eastern Health & NLESD and External Partners to host early education programming for young families”. Take out the word “young families” to “families”. So many different versions of families. ie. Grandparents raising children, mid-aged parents.
- 1.11 “Support and connect parents and guardians with access to information and education that promotes early childhood development”. Education for parents and children. NLAD noted they have new program called “Family Communication Program” recently set up for the deaf to educate parents/children.

Supporting Asset: Arts & Culture

- 1.13 “Diversify arts and culture across the City of St. John’s”. The question was asked, what does diversify mean? With the following clarity provided; getting outside downtown area and into more neighbourhoods, include different groups. Need to change the word “Diversity” to explain the intent. Expand our exposure to normalize things including making it accessible, affordable, include under-used groups, different forms of arts and culture, and making it more affordable.

5.2 Paratransit RFP Update

Metrobus recently met with the Paratransit Working Group and a working group of the IAC to discuss the upcoming RFP for GoBus. The focus is on addressing current challenges and moving towards a more equitable and inclusive transit service for everyone. Metrobus are currently exploring options related to the following:

Service Delivery:

- Investigating moving to an “on-demand” model of service delivery which would offer increased efficiency and an enhanced customer experience through app-based, real-time scheduling options. This would remove the requirement to book 24 hours in advance, create more efficiency and provide more reliability for customers. Customers can still use current modes of communication such as call and text, in addition to the app.
- Enhancing service standards for quality control, including financial penalties if standards are not met.

Rebranding:

- Exploring the idea of rebranding GoBus to look more like Metrobus (but still operate like GoBus) as a move towards creating a more integrated, equitable transit service. We would also align GoBus’ hours of operations with those of Metrobus, including holiday days-off. As service becomes streamlined, door-to-door service would remain in effect.

Sustainability/Contract:

- Researching various payment structures to contractor and any third-party trip providers to help achieve cost savings and increased efficiency where possible.
- Investigating new vehicles to replace the current aging fleet.

The RFP for the GoBus service provider will be issued in the Spring of 2021. Members asked if expansion beyond the City has been considered. Donna Power noted they are always open to expansion should a community be interested.

5.3 Working Group Consultations

In the past, the Inclusion Advisory Committee was meeting 3 times a year and was subsequently changed to 6 times a year. With increasing demands on the agenda, the use of small working groups (sub-committees) who bring information back to IAC was discussed. These groups have operated with success in the past. Some of the past working groups include Universal Design, Inclusive Organization, Special Events and Inclusive Communications. An email will be sent out including short descriptions, past members, and recommendations for current members. Anyone wishing to join should respond with same.

5.4 Verbal Update: Anti-Racism Working Group

Deferred to next meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 City of St John's Budget

The City of St. John's Budget to be released Monday, December 7, 2020. The Inclusion Advisory Committee would like snow clearing, especially cleaning of sidewalks, addressed as well as an update on Key to Access & Accessible Pedestrian signals and the \$50,000 which has been committed each year to install 1-2 signals. Natalie Godden indicated information will be brought forward at next meeting.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Inclusion Advisory Committee is scheduled for December 10, 2020.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

CO-CHAIRS, JOBY FLEMING AND DR. SULAIMON GIWA