

## **Parks and Recreation Community Disability Steering Committee**

- Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025
- Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Location name/room: Virtual Via Web-Ex

### **Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan and Parkland Strategy Five-Year Review**

The committee received an overview presentation on the Parks and Recreation Division's Facilities Plan and Parkland Strategy, including the community engagement process for both. Members in attendance asked questions, shared comments, and provided feedback. Topics raised included the definition of passive programs in parks, the process by which developers are required to make parkland conveyances, the inaccessibility of wood chips as playground surfaces, the current trend towards engineered wood fibre and poured rubber playground surfacing and their maintenance protocols, and City contacts for questions about local parks projects. Members also inquired about how population density changes are incorporated into maps and the accuracy of population density projections aligning with future community needs. Accessibility-related feedback received during the current public engagement were summarized, project timelines were discussed, and committee members stressed the importance of making accessibility upgrades, particularly in older structures and facilities that lack inclusive features (e.g. seating, accessible walkways, ramps, and elevators).

### **Bluffer's Park East Washroom Beach and multi-use trail**

The committee received a presentation on the proposed rendering of Bluffer's Park East Washroom Beach and multi-use trail, with a focus on accessibility of amenities. Concerns were noted regarding the inaccessibility of wood boardwalks and the preference for a paved path, the need for TTC drop-off points, the inclusion of adult change tables and lifting systems in washrooms, the need for staff areas to be accessible, and appropriate storage for beach equipment.

### **General Beach Accessibility**

A presentation on general beach accessibility improvements focussing on the provision and placement of beach mats was received. The need for an effective promotional strategy to ensure public awareness was emphasized. Presenters also offered to speak to accessibility improvements being made at the Jack Layton ferry terminal at an upcoming meeting hosted at either the terminal or on the island, and invited suggestions from committee members in advance.

### **Public Meeting Minutes**

The committee discussed the idea of making meeting minutes available publicly in summary form, and there was general support for this approach. Some committee goals for 2025 were outlined, and protocol around bringing observers to meetings was reviewed. An update from P&R Adapted and Inclusive recreation was also received during the Round Table. It was suggested that recreational programming will need to be a topic for discussion and feedback going forward.