



**SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
UNOFFICIAL NOTES**

April 15, 2016

A working session of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on April 15, 2016, at 9:30am, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT:

Eva Beda
Thomas Crean
Eddy Elmer (Recorder)
Beatrice Ho
Gudrun Langolf
Dellie Lidyard
Jim McCully
Colleen McGuinness (Chair)
Scott Ricker (Vice-Chair)
Brian Tucker
Eva Wadolna
Jacqueline Weiler
Bob Worcester

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Tim Stevenson, Vancouver City Council*
Trustee Fraser Ballantyne, Vancouver School Board*
Stephanie Kripps, Vancouver Public Library
Laura Mackenrot, Persons with Disabilities Committee
Chris Morrissey (Immediate Past Chair)
Taryn Scollard, Engineering Services

ABSENT:

Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Vancouver City Council
Park Board Commissioner Erin Shum

GUESTS:

Dylan Passmore, Engineering
Rob Sleath, Barrier-Free BC

* Denotes an absence for a portion of the meeting

1. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Beatrice Ho, SECONDED by Scott Ricker
THAT the minutes of the February 19, 2016 working session be approved.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Liaisons from Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC)

PDAC members Laura Mackenrot and Tasia Alexis will serve as the SAC's liaisons and will attend our meetings on a rotating basis.

3. Changes to 10th Avenue Corridor (the Medical Precinct)

Dylan Passmore, Engineering, provide a detailed overview of this project (<http://vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/10th-avenue-corridor-project.aspx>).

Committee members generally expressed opposition to what they perceived as an excessive focus on the needs of cyclists at the expense of pedestrians, especially sick and disabled seniors who rely on this stretch of 10th Avenue for safe and convenient access to the numerous medical facilities in the area. The Committee indicated that this is contradictory to the goals of the Transportation 2040 Plan, which puts the needs of pedestrians first. It also runs counter to the original goals of the corridor, which was to meet the needs of patients and their families, not cyclists who are merely passing through.

Specific concerns/suggestions included the following:

- I. The City should be trying to *reduce*, not increase, the number of cyclists along this corridor.
- II. Adding dedicated cycling paths will increase cyclists and thus increase the risk of collision with the sick, disabled, and/or disoriented patients who use the medical facilities in the area. This is of particular concern given that cyclists tend to speed along this corridor.
- III. The need for cycling paths along this corridor appears to be exaggerated and they should be moved to another area (e.g., West 7th Avenue between Oak and Ask Streets). Although staff indicated that other streets would be problematic for cyclists, members indicated that the problems faced by patients are more important.
- IV. The proposed removal of up to 77 parking spaces would require seniors to park and walk much greater distances from medical facilities. This would be particularly dangerous in situations where patients must drive themselves to the Emergency Department of Vancouver General Hospital.
- V. There must be a sufficient number of sheltered drop-off/pick-up locations in front of entrances to each medical facility.
- VI. There must be clear signage to caution motorists about vulnerable pedestrians and to give priority to emergency vehicles.
- VII. There must be adequate lighting, crossing signals, and benches for the safety and comfort of vulnerable pedestrians.

ACTION: Eva Wadolna and Dellie Lidyard will draft a motion urging Council to work with staff to address the above-noted concerns.

4. Proposed British Columbians with Disabilities Act

Rob Sleath of Barrier-Free BC discussed his organization's draft legislation: <http://barrierfreebc.org/just-say-yes-action-kit/> The aim of the legislation is to:

- I. set the goal of making BC a fully accessible and barrier-free province for all people with disabilities by a designated date;

- II. require the Government of BC to lead BC to this goal as much as it can within its provincial powers;
- III. require the Government of BC to create and enforce accessibility standards that ensure organizations know what they must do to remove and prevent barriers against people with disabilities;
- IV. ensure that the Government of BC and provincially-regulated organizations never use public money to create or perpetuate barriers against people with disabilities; and
- V. ensure that organizations develop fully accessible goods and services for sale in local markets and to international markets, based on principles of universal design.

The Committee remarked that this motion is consistent with the City's Age-Friendly Action Plan. It was agreed to draft a motion supporting this proposed Act and asking Council to support it as well.

5. Proposal to Close 800-Block of Robson Street for Permanent Pedestrian Plaza

Although there was no consensus about the merits of creating a permanent pedestrian plaza, members expressed strong concerns about the negative impacts posed by the re-routing of the Number 5/Robson bus. In particular, re-routing would pose a hardship for seniors (especially those in the West End) who are dependent on the bus for safe, convenient, and direct access to amenities and services in the downtown core. The Committee agreed to draft a letter to Council urging them to ask staff to continue working with relevant stakeholders (e.g., TransLink, West End groups, and the Seniors' Advisory Committee) to consider different transit alternatives that may better serve the needs of seniors in this regard.

A suggestion was also made that staff ensure a sufficient number of benches and public toilets are located on the plaza. It was also suggested that bicyclists be required to dismount before entering the plaza.

6. Committee Liaison Reports

a) Vancouver City Council

No report.

b) Park Board

No report.

c) School Board

Brian Tucker has a discussion with Trustee Ballantyne about having high school students conduct a survey among older adults regarding their awareness of government entitlements (e.g., Guaranteed Income Supplement). This would be an

excellent opportunity for inter-generational contact and would allow students to fulfill the volunteer requirements of their programs.

d) *Staff Liaison*

No report.

e) *Vancouver Public Library*

No report.

7. Subcommittee and Task Force Reports

a) *Housing Subcommittee*

Chris Morrissey indicated that Pat Ryan, Chief Housing Officer, met with the Subcommittee to discuss the issue of “visitability” (being able to access housing from the outside). In particular, they discussed the need to ensure that emergency vehicles have adequate access to laneway houses. The Subcommittee will continue to work with staff on this issue.

Due to time constraints, all other Subcommittee and Task Force reports were deferred until the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Eddy Elmer, SECONDED by Eva Wadolna
THAT this meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Regular Meeting:

DATE: Friday, May 20, 2016
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 12:30 pm

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