



**SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
UNOFFICIAL NOTES (DRAFT)**

January 27, 2017

A working session of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on January 27, 2017, at 10:00am, in the Business Centre Meeting Room, Second Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

**PRESENT:**

Thomas Crean  
Eddy Elmer (Recorder)  
Beatrice Ho  
Anthony Kupferschmidt  
Dellie Lidyard  
Dale Lutes  
Colleen McGuinness (Chair)  
Scott Ricker (Vice-Chair)  
Eva Wadolna  
Jacqueline Weiler  
Bob Worcester

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Tasia Alexis, Persons with Disabilities Committee  
Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Vancouver City Council  
Laura Mackenrot, Persons with Disabilities Committee  
Taryn Scollard, Engineering Services  
Park Board Commissioner Erin Shum

**ABSENT:**

Christopher Kevlahan, Vancouver Public Library  
Chris Morrissey (Immediate Past Chair)  
Councillor Tim Stevenson, Vancouver City Council

**GUESTS:**

Monica Camporese  
Stewart McIntosh, Vancouver Park Board  
Kate McIntyre, Street Activities  
Zane Hill, Planning  
Jennifer Sheel, Street Activities  
Jesse Wiebe, Northeast False Creek Project

**1. Leave of Absence Requests**

MOVED by Eva Wadolna, SECONDED by Jackie Weiler

THAT a leave of absence be approved for Eva Beda, Gudrun Langolf, Jim McCully, and Brian Tucker.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## 2. 800 Robson Block Public Plaza Update

Kate McIntyre and Jennifer Sheel of Street Activities provided an update on the [project](#). During the consultation process, members of the public emphasized the following:

- a. The plaza should reinforce Arthur Erickson's original architectural intent: to create a place of respite in the city
- b. The plaza is a dynamic space and should continue to attract many people
- c. The plaza is a key corridor linking important areas downtown
- d. The plaza should be safe, welcoming, and well-maintained year-round and at all times of day and night
- e. Walking surfaces should be level

Committee members provided the following input:

- a. The perimeter of the plaza should be defined more clearly, perhaps with landscaping and bollards (if bollards, they should be collapsible or spaced apart widely to allow access for emergency vehicles)
- b. For landscaping, potted flowers and greenery is preferable to trees because they can be moved more easily to facilitate different types of programming
- c. The walking surface should be slip-resistant and a salting/sanding plan should be in place to quickly deal with inclement weather conditions
- d. Lighting should be considered to discourage illegal activity at night, as well as to improve visibility, add visual interest, and highlight the plaza's architectural features, including the Art Gallery
- e. There should be a mix of both permanent and temporary seating, and it should be accessible for seniors and people with disabilities
- f. Tables and other seating should include umbrellas or other features to provide shade
- g. Drinking water fountains should be installed
- h. Cyclists should be urged to use good judgment when traversing the plaza (e.g., signs should be included asking cyclists to dismount)
- i. The City should inform residents about traffic flow changes around the area
- j. Dogs on the plaza should be on-leash

## 3. Northeast False Creek Project Update

Stewart McIntosh (Vancouver Park Board), Zane Hill (Planning), and Jesse Wiebe (City Project Engineer), provided an update on this [project](#). They highlighted the following points:

- a. The purpose of the project is to provide better connections between different areas
- b. The project has several street design goals: accessibility, adaptability and resilience; safe and inclusive streets for everyone; environmental sustainability; preservation of neighbourhood character; experience and place-making; well- designed frontages that enhance pedestrian access and visual

- interest; permeability/connectivity (clear, legible connections between roads, neighborhoods, parks, waterfront, etc); integrated utilities
- c. Spaces for cyclists and pedestrians will be separated
  - d. There will be plenty of seating and lighting
  - e. Surfaces will be at a maximum 5% grade
  - f. Parks and open spaces will be included and will be designed for all ages
  - g. Special consideration will be given to the displacement of residents from Hogan's Alley

Committee members raised the following issues:

- a. Accessible and affordable housing must be included
- b. There should be access to affordable food and grocery options
- c. Attention should be paid to the needs of businesses in the area (e.g., the neighbourhood should be strongly integrated with the road network to ensure that the food distribution businesses in the area can easily move goods)
- d. Community gardens, farmers' markets, restaurants, patios, and other spaces for social interaction should be included
- e. Seating should be appropriate and accessible for seniors and people with disabilities
- f. Accessible public bathrooms should be included
- g. Accessible and affordable public parking should be included
- h. There should be a lively mix of architectural styles in the area (this should go beyond merely adding a splash of colour or small architectural flourishes)
- i. Attention should be paid to public art

#### **4. Committee Liaison Reports**

Due to time constraints, only the staff liaison was able to provide a report. Ms. Scollard focused on the City's handling of snow and ice removal during this past winter. She indicated that her staff are preparing a report on this matter, prompted by a motion from Council, and will seek the Committee's input when the report is complete. Among the issues to be discussed in the report include expansion of the number of streets to be cleared as well as better prioritizing which areas should be cleared first. Park Board Commissioner Erin Shum indicated that the Board is preparing a similar report, given the Board shares snow and ice removal responsibilities with the City. The Board's report will also discuss the City's warming shelters.

Committee members drew Ms. Scollard's attention to the following concerns:

- a. During the winter, many sidewalks were dangerously slippery and impassable for pedestrians, especially seniors and those using mobility devices
- b. Areas around SkyTrain stations and bus stops (including sidewalks leading to those areas) were not adequately cleared
- c. Businesses cleared areas in front of their establishments but left snow piled up along the sidewalk, impeding pedestrian access
- d. Residents who called the City's 3-1-1 service to complain about problem areas (e.g., broken water mains that created slippery road conditions) were

- frustrated by the need to provide detailed information (e.g., exact address of problem areas)
- e. The City does not have enough “snow angels” (volunteers to help older adults and others who cannot clear snow and ice on their own)
  - f. The City must educate residents that although snow emergencies are rare, they should still be prepared for them
  - g. The City must be a better job enforcing snow and ice removal by property owners (e.g., enforcing fines)

## **5. Subcommittee Reports**

Due to time constraints, discussion about Subcommittee activities was referred to the February meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

### **Next Regular Meeting:**

DATE: Friday, January 27, 2017  
TIME: 11:00am  
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 11:00 am

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