



SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UNOFFICIAL NOTES

May 15, 2015

A working session of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on May 15, 2015, 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 (Interim Chair)
Chris Morrissey (Immediate Past Chair)
Angie Natingor
Scott Ricker (Interim Vice-Chair)
Brian Tucker*
Jacqueline Weiler

ABSENT:

Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Stephanie Kripps, Vancouver Public Library
Lisa Low
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Eva Wadolna
Bob Worcester

ALSO PRESENT:

Park Board Commissioner Erin Shum
Taryn Scollard, Engineering Services

GUESTS:

Ruby Boychuk, Gordon Neighbourhood House
Lisa Leblanc, Senior Engineer, Community Plans
Hayley Rowlands, Engineering Assistant, Community Plans
Hale Jones-Cox, Planner I - Downtown West

*Denotes an absence from a portion of the meeting

1. Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Dellie Lidyard, SECONDED by Beatrice Ho

THAT leaves of absence be approved for Eva Wadolna and Bob Worcester. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Gudrun Langolf, SECONDED by Eva Beda

THAT the minutes of the April 17, 2015 working session be approved. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Heart of Davie Village Public Space Improvement Project

A new permanent plaza, decorative lighting, wider sidewalks, landscaping, public art and a mid-block pedestrian crossing are being considered for the Heart of Davie Village at Davie and Bute streets. These improvements are part of the West End Community Plan, which includes goals to invest in Davie Village public spaces and enhance the area's distinct character as a hub for LGBTQ community.

Lisa LeBlanc, Senior Engineer with Community Plans, and Hale Jones-Cox, Planner for Downtown West, described proposals for the project: www.vancouver.ca/heartofdavie

Committee members raised the following points:

- a. The mixed path for pedestrians, cyclists and skaters poses safety risks. It is imperative that pedestrians always have the right-of-way. It was suggested that cyclists walk their bicycles when using the path, although slowing traffic on the path could impede wheelchair users. One member suggested a gating system which would force cyclists to dismount, although the City reported that this idea poses various challenges, including fire access.
- b. Crosswalk signal timing should be increased.
- c. Street furniture should be comfortable for older adults.
- d. The public bathroom should be more inviting; the current location is not private and is not wheelchair accessible.
- e. Water fountains should be installed.
- f. Greenery should be arranged to discourage illegal activity (e.g., hiding drugs).
- g. The area should be clean and well-maintained.
- h. It would be ideal to have free WiFi in the area.

4. Healthy City Initiative and Age-Friendly Action Plan Update

Taryn Scollard was asked to help arrange a presentation from Social Planning to provide an update about these two initiatives. The purpose will be to ensure the Committee does not duplicate work that is already underway by the City.

5. E-mail Protocol

To reduce e-mail, members were asked to refrain from using the "Reply-All" feature unless their responses require the attention of the entire Committee. To reduce email sent to staff and liaisons via the City's Listserv, members were reminded to use the Committee's internal e-mail list for everyday correspondence between members.

6. SAC Terms of Reference

Members discussed the importance of working within the scope of the Committee's Terms of Reference. Eddy Elmer reiterated the importance of focusing on relevant activities that can be accomplished within the Committee's limited two-year term.

7. Proclamation for B.C. Seniors' Week, June 7-13

Taryn Scollard said she would inquire with the Mayor's Office about the possibility of the Committee issuing a proclamation without a formal motion. Some members suggested that we delay issuing a proclamation until it is determined if there will be any events to commemorate the week.

8. Global TV Request

Global Television has contacted the Committee to inquire about its priorities for the year. It was agreed that the Committee would contact Global once we have formalized our goals. It was also suggested that we ask Global if they would like to partner with us for our National Seniors' Day event on October 1.

9. International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

Chris Morrissey reminded the Committee that this event takes place on May 17. She asked the Committee to reflect on the special challenges and needs of older LGBT adults, who comprise a growing proportion of the population.

10. Committee Liaison Reports

a) Vancouver City Council

No report.

b) Park Board

Commissioner Shum provided the following updates:

- i. A temporary zip line will be installed this summer in Queen Elizabeth Park to help celebrate the park's 75th anniversary.
- ii. A new community garden has been approved at Barclay and Kensington (?).
- iii. Discussions are ongoing regarding the trimming or removal of shrubbery at Brock House. Park Board chair John Coupar is awaiting feedback from an Aboriginal group that may not want the shrubbery removed.
- iv. A response is forthcoming from the Planning Department regarding the Committee's request to increase parking spots at Brock House.

c) City of Vancouver Staff

Taryn Scollard provided the following updates:

- i. The Planning Department is still exploring the possibility of moving the driveway for the proposed seniors' housing complex at 5668 Balaclava Street away from 41st Avenue to improve the safety of motorists and pedestrians.
- ii. The City is inviting a representative from our Committee to sit on the new South False Creek Temporary Focus Group (TFG). The focus group will work with Engineering and Park Board staff to ensure that improvements to the South False Creek Seawall meet the needs of people of all ages and abilities.
- iii. Open Houses regarding Burrard Bridge improvements will be hosted on June 6th and 16th at the Roundhouse Community Centre.
- iv. On May 20 there will be an Open House regarding re-development at Powell and Hastings Streets and how this will affect the outdoor flea market.

- v. A 311 mobile app will soon be available allowing citizens to make service requests without calling the City.
- vi. Anyone receiving a parking ticket can now visit the City's website to view photographs of their infractions.

Dellie Lidyard indicated that there are an insufficient number of crosswalks on Arbutus Street between 4th and 8th Avenues and asked Ms. Scollard about the possibility of installing a new crosswalk at Arbutus Street and 6th Avenue. She also asked Ms. Scollard why the nearest crosswalk to Brock House is on Highbury Street by the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club rather than the bus stop on Wallace Street. Ms. Scollard said that she would inquire about both issues.

d) *Vancouver Public Library*
No report.

11. Subcommittee Reports

a) *Communications*

Eddy Elmer reminded the Committee members to submit brief (200-word) biographies for the website.

b) *Outreach Subcommittee*
See Appendix A.

In co-operation with the Vancouver Public Library, the Subcommittee is planning an event to recognize National Seniors' Day on October 1. To keep the event more manageable than last year's, it was suggested that it be scaled down and that themed presentations and/or discussion groups be planned for subsequent months. It was suggested that the library ask if staff from its new Media Lab would be willing to videotape the event, which could then be uploaded to YouTube.

Thomas Crean circulated to the Committee hard copies of the *Citizenship Handbook: A Guide to Democratic Rights and Responsibilities*, published by the B.C. Civil Liberties Association (online copy: https://bccla.org/our_work/the-citizenship-handbook-a-guide-to-democratic-rights-and-responsibilities/). He also indicated that he will circulate information about rights and freedoms related to end-of-life issues.

Gudrun Langolf reported that the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) has formed a Seniors Vote campaign to promote interests of older Canadians ahead of upcoming federal election (<http://www.carp.ca/category/advocacy/seniors-vote/>). She also reported that the 411 Seniors Centre Society has requested a presentation from SAC about its role in the community. Thomas Crean indicated that NIDUS Personal Planning Resource Centre might be interested in a similar presentation.

Members were reminded about the upcoming West End Seniors' Network Strawberry Festival on June 13, 1-4pm, at Barclay Manor. Beatrice Ho will make arrangements for SAC to have a booth at the event.

c) *Housing Subcommittee*
See Appendix B.

Members reiterated the importance of age-friendly housing and facilities to reduce expensive hospital stays. They also reiterated the importance of meeting older adults' homecare needs, which are currently underserved by the Better at Home program.

d) *Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee*
See Appendix C.

Dellie Lidyard indicated that there are now 7 members on the Subcommittee, including several members from outside the Committee. She and member Scott Ricker attended the Vehicle for Hire Dialogue. It is not quite clear whether the goals of this dialogue are achievable by October as mandated by Council. The Transportation Committee will continue to participate for the time being.

Chris Morrissey requested an update about changes to crosswalk signal timing at busy intersections such as Knight and Kingsway. Ms. Scollard will inquire.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Eddy Elmer, SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard
THAT this meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next regular meeting:

DATE: Friday, June 19, 2015
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 12:00 pm

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Appendix A

Minutes of May 1 Meeting of the Outreach Subcommittee

A meeting of the Subcommittee was held at 10:00am on May 1 at the Kearney Funeral Home (many thanks to Thomas Crean for making these arrangements). Thomas Crean, Beatrice Ho, Brian Tucker, and Eva Wadolna attended. Regrets: Jackie Weiler

1. Notes of the April 15th meeting were accepted.
2. It was agreed that the rotating chair of the meeting will take notes and circulate them to the Subcommittee for comment before submission to SAC.
3. The Subcommittee will circulate information about various seniors' events (seminars, etc.) and will determine if any members plan to attend. Details of attendance will be forwarded to the SAC chair for inclusion in the End-of-Term report.
4. Thomas Crean will distribute to the Subcommittee copies of the *Citizenship Handbook: A Guide to Democratic Rights and Responsibilities*, published by the B.C. Civil Liberties Association. At its next meeting, the Subcommittee will discuss this as a basis for a "Seniors' Charter of Rights".
5. The Subcommittee has been tasked by the SAC to work with the Vancouver Public Library in organizing an event for National Seniors' Day (October 1). Beatrice Ho will co-ordinate efforts with the library. Possible ideas and themes for the event:
 - a. Focus on story-telling
 - b. Talent competition for older adults, with submissions via YouTube
 - c. Suggestion box to allow older adults to identify their biggest concerns, which would then be relayed to Council
 - d. Expanding the event beyond the Vancouver Public Library (e.g., seniors' discounts in stores and restaurants; writing to TransLink to request free transit for seniors on October 1)
6. Brian Tucker will work with Eddy Elmer on the Social Isolation and Loneliness Amongst Seniors project. One intended outcome will be a "world café" in which various seniors' agencies share their best practices for reducing social isolation and loneliness in Vancouver. The Subcommittee would then try to expand these efforts.
7. Scott Ricker has made arrangements with Blenz to provide coffee for the next SAC meeting. Thomas Crean contacted Waves, who have offered meeting space, assuming we purchase coffee there. He will try to negotiate free coffee and snacks.
8. Beatrice Ho agreed to be the next rotating chair.

The meeting concluded at 11:30am.

Appendix B

Summary of Activities of the Housing Subcommittee

Dogwood Lodge

Chris Morrissey and Colleen McGuinness attended three meetings held at Dogwood Lodge on April 28th. Two meetings in the afternoon were information meetings with staff at the change of their shifts. All employees were invited to attend and learn the early details about the development plans of Vancouver Coastal Health have as the building is redeveloped. The third meeting was held later the same day to share the redevelopment plans with the families and friends of current residents. Going forward there will be regularly scheduled meetings to keep everyone well informed.

Vancouver Coastal Health was instructed by Council to work with SAC as members of the planning committee. Presently the representatives are Chris Morrissey and Colleen McGuinness.

Planning Department Meeting

On April 30, SAC representatives met with senior planning staff for a discussion of planning activities and SAC Housing Subcommittee priorities.

SAC representatives: Eddy Elmer, Colleen McGuinness and Chris Morrissey

City Planning Department representatives: Kevin McNaney, Assistant Director - Vancouver Downtown; Kent Munro, Assistant Director - Midtown and Susan Haid, Assistant Director - Vancouver South

Visitability was identified as the first priority and a follow-up to the efforts on accessibility that resulted in amendments to the building code. John Greer is the staff member who should be contacted.

It was emphasized that SAC would like to have advance consultation on projects that might have an impact on seniors.

Additionally, it was suggested that SAC would like to work with Planning and other relevant departments to create a checklist of elements that are essential to projects that are looking to be designated seniors housing.

Major development projects currently under discussion with Planning staff by region are as follows:

Mid-town

- Grandview-Woodland Community Plan
- Transit to Joyce Collingwood station: enlarge the site and add curb cuts

- Possible development on the south site of False Creek, adjacent to Olympic Village, leased land and the Jericho Lands, which is a partnership between the area's three First Nations bands and Canada Lands Corporation

Vancouver South

- Langara Gardens policy statement: partnership with Peterson Group and Concord
- Oakridge bus barns at Oak and 41st: property owned by Translink; there is an open house scheduled for June; a policy statement will be presented to Council in the fall
- Cambie corridor, phase 3: mid-height and ground-oriented housing; 2-year process
- RCMP: three host First Nations are the property owners; pending
- Little Mountain: Holburn is the property owner; negotiations about the public benefits are ongoing but conclusions expected later this Spring; 20% social housing commitment
- Casa Mia: currently stalled

Vancouver Downtown

- St. Paul's hospital re-location
- West End Community Plan: Jim Diva Park presentation to SAC booked
- Northeast False Creek
- Viaducts - social housing - property owned by Concord (?)
- Downtown Eastside
- Chinatown grants

When asked about downtown development of older, affordable rental properties, it was confirmed that City policy requires developers to make provision to relocate tenants.

Appendix C

Minutes of the Transportation & Mobility Subcommittee Meeting

A working session of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on May 15, 2015, at 9:00am, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Ruby Boychuk
Gudrun Langolf
Dellie Lidyard (Chair)
Angie Natingor (Recorder)
Scott Ricker
Jacqueline Weiler

ABSENT: Bob Worcester (Leave of Absence)

1. Housekeeping Matters

a) Leave of Absence Request

MOVED by Goodrun Langolf, SECONDED by Scott Ricker
THAT a leave of absence be approved for Bob Worcester.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b) Appointment of Recorder

Angie Natingor was appointed as the minute-taker for the meeting.

c) Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Goodrun Langolf, SECONDED by Scott Ricker
THAT the meeting agenda be approved with the addition of one report item.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d) Election of Chair

MOVED by Scott Ricker, SECONDED by Goodrun Langolf
THAT Dellie Lidyard be appointed Chair of the Subcommittee.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Custom Transit Service Review: Meeting with TransLink

Dellie Lidyard reported that the Seniors' Advisory Committee expects to receive a formal report from TransLink regarding the use of taxis as a supplement to HandyDart.

3. Vehicle for Hire Dialogue

As per Dellie Lidyard's written report presented earlier, the Vehicle for Hire Dialogue is a result of a motion from Vancouver City Council directing staff to prepare an amendment to the Vehicle for Hire By-law. Two meetings have been held resulting in the creation of ground rules and information committees. The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2015. Recommendations from the dialogue are due to Council by October 31, 2015.

4. Future Directions for Subcommittee

The Subcommittee will address items brought to its attention by Vancouver City Council and the community.

Gudrun Langolf suggested that the Subcommittee examine enforcement of traffic by-laws. She will prepare more information for review by the next meeting and will request for a presentation by a member of the Traffic Section of the Vancouver Police Department.

5. Report on Bike Café

Gudrun Langolf provided an update from the Bike Café she attended. Discussion focused on regaining civility between walkers, cyclists and drivers. Participants discussed the possibility of requiring drivers to review the rules of the road prior to renewing their drivers' licenses.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Scott Ricker, SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard
THAT this meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next subcommittee meeting:

DATE: Friday, June 19, 2015
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 12:00 pm

The Subcommittee meeting adjourned at 9:26 am.