



SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 9, 2014

A meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee was held on Friday, May 9, 2014, at 9:38 am, in Committee Room #1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Chris Morrissey, Chair
Eddy Elmer
Sharon Fenton
Clemencia Gomez
Scott Graham
Alan Herbert
Dellie Lidyard
Colleen McGuinness, Vice-Chair
Carol Oreck
Rowena Tate
Eva Wadolna

ABSENT: Tom Brunner (Sick Leave)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Tony Tang (Council Liaison)
Commissioner Melissa De Genova
(Park Board Liaison)
Trustee Sophia Woo (School Board Liaison)
Taryn Scollard, Director, Streets Division,
Engineering Services (Staff Liaison)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

Leave of Absence Requests

No leave of absence requests were received.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Sharon Fenton
SECONDED by Eva Wadolna

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting on January 17, 2014, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by
SECONDED by

THAT the meeting notes of the February 21, March 21 and April 11, 2014, working sessions, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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The Committee agreed to vary the order of the agenda to deal with Item 2 "Committee Liaison Reports" prior to the Item 1 presentations. For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.

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1. Presentations

a. Rupert Street Curb Cut

Brent Dozzi, Neighbourhood Parking and Transportation, provided a presentation and responded to questions regarding proposed transportation initiatives along Rupert Street.

Following discussion, the Committee provided the following feedback:

- The Committee supports the reorientation of the curb ramps at East 44th Avenue on the west side of Rupert Street, to a north-south orientation.

- The Committee recommends that railings and signage be installed at these locations to discourage pedestrians from crossing at this intersection and direct them to the designated pedestrian crossings at East 43rd and East 45th Avenues.
 - The Committee does not foresee problems for seniors and persons with disabilities resulting from the removal of the curb ramp on the east side of Rupert Street at East 44th Avenue and therefore supports its removal.
- b. Dementia Follow-up; and
c. Age-friendly Action Plan

Carol Ann Young, Senior Social Planner, provided a presentation entitled “Age Friendly Action Plan Update”, which covered updates on a variety of City strategies targeting seniors’ issues related to transportation infrastructure, safety and emergency services, and housing, and responded to questions.

Ms. Young encouraged Committee members to visit the Age Friendly Action Plan website at: <http://vancouver.ca/people-programs/age-friendly-action-plan>, to share ideas, such as the issues discussed at this meeting, on the “Talk - Healthy City For All” website, and to attend the Advisory Committee Ideas Lab.

Following discussion and questions regarding options to bring forward issues to other levels of government, Ms. Young encouraged the Committee to provide her with a summary of the Committee’s concerns and suggestions, which she will bring forward to her Director to share at the Vancouver VCH/CoV MOU committee and the Metro Social Issues Committee.

2. Committee Liaison Reports

a. Park Board Liaison Report

Commissioner Melissa De Genova provided an update on the proposed Southeast Vancouver Seniors’ Centre and responded to questions regarding the re-development of the Casa Mia site.

Ms. De Genova noted she is putting forward a Notice on Motion regarding the Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Centre at the next Park Board meeting and invited Committee members to provide any additional input on the matter to her, for consideration at the meeting.

b. Council Liaison Report

Councillor Tang provided updates and responded to questions on a variety of matters including the Age-friendly Action Plan, Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Centre, Pearson-Dogwood Redevelopment, Oakridge, and Point Grey Hospital.

3. Subcommittee Reports

Due to time constraints Subcommittee Reports were postponed to the next meeting.

4. New Business

a. Reduction of Funding by United Way for Programs Geared to Socially Isolated Seniors

Following discussion, it was

MOVED by Eddy Elmer

SECONDED by Eva Wadolna

WHEREAS

1. Social isolation and loneliness are major risk factors for physical and mental health problems, as well as early death - risk factors on par with, or greater than, other risk factors (Cacioppo, 2014, Social Relationships and Health: The Toxic Effects of Perceived Social Isolation, Social & Personality Psychology Compass, 8, 58-72);

2. Health problems attributed to loneliness are an additional burden to the healthcare system (British Columbia Ministry of Health, 2004, Social Isolation Among Seniors: An Emerging Issue);
3. Twenty percent of older adults describe themselves as lonely (Statistics Canada, 2012, Social Participation and the Health and Well-being of Canadian Seniors);
4. A study by the Vancouver Foundation noted high levels of loneliness in Vancouver, including among older adults (Vancouver Foundation, 2012, Connections and Engagement);
5. The Mayor's Engaged City Task Force recommended that steps be taken to improve social connectedness in Vancouver;
6. The City of Vancouver passed a motion on October 2, 2013, pledging to seek formal recognition as an Age-Friendly Community by the Province of British Columbia and a Global Age-Friendly City by the World Health Organization;
7. Encouraging social participation and addressing isolation are key steps in the process towards becoming an age-friendly city (World Health Organization, 2007, Global Age-Friendly Cities: A Guide);
8. The Government of Canada, through the National Seniors Council, has identified social isolation and loneliness as one of the top public health issues affecting seniors (Employment and Social Development Canada, March 5, 2014, National Seniors Council Exploring Adverse Effects of Social Isolation);
9. Evidence supports the efficacy of various programs to prevent and ameliorate social isolation and loneliness (C. M. Masi et al., 2011, A Meta-Analysis of Interventions to Reduce Loneliness, Personality and Social Psychology Review, 15, 219-266);

10. The United Way of the Lower Mainland recently announced a \$1.65 million reduction in funding to 31 seniors' groups, many of whom rely on these funds to administer programs to prevent and ameliorate social isolation and loneliness;
11. These organizations may be unable to find alternate sources of funding for these programs, both now and in the future;
12. This situation underscores the patchwork and unstable nature of the current state of funding for seniors' preventative programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee recommend that City Council request the Province of British Columbia to:

1. Cover the United Way's funding shortfall so that critical programs to prevent and combat isolation and loneliness are not eliminated;
2. Create a more systematic and longer-term plan for funding seniors' preventative and intervention programs.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Accessible Dental Care for Seniors

Eddy Elmer advised a representative from the Intercultural Society is requesting seniors to look into working with community groups and the dental profession in Vancouver to find ways to provide affordable and accessible dental care for seniors.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Eva Wadolna
SECONDED by Clemencia Gomez

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next 2014 Working Sessions:

June 20, 2014, 9:30 am, Business Centre, Second Floor, City Hall
July 18, 2014, 9:30 am, Business Centre, Second Floor, City Hall
August 15, 2014, 9:30 am, Business Centre, Second Floor, City Hall
November 21, 2014, 9:30 am, Business Centre, Second Floor, City Hall

Next 2014 Regular Meetings:

September 12, 2014, 9:30 am, Committee Room #1, Third Floor, City Hall
October 17, 2014, 9:30 am, Committee Room #1, Third Floor, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 12:15 pm.

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