

ACCESS AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 5, 2008

A meeting of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in the Strathcona Meeting Room, Sub-ground, Vancouver City Hall.

Members Present: Dena Dawson, Vice-Chair
Tasia Alexis
Carroll Thomas Brunker
David Holtzman
Anne Judge
James Chi Ming Pau
Patrick Simpson
Ingrid Steenhuisen
Emese Szucs
Michael Yue

Members Absent: Stephanie Cadieux (Leave of Absence)
Larry Cantrell, Co-Chair (Sick Leave)
Craig Langston, Co-Chair (Leave of Absence)
Arun Mehta (Leave of Absence)
Chris Morrissey
David Nielsen
Kathleen Shiels (Sick Leave)
Jill Weiss (Sick Leave)

Also Present: Councillor Heather Deal
Mary Clare Zak, Director, Social Planning
Monica Kay, Director, Equal Employment Opportunity

City Clerk's Office: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

Adoption of Agenda

The Committee approved the Agenda.

Adoption of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of January 8, 2008, were adopted.

Leave of Absence

The Committee approved Leaves of Absence for Stephanie Cadieux and Craig Langston for this meeting.

Correspondence

The Correspondence Folder was distributed.

1. Election of Officers

This item was postponed to the March 4, 2008, meeting.

2. Measuring Up

Monica Kay, Director, Equal Employment Opportunity Program, provided an update on Measuring Up and sought the Committee's feedback on participation (*material distributed - on file*).

Ms. Kay reviewed the four main elements the project is based on and the evaluation process. She also responded to questions

The following members expressed an interest in participating:

Michael Yue	Anne Judge
Tasia Alexis	David Holtzman
Tom Brunker	Emese Szuks
Dena Dawson	Ingrid Steenhuisen

Should members wish to contact Ms. Kay, she can be reached at 604.873.7799.

3. Southeast False Creek

Brad McCannell, Canadian Barrier Free Design Inc., provided an update concerning accessibility issues involving raised thresholds in developments in Southeast False Creek and sought the Committee's feedback on addressing this matter.

During discussion, it was suggested building envelope regulations may be focused on ensuring no leakage thereby including raised thresholds in the door ways and balconies of new developments. Councillor Heather Deal, together with staff, responded to questions regarding appropriate action on this matter. Members agreed that this should be brought to Council's attention.

RESOLVED

THAT the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee recommends to Council that they direct staff to take timely action on ensuring that building envelope regulations that are creating raised thresholds to the front doors and balconies of developments in Southeast False Creek and other Olympic facilities, are changed to allow for flush transitions; and

FURTHER THAT staff bring recommendations to Council that are more universal for ensuring flush transitions throughout any new developments; and

FURTHER THAT Council send a copy of this Motion to Mayor and Council for the Municipality of Whistler.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Positive Action with Students (PAWS) & Canine Connection Programs**

Tasia Alexis, introduced Sharon and Ryan Hill of West Coast Assistance Teams, who are partnered with the Developmental Disabilities Association, on a youth development and health improvement program called *Positive Action With Students (PAWS)* and *Canine Connections*.

The Hill's provided an overview on West Coast Assistance Teams, gave a presentation which focussed on the PAWS program and sought the Committee's endorsement of the program (*materials distributed - on file*). They also asked for assistance in obtaining donated space (approximately 3,000 sq ft, near transit) from the City of Vancouver and responded to questions in relation to this request.

During discussion, staff commented on the high number of such requests that the City of Vancouver receives annually and the difficulty in obtaining such a facility given the limited amount of available space in the city.

Members felt the program is very useful; however, one member expressed concern with regard to policy issues in relation to this request.

RESOLVED

THAT the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee endorses West Coast Assistance Teams' *Positive Action With Students (PAWS)* and *Canine Connections* programs in principle.

CARRIED

(David Holtzman opposed)

5. Annual Report - 2007

This item was postponed to the March 4, 2008, meeting.

6. Rezoning Applications

a) 1020 - 1090 Victoria Drive

Patrick Simpson provided a brief report on this rezoning application, noting issues have been forwarded to staff, and responded to a question.

b) 333 East Pender Street (Grace Senior Home)

The Vice-Chair circulated the rezoning application. Patrick Simpson agreed to review and report back at the March meeting.

There was a brief discussion on appropriate procedure for reviewing rezoning applications.

7. Sub-committee Reports

a) Seniors'

The Vice-Chair provided a brief update and suggested a full report be given at the next meeting. It was also noted that the Seniors' and Housing Sub-committees are now meeting the last Friday of each month back to back with the Seniors' from 11 a.m. to noon and Housing from noon to 1 p.m.

8. Council Liaison's Comments

Council Heather Deal provided updates on the following:

- recent recommendations from BC Coalition of People with Disabilities regarding changes to provincial policies for persons with disabilities;

- universal design issues; and
- a recent development which is barrier-free.

9. New Business

None

10. Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 4, 2008
5:00 p.m.
Strathcona Meeting Room

The Committee adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

* * * * *