



## **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**June 27, 2013**

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 27, 2013, at 5:25 pm, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

**PRESENT:** Jill Weiss, Chair  
Sheryl Burns  
Justine Aaron\*  
Tasia Alexis  
Cathy Browne (via conference phone)  
Paul Caune  
Craig Langston (via conference phone)  
Laura Mackenrot

**ABSENT:** Jeanette Andersen  
Paul Gauthier (Leave of Absence)  
Greg Pyc  
Laurie Ringaert

**ALSO PRESENT:** Trustee Sophie Woo, VSB  
Anne Nickerson, EEO (Staff Liaison)

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

## **Leave of Absence Requests**

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Paul Caune

THAT Paul Gauthier be granted a leave of absence for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Justine Aaron absent for the vote)

## **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Sheryl Burns  
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the minutes of the meeting of April 25, 2013, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Justine Aaron absent for the vote)

During discussion regarding the minutes it was,

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons With Disabilities Advisory Committee is unanimously opposed to the proposed housing continuum for the Pearson site as presented by Vancouver Coastal Health and Lower Mainland Facilities Management at the Committee's meeting on April 25, 2013, because:

- The housing continuum substitutes several small institutions for one large institution.
- The institutional model is outdated and is not best practice.
- Best practice for people with disabilities is independent community living.
- Vancouver Coastal Health has ignored best practices internationally and in BC, including:
  - UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities includes the right of persons with disabilities to live in the community.

- European Union Policy.
  - US Supreme Court decision on the right of people with disabilities to live in the community.
  - Best practice internationally includes Sweden, Denmark and Norway, with no institutions for persons with disabilities.
  - Best practice in BC: persons with developmental disabilities, many with very high level physical complex care needs, have been de-institutionalized and living well in the community for over thirty years.
- Adequate appropriate home care is essential to support community living.
  - People with disabilities should have the same rights and freedoms as other citizens.
  - What choice will people have over where they live, who works for them, what they eat?
  - Planning should be for what people with disabilities will need in the future.
  - Citizens have been demanding the closure of institutions and the implementation of community based supports for over 60 years.
  - A health-based medical model is not appropriate for making decisions about housing for persons with disabilities
  - The needs of people with disabilities are different than those of seniors.
  - Historically, able bodied people have typically not listened to people with disabilities about their own needs.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Justine Aaron absent for the vote)

## **1. Taxi Driver Training Program**

The Committee discussed the Taxi Driver Training Program initiated by Vancouver Taxi Companies and referred to a document entitled “Taxi Driver Training Program – Summary for Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee” (on file).

MOVED by Sheryl Burns  
SECONDED by Paul Caune

THAT the Persons With Disabilities Advisory Committee endorses the Taxi Driver Training Program proposed by the Vancouver Taxi Association and asks the City of Vancouver to accept this training and testing as the required taxi driver training for a trial period of two years.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **2. Pearson Redevelopment Project**

The Committee held a roundtable discussion and brainstorming session regarding options to ensure that global best practices are followed at the Pearson Redevelopment Project. Ross Chilton, Executive Director, Community Living Society, and Patrick Chan, Planning Assistant, Planning and Development Services, also participated in the discussion.

MOVED by Sheryl Burns  
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

THAT the Persons With Disabilities Advisory Committee will prepare a paper on global best practices for housing and support in the community for persons with disabilities, and that this would be presented to City staff, City Council, the Pearson Project Team, and the broader public.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Justine Aaron absent for the vote)

MOVED by Paul Caune  
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons With Disabilities Advisory Committee is concerned that the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will not be followed in the Pearson Redevelopment Project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Justine Aaron absent for the vote)

### **3. New Business**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Sheryl Burns  
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Next Regular Meeting:**

DATE: Thursday, July 25, 2013  
TIME: 5:15 pm  
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room  
Main Floor, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 8:23 pm.

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