



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 24, 2013

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, October 24, 2013, at 5:20 pm, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Jill Weiss, Chair
Justine Aaron
Tasia Alexis*
Jeanette Andersen
Cathy Browne
Paul Caune, Vice-Chair*
Craig Langston*
Laura Mackenrot
Greg Pyc

ABSENT: Paul Gauthier (Sick Leave)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Geoff Meggs, Vancouver City Council
Commissioner Melissa De Genova, Vancouver Park Board
Trustee Sophia Woo, Vancouver School Board
Rajpal Kohli, EEO

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Leave of Absence Requests

None.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Cathy Browne
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT the minutes of the June 27, 2013, meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Tasia Alexis, Paul Caune and Craig Langston absent for the vote)

1. Conduct Guidelines for Civic Agency Board, Committee and Commission Members

This matter was postponed to the November 28, 2013 meeting.

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The Committee agreed to deal with item 2 next, then provide a brief overview of the remaining and new business items, before dealing with item 3. The Minutes are recorded in numerical order for ease of reference.

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2. Discussion of the Pearson Redevelopment

The Chair and Tasia Alexis provided an overview of the progress with the Pearson Redevelopment, noting concerns about the current housing and support proposal which lacks details to prevent institutions and communication and consultation difficulties with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and Lower Mainland Facilities Management (LMFM).

Yardley McNeill, Major Projects Group, noted a recent productive meeting with PDAC representatives about these issues and that many of the details requested by the Committee can be included at the rezoning, development permit and building permit stages.

MOVED by Greg Pyc
SECONDED by Jeanette Andersen

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee authorizes a small team of Committee members, to consist initially of Jill Weiss and Tasia Alexis to meet with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and Lower Mainland Facilities Management (LMFM) on a regular basis, on the following conditions:

- A City of Vancouver Pearson Project staff is present;
- A City-provided facilitator is present;
- The Committee is provided, in advance of the first meeting, information requested, and which VCH and LMFM agreed to provide, with descriptions of the conditions of people they think should be reinstitutionalized, and the reasons why; and same year per diem rates for Pearson and Noble House;
- VCH staff able to make decisions regarding the development are present at all meetings, and
- Taking and provision of accurate minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Craig Langston absent for the vote)

MOVED by Greg Pyc
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

THAT the Chair write a letter to Vancouver Coastal Health clarifying the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee's concerns with the current Pearson housing and support proposal, and articulating the principles and details that need to be included in their proposal.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee agreed to invite VCH and LMFM representatives to the November 28, 2013, meeting.

3. Committee Workload and Prioritizing Issues

The Chair noted it would be useful to have administrative help for the Committee. Greg Pyc agreed to investigate potential resources.

MOVED by Greg Pyc
SECONDED by Craig Langston

THAT the Committee wholeheartedly thanks Council for passing its historic adaptability housing by-law, which is the first for Canada and enables all citizens in their own homes at all stages of their lives.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Point Grey Corridor Accessibility

The Chair provided an update, noting further information has been requested from staff.

5. Proposed 2014 Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Greg Pyc
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the following regular meeting dates for 2014:

- February 27, 2014
- March 27, 2014
- June 26, 2014
- September 25, 2014
- October 23, 2014
- November 27, 2014

All meetings to begin at 5:30 pm at Vancouver City Hall, unless otherwise advised when the agenda is published.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Chair noted working sessions occur on non-regular meeting months and a special meeting may be called in early January.

6. New Business

a. Provincial Review of Disability Policy

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Greg Pyc

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee consult about the Provincial Review of Disability Policy to become the most accessible province in the following two areas:

- appropriate personal support for community living and no institutions, and
- a visitable and/or adaptive housing law.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. West End BIA

No report.

c. TransLink Review of Service

The Chair reported on the most recent TransLink consultation on custom transit, noting it focused on a TransLink proposal for an in-person application process for new and current HandyDART users which was opposed by participants.

MOVED by Jeanette Andersen
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

- A. THAT the City of Vancouver Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee is opposed to the implementation by TransLink of an in-person and/or telephone application process for HandyDART users for the following reasons:
1. In-person applications make it more difficult to apply and discourage persons from applying for HandyDART because the process is humiliating, embarrassing, frightening and invasive.

2. In-person applications unfairly reduce the number of persons applying for HandyDART because many people are not willing to go through an invasive process – reductions of applications between 20-50% have been reported.
3. The application process is a barrier to the use of HandyDART services and the process eliminates the most frail and vulnerable users.
4. The in-person application process is extremely expensive and the funds should be used for needed HandyDART service.
5. In-person applications unfairly discriminate against persons with mental health conditions, cognitive disabilities, dementia and persons with English as a Second Language.

Therefore, the reduction of demand by eliminating the most frail and vulnerable users is unfair, discriminatory and not acceptable in a public transit system.

- B. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends TransLink adopt the revised paper application previously submitted by seniors and disabilities groups.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Craig Langston
SECONDED by Justine Aaron

WHEREAS:

1. Many of the actions needed to improve cost-effectiveness, efficiency and increase the supply of HandyDART rides are simple and do not require additional funds to accomplish.

2. The current need for HandyDART rides exceeds the supply of rides.
3. The funding for all public transit is very limited, so efficiency measures are needed.
4. HandyDART rides are the most expensive part of the public transit system.
5. The need for HandyDART rides will continue to increase substantially as the population of seniors increases

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The City of Vancouver Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that TransLink promptly implement the following measures to improve the real accessibility of the conventional bus system and improve HandyDART cost-effectiveness, efficiency, and the supply of rides relative to demand:

1. **Increase the real accessibility of the conventional bus system, so more persons with disabilities can use the bus instead of the more expensive HandyDART system.**
 - i. Implement a clear policy that bus drivers must load seniors and persons with disabilities first on conventional buses. Ensure that this policy is communicated to all drivers and supervisors, and that implementation is monitored.
 - ii. Implement a clear policy that priority for the two wheelchair positions on the bus are reserved for persons who use a wheelchair, and that drivers should ask anyone in those locations without a wheelchair to move out of the seat if a person using a wheelchair wants to board. Ensure that this policy is communicated to all drivers and supervisors, and that its implementation is monitored.
 - iii. Ensure that there is signage indicating the priority for wheelchair seats on the bus are for people who use

wheelchairs, and that anyone without a wheelchair will be asked to move if a wheelchair user wishes to board.

- iv. Ensure a no trip denial policy on the conventional buses for persons with disabilities, including the requirement to allow persons with wheelchairs to board at all bus stops whether they are labelled accessible or not.
- v. Implement a free conventional bus ride system for persons with disabilities, similar to the free ride program currently in place for persons who are blind.

2. Increase the number of Custom Transit rides available without increasing funding by increasing the use of taxis within HandyDART and increasing the maximum monthly TaxiSaver amount and decreasing the user cost of TaxiSavers

- i. Increase the use of taxis in HandyDART to at least 50% of the service. This would increase the total number of rides by about 25% and would likely eliminate the trip denial rate.
- ii. Decrease the user payment for TaxiSavers from 50% to 25% and increase the value of TaxiSavers that can be purchased monthly from \$100 to \$300. This will divert significant number of rides from the more expensive HandyDART system, and still provide rides at a lower cost than HandyDART. It will also provide users with spontaneous service.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Park Board

The Chair noted a miscommunication had occurred between the Committee and Park Board regarding consultation about the Seaside Greenway which has not yet occurred. Commissioner De Genova, Park Board, responded, noting she requested staff include the Committee in its public consultation.

The Committee discussed the possibility of inviting the Park Board to the next meeting.

MOVED by Craig Langston
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee request the Park Board include a representative from the Committee on any advisory body created to provide input on the Seaside Greenway in the terms of reference for that body.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Paul Caune absent for the vote)

Cathy Browne agreed to serve as the Committee's representative if an invitation is extended by the Park Board to join a Seaside Greenway advisory body.

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The Committee recessed at 6:53 pm and reconvened at 7:02 pm with the same members present.

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e. Council of Councils

The Chair circulated draft comments for slides for the Committee's presentation at the Council of Council on November 14, 2013.

7. Adjournment

Moved by Greg Pyc
SECONDED by Justine Aaron

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, November 28, 2013
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

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