



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 9, 2013

A special meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Monday, December 9, 2013, at 4:00 pm, in Town Hall Room 116, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Jill Weiss, Chair
Justine Aaron
Tasia Alexis
Jeanette Andersen
Cathy Browne
Paul Gauthier
Laura Mackenrot

ABSENT: Craig Langston
Greg Pyc

ALSO PRESENT: Anne Nickerson, EEO

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

"IN CAMERA" Meeting

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee will go into a meeting later this day, which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2(1) of the Vancouver Charter, to discuss matters related to paragraphs:

(a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the city or another position appointed by the city.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Pearson Centre Redevelopment

a. *Include Support at All Planning Stages when Considering Housing for Persons with Disabilities*

MOVED by Paul Gauthier

SECONDED by Jeanette Andersen

WHEREAS:

1. In a memorandum dated November 22, 2013, the General Manager of Planning and Development advised the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee that the City is not in a position to determine best practices in health care, but would support a “facilitated conversation between the [Committee] and Vancouver Coastal Health on specific health care planning for the site”;
2. On April 23, 2013, Vancouver City Council unanimously passed a motion requiring assurances that the mix of health care services, facilities and residential options for people with disabilities resulting from the Pearson Lands redevelopment reflects global best practices and full consultation;
3. The mandate of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee includes suggesting “solutions to identified gaps and barriers that impede persons with disabilities from fully participating in all aspects of city life”;
4. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to live in the community and that full inclusion and participation in the community requires that:

“Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community”;

5. The lack of adequate and appropriate home support services will prevent many persons with disabilities, such as the residents of the Pearson Centre, from full participation in city life and will lead to isolation and segregation of those persons;
6. Appropriate and adequate home support is integral to the use of housing for persons with disabilities. Support is a housing issue, not a health care issue, and support is an essential requirement for the participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of city life, in the provision of appropriate housing, in the ability to live in the community, and in the successful closure of the Pearson Centre and redevelopment of the Pearson site;
7. Thorough detailed advanced planning is an essential best practice emphasized in all of the recent global guidance on successful transition from institutions to independent community living;
8. Previous experience in Vancouver demonstrates that the inclusion of appropriate supports and appropriate housing results in successful inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of city life, and that the failure to provide appropriate supports has resulted in disastrous impacts on the lives and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the City of Vancouver and has also had a significant impact on the City of Vancouver’s services and operation:
 - a. The deinstitutionalization of persons with cognitive disabilities in British Columbia included detailed advanced planning for and provision of full, adequate support for persons with cognitive

- disabilities to live full lives in the community, and this deinstitutionalization was successful and resulted in people with cognitive disabilities participating fully in all aspects of life in the City of Vancouver;
- b. The deinstitutionalization of persons with mental health disabilities did not include the provision of adequate supports and resulted in significant deterioration for persons living with mental health disabilities, and also had a significant impact on the City of Vancouver, causing the City to take substantial measures to retroactively try to correct this faulty deinstitutionalization process;
- 9. Inclusion of support throughout the planning process for the Pearson Centre redevelopment will reduce the risk of an unsuccessful transition from institutionalized to community living;
 - 10. It is well-established in Canadian courts and tribunals that, to ensure equality for persons with disabilities, it is sometimes necessary to provide reasonable accommodation by modifying established procedures.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommend to Vancouver City Council

- A. THAT Council require assurances of global best practices in models of support and community living through all phases of planning for the Pearson Centre redevelopment.
- B. THAT the planning process be modified for the Pearson Centre redevelopment to ensure that support is included in all considerations of housing.
- C. THAT the current residents of Pearson Centre and other persons with disabilities are assured their right to live independently as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Recission of Motion from November 28, 2013, meeting

RECISSION MOVED by Paul Gauthier
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

WHEREAS

1. On November 28, 2013, the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee passed a motion at its November 28, 2013 meeting approving the document entitled, "A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Redevelopment" and also approving the addition of a fourth small group housing and support option to this proposal;
2. The document "A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Redevelopment" has now been revised to include the fourth option requested by the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee rescind the motion approved at the November 27, 2013, meeting regarding approval of the document entitled "A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Redevelopment" in order to substitute another motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
AND BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

**c. A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson
Redevelopment
December 9, 2013**

MOVED by Paul Gauthier
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

WHEREAS

1. The mandate of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory committee includes suggesting “solutions to identified gaps and barriers that impede persons with disabilities from fully participating in all aspects of city life”;
2. The terms of reference of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee includes that the Committee provides input to City Council and staff about issues of concern, including matters that require action by the City;
3. The current Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH)/Lower Mainland Facilities Management (LMFM) proposal for the Pearson Centre redevelopment does not reflect global best practices and is in direct violation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights on Persons with Disabilities;
4. The current VCH/LMFM proposal for housing and support is a barrier that prevents persons with disabilities from fully participating in city life;
5. The housing and support model developed by the Pearson Residents Redevelopment Group, the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and BC Coalition of People with Disabilities, described in the document dated December 9, 2013, entitled, “A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Redevelopment” is an excellent and effective solution to this barrier;

6. The housing and support proposal noted in 5, above:
 - Includes
 - i. Two excellent independent individual living options that reflect global best practices and which are taken from Vancouver Coastal Health's original housing continuum;
 - ii. A proven group living option, the Greenhouse, which is documented to provide higher quality of life, better health outcomes, and higher resident, staff and family satisfaction than institutions;
 - iii. A proven small group-living option, which is a global best practice, is documented to provide higher quality of life, and is already successfully in place in Vancouver;
 - Reflects the expertise of and was developed collaboratively by the Pearson Residents Redevelopment Group, members of the City of Vancouver Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, and the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities; and is endorsed by other disability groups including Spinal Cord Injury BC, the Cerebral Palsy Association, Neil Squire Society, the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Ataxia Society;
 - Incorporates global best practices, is consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, meets the needs of current Pearson residents and provides current and future persons with disabilities with the essential support to fully participate in city life;
 - Provides essential support for persons with disabilities while at the same time preserving their autonomy and rights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee endorses the proposal for housing and support described in the document dated December 9, 2013, entitled “A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Redevelopment”, and recommends that Vancouver Coastal Health adopt it as their sole model for housing and support for persons with disabilities on the Pearson Centre redevelopment.

- B. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee advises City Council that this proposal should be required for the Pearson Centre Redevelopment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Future Changes to “A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Redevelopment”

MOVED by Paul Gauthier
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

WHEREAS the document dated December 9, 2013, entitled “A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Redevelopment” has been collaboratively prepared by the Pearson Residents Redevelopment Group, the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities, and reflects the expertise and experience of these groups.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposal described in the document dated December 9, 2013, entitled “A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Redevelopment” can only be revised further with the explicit support of all three groups: the Pearson Residents Redevelopment Group, and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 4:33 pm.

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