



## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

APRIL 24, 2014

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, April 24, 2014, at 5:40 pm, in Committee Room No. 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

**PRESENT:** Jill Weiss, Chair  
Tasia Alexis  
Jeanette Andersen  
Cathy Browne, Vice-Chair  
Guillaume Dufresne  
Paul Gauthier\*  
Craig Langston  
Laura Mackenrot  
Tom Patch  
Leonor Vlug\*

**ABSENT:** Sheryl Burns  
Greg Pyc

**ALSO PRESENT:** Parker Johnson, EEO (*Staff Liaison*)  
Christine Gordon, BC Coalition of  
People with Disabilities

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

#### Leave of Absence Requests

There were no requests for leaves of absence.

## Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held March 27, 2014, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Leonor Vlug absent for the vote)

### 1. Update on meeting with BC Housing Vice President

Tom Patch, along with Cathy Browne, Paul Gauthier, and Christine Gordon, BC Coalition of People with Disabilities, provided an update on a meeting with the Vice President, Asset Strategies and Development Services, BC Housing (*Meeting Notes on file*), and responded to questions.

MOVED by Tom Patch  
SECONDED by Paul Gauthier

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the notes from the meeting with the Vice President, Asset Strategies and Development Services, BC Housing, as presented at its meeting on April 24, 2014.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Chair will draft a letter to the Vice President, Asset Strategies and Development Services, BC Housing, in response to his recent email, for the Committee's review.

## 2. Wheelchair accessible housing & subsidies in co-ops

Thom Armstrong, Executive Director, Co-operative Housing Federation BC (CHF BC), provided an overview on Housing Co-ops and Accessibility in Vancouver.

Key issues identified:

- Inadequate supply;
- Some accessible units occupied by persons who don't need accessibility features;
- Aging demographic increases need for accessible units;
- Co-ops losing subsidy:
  - 35-year agreements with CMHC end between now and 2020 with no successor programs;
  - affordability crisis looms for more than 3,500 low-income households.

In response to questions, Mr. Armstrong agreed to:

- Prepare an inventory of wheelchair accessible units in co-ops to include:
  - Specific accessibility features (Committee to provide list);
  - Number of persons using/not using wheelchairs in accessible units;
  - Number of accessible units with subsidy;
- Participate in a workshop with key stakeholders;
- Explore ways to ensure accessible units are occupied by persons with wheelchairs;
- Invite PWDAC to participate in educational sessions;
- Build accessibility into asset management.

In discussion, members agreed the workshop should take priority and be held soon. Mr. Armstrong suggested the Committee consider inviting Andy Broderick, Vice-President of Community Investment, VanCity.

Next steps identified:

- Designate a subcommittee to coordinate work on wheelchair accessible housing;
- Organize workshop as the highest priority;
- Develop a list of features for an inventory and provide to CHF BC;
- Provide CHF BC with accessibility suggestions for remodeling and for building new units;
- Define “wheelchair accessible housing”;
- Prepare documentation of affordable, accessible housing need and projections;
- Consult with other civic disability committees in BC.

Later steps include:

- Discuss issue with provincial government, including possible meeting with Rich Coleman, Minister Responsible for Housing;
- Form a coalition of groups concerned with the crises.

MOVED by Paul Gauthier

SECONDED by Jeanette Andersen

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee establish a subcommittee to address the affordable, accessible housing crisis, with the following members: Tasia Alexis, Cathy Browne, Guillaume Dufresne, Paul Gauthier, Tom Patch, Jill Weiss, and Christine Gordon (Coalition of People with Disabilities).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee also reviewed more detailed notes from its discussion on March 27, 2014, regarding the wheelchair accessible housing crises (*on file*).

MOVED by Cathy Browne  
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the detailed notes on the wheelchair accessible housing crises, as presented at its meeting on April 24, 2014.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **3. Approval of White Paper submission**

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Submission to the White Paper Consultation dated March 2014.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **4. Decision about uploading previous transportation submissions**

The Chair sought the Committee's approval to upload two transportation-related documents which were approved in the previous term but relate to the current Committee's work plan (*documents on file*).

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee agrees that the following transportation-related documents, approved in the previous term, are relevant to the existing Committee's work plan;

FURTHER THAT the Committee requests that these transportation-related documents be uploaded to the Committee's webpage:

- Submission to the Passenger Transportation Board on Accessible Transportation in British Columbia (April 18, 2011);
- Issues and Concerns about the TransLink Report: *“Moving Forward: Improving Metro Vancouver’s Transportation Network”* (October 4, 2011).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## 5. New Business

### a) TransLink - HandyDART

The Chair reported on a recent discussion with Merrilee Ashworth, Manager, Business Development and Contract Services, TransLink, regarding TransLink’s planned improvements in HandyDART, noting that one in nine non-subscription ride requests is currently denied, and responded to questions.

### b) Downtown Bus Service Review

MOVED by Tasia Alexis

SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee authorize Laura Mackenrot and Cathy Browne to prepare a letter to the City’s Transportation Plan team regarding accessibility of the Downtown Bus Service Plan and clearly direct staff to forward the letter to TransLink;

FURTHER THAT the draft letter be reviewed and approved by the Committee by email.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Paul Gauthier absent for the vote)

## ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Paul Gauthier absent for the vote)

### Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, June 26, 2014  
TIME: 5:30 pm  
PLACE: Committee Room No. 1  
Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 8:24 pm.

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