



## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

**NOVEMBER 27, 2014**

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 27, 2014, at 5:16 pm, in the Town Hall, Room 116, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

**PRESENT:** Jill Weiss, Chair  
Tasia Alexis  
Jeanette Andersen  
Cathy Browne, Vice-Chair  
Paul Gauthier\*  
Craig Langston  
Laura Mackenrot  
Tom Patch\* (*via teleconference – Items 1 & 2*)  
Leonor Vlug

**ABSENT:** Sheryl Burns  
Guillaume Dufresne  
Greg Pyc

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Geoff Meggs, Council Liaison  
Anne Nickerson, Director, EEO, Staff Liaison

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

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

## **Approval of Agenda**

MOVED by Cathy Browne  
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee revise the agenda to change the subject of Item 2 from “Approval of Event Accessibility Guidelines” to “Pearson Redevelopment” and renumber the remaining agenda items accordingly.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Tom Patch absent for the vote)

## **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Craig Langston  
SECONDED by Jeanette Andersen

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meeting on September 25, 2014, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Tom Patch absent for the vote)

### **1. Wheelchair-Accessible Housing Report**

The Chair along with Tom Patch provided an update on the following and responded to questions:

- wheelchair-accessible strategic planning session;
- how to include standards for power wheelchair users in civic wheelchair-accessible standards; and
- next steps until the Committee is re-established.

MOVED by Tasia Alexis  
SECONDED by Jeanette Andersen

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee invite, as early as possible in 2015, Valerie Durant or appropriate staff from Social Infrastructure to present the City's Wheelchair Accessible Building Standards for the Committee's review.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED Cathy Browne

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommend that the City's Wheelchair Accessible Housing Standards be amended to ensure accessibility for persons who use motorized wheelchairs including the following standards:

- environmental controls or roughing in for them;
- ceiling tracks or the roughing in for them;
- larger turning circles (2250 mm) to accommodate persons using motorized wheelchairs;
- additional electrical outlets as per SAFERhome standards; and
- sufficient unit size to accommodate the above.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **2. Pearson Redevelopment**

The Chair provided a verbal background on the Pearson Redevelopment and noted that the Request for Proposal specifies only one type of housing – individual apartments – while the policy passed by Council included the consensus proposal with four housing and support models.

Councillor Meggs indicated that he believed City policy would take precedence and agreed to follow-up with the General Manager of Planning and Development.

MOVED by Tasia Alexis  
SECONDED by Paul Gauthier

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee has made a significant impact on the Pearson Redevelopment and that it is important that the Committee continue its involvement in this matter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **3. Approval of Event Accessibility Guidelines**

The Chair sought the Committee's approval of the Event Accessibility Guidelines and input on whether different guidelines are needed for civic permitted and city financed events.

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Craig Langston

WHEREAS City of Vancouver events should be accessible and inclusive to all citizens in Vancouver.

WHEREAS Section 8 of the BC Human Rights Code provides:

“Discrimination in accommodation, service and facility  
A person must not, without a bona fide and reasonable justification,

- (a) deny to a person or class of persons any accommodation, service, or facility customarily available to the public, or

- (b) discriminate against a person or class of persons regarding any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public

because of the physical or mental disability... or age... of that person or class of persons”.

WHEREAS the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee has developed Event Accessibility Guidelines based on a thorough review of event accessibility guidelines from around the world including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Bristol, Communication Disabilities Across Canada, Australia, Canadian Association of Disability Service Providers in Post-Secondary Education, Disabled Women’s Network of Canada, Disabled Women’s Network of Ontario, Duke University, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Oregon State University, Special Interest Group on Accessible Computing, Smith, Trinidad, Vancouver Island University, and Washington State University.

WHEREAS the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee has consulted with local and national disability organizations including Access for Sight Impaired Consumers, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Citizens for Accessible Neighbourhoods, Disabled Women’s Network Canada, Disability Alliance BC, Greater Vancouver Association of the Deaf, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Neil Squire Society, North Shore Association for the Physically Handicapped, Sam Sullivan Disability Foundation, Seniors Advisory Committee, Spinal Cord Injury BC, Westcoast Association of Visual Language Interpreters, Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Voice of the Cerebral Palsied, and included their feedback to ensure these guidelines effectively meet the needs of all disability groups.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that Vancouver City Council adopt these Event Accessibility Guidelines as the standard for civic sponsored events.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Tom Patch absent for the vote)

#### **4. Uber**

The Chair provided an update on this matter and sought the Committee's advice on whether to express concern about Uber to City Council and the Passenger Transportation Board.

MOVED by Cathy Browne  
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee authorize the Chair and Vice-Chair to prepare a draft letter to Mayor and Council, the Passenger Transportation Board and Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation, for approval by the Committee via email, expressing concern that the province oppose any changes to the taxi industry that would undermine access and inclusion and affordability for persons with disabilities; specifically any transportation system should accept cash, taxi savers, have a sufficient amount of accessible vehicles, adequate insurance, adequate oversight and proper driver training for persons with disabilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Tom Patch absent for the vote)

## **5. Accessibility Audit**

The Staff Liaison provided an overview on the accessibility audit of Vancouver City Hall which included an update on the Request for Proposals (RFP), noting SPARC, the successful bidder, is prepared to meet with the Committee.

In discussion, members expressed concern regarding the lack of consultation with the Committee prior to initiating the RFP and the recent email from the Project Manager, Facilities Planning, in relation to this matter.

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Jeanette Andersen

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee authorize the Chair and Vice-Chair to prepare a response to Paul Fazekas' email dated November 25, 2014, regarding the Accessibility Audit.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Tom Patch absent for the vote)

## **6. Committee Size and Funding**

The Chair sought the Committee's feedback on whether to increase the Committee's size and request a budget.

The Chair also noted that Guillaume Dufresne submitted his resignation as he has relocated to Victoria.

In discussion, the Chair explained the rationale for the recommendations and the Committee expressed support.

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommend to Council that the size of the Committee be increased to 14 members in order to better accommodate workload.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Tom Patch absent for the vote)

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee authorize the Chair and Vice-Chair to make recommendations to Council on future Committee appointments.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Tom Patch absent for the vote)

MOVED by Paul Gauthier  
SECONDED by Jeanette Andersen

WHEREAS the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee regularly conducts best practices research;

AND WHEREAS the printing expenses for the best practices research range from \$300 to \$1000 annually;

AND WHEREAS the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee relies on honoraria for volunteer research assistance to gather best practices research;



AND WHEREAS the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee regularly conducts public meetings or forums with refreshments and associated costs;

AND WHEREAS Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee members often pay for these expenses out of their own budgets.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that Council approve an annual budget of \$1000 in order to cover printing, research honoraria and meeting supply expenses.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Tom Patch absent for the vote)

## **7. Final Report**

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Final report as presented at its meeting on November 27, 2014.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Paul Gauthier and Tom Patch absent for the vote)

## **8. Progress with ongoing work**

Written reports were previously distributed regarding the Committee's progress with TransLink services, the Transportation Plan and the Streets Restoration Manual.

## **9. Other Business**

The Chair provided closing comments and thanked members for the accomplishments this term.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Tasia Alexis  
SECONDED by Craig Langston

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Paul Gauthier and Tom Patch absent for the vote)

### **Next Meeting:**

To be announced.

The Committee adjourned at 8:16 pm.

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