



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 29, 2016, at 5:09 pm, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Tom Patch, Co-Chair
Peter Brown
Cathy Browne, Vice-Chair (*via teleconference*)
Jacques Courteau
Mary-Jo Fetterly
Brian Gibney*
Darcie Kerr
Laura Mackenrot
Jocelyn Maffin (*via teleconference*)
Leonor Vlug
Daniel Ward*

ABSENT: Tasia Alexis (Leave of Absence)
Paul Gauthier, Co-Chair (Sick Leave)

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Wiebe, Park Board Liaison
Christopher Kevlahan, Liaison, Vancouver Public Library
Robyn Newton, Staff Liaison, Social Policy and Projects

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Mary-Jo Fetterly
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Tasia Alexis for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Brian Gibney absent for the vote)

The Co-Chair advised that Sandy Yee submitted her resignation.

Approval of Minutes – July 28, 2016

MOVED by Peter Brown
SECONDED by Darcie Kerr

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meeting held July 28, 2016, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Brian Gibney absent for the vote)

The Co-Chair provided an update on the Committee's letter related to Uber, noting the Premier's office acknowledged receipt. In addition, the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development/Minister Responsible for TransLink, forwarded information on consultations with stakeholders regarding challenges and opportunities of ride sourcing in BC's passenger transportation sector. This information will be distributed to the Committee.

1. Liaison Reports

Commissioner Michael Wiebe, Park Board:

- public consultations underway include People, Parks and Dogs (*Item 2 on this agenda*) and VanSplash; Committee feedback encouraged;

- Andersen Accessible Beach; project will begin when the daylighting of Tatlow Creek and Volunteer Park begins; Committee's motion will be forwarded to Park Board; and
- new playgrounds at Science World and International Village Elementary School; new pocket park at West 17th Avenue and Yukon Street.

Chris Kevlahan, Liaison, Vancouver Public Library:

- update on flooding at the central branch;
- activities for National Seniors Day; Homelessness Action Week;
- new author in residence, Sam Wiebe;
- This Vancouver – stories of Vancouverites and the city's history through digital images, audio clips and videos;
- It Isn't Easy to Read When You're Blind; literacy and accessibility of books for sight-impaired readers; and
- accessible services as a unit at the PNE.

Robyn Newton, Staff Liaison:

- update on a recent meeting with Staff Liaisons and the Deputy City Clerk.

2. People, Parks and Dogs, A Strategy for Sharing Vancouver's Parks

Erin Embley, Planner, Parks, provided a project overview, noting staff are working towards developing recommendations to take to the Park Board in Spring 2017. Ms. Embley reviewed the discussion guide and survey for the initial round of public consultation and sought the Committee's input and guidance.

In discussion, issues raised included the need to protect those who may be vulnerable to or fearful of off-leash dogs, for more education for dog owners and for locations within walking distance.

More information is available at: <http://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/people-parks-dogs-strategy.aspx>.

3. Blood Alley Square Re-Design - WITHDRAWN

This item was withdrawn at the request of staff.

4. Arbutus Greenway

Kevin Connery, Landscape Architect – Arbutus Greenway Project Office, provided an update on design criteria and options for the Arbutus Greenway temporary pathway and sought the Committee’s input on accessibility issues including types of surface materials, separation, shared conditions and pathway design.

In discussion recommendations included the following:

- hard, smooth, wide path made with recycled materials;
- separate lanes for left and right flow of traffic;
- post clear signage and install benches;
- design should discourage speeding cyclists; include a separate lane for cyclists; and
- make curves gradual.

The Co-Chair requested members forward any other comments to him by Sunday evening for distribution to staff.

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The Committee recessed at 6:12 pm and reconvened at 6:22 pm.

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5. Communications

Leanore Vlug raised concerns related to the City’s policies on accessible communication for Deaf, hard of hearing and Deaf-Blind persons to civic services and information, in particular around communication and access to information that is available

to people in general and often lacking for Deaf citizens (i.e. interpreting services for courses or programs).

In discussion, members agreed to wait for the Accessible City Sub-committee Report before determining a course of action. Some members suggested this matter could tie in with the Accessible Event Guidelines.

6. Website Accessibility

Tadhg Healy, Digital Operations Manager, Digital Services, provided an update on accessibility to the City's website and sought a Committee Liaison to assist with the following:

- insights and context to support Digital Accessibility as it pertains to *vancouver.ca* and related web applications; and
- general feedback and pointers to support Digital Accessibility Policy development.

It was noted feedback on accessibility should include visually impaired users.

Mary Jo Fetterly volunteered to be the Committee's Liaison and report back when necessary. Leanore Vlug volunteered to provide feedback from a deaf and hard of hearing perspective.

7. Subcommittee Reports

a. Accessible City

The Sub-Committee Chair provided a brief verbal report as follows:

- held initial meeting with Vancouver School Board officials to discuss the coordination of accessibility improvements and art schools receiving seismic upgrades; offered the support of the sub-committee in making recommendations to the City/Province); and

- work begins in October on the development of an Accessibility and Inclusion Strategy, which should be considered as the City proceeds with numerous projects and other strategies.

b. Housing

i) The Right Fit Grant Application

The Co-Chair provided an update on a pilot project “The Right Fit”, which will match people who use wheelchairs with appropriate housing and sought the Committee’s approval to write a letter in support of the project to the Vancouver Foundation who is funding the project.

MOVED by Cathy Browne

SECONDED by Jacques Courteau

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee authorize Tom Patch, Co-Chair, to write a letter of support for the Right Fit Project to the Vancouver Foundation on behalf of the Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Daniel Ward absent for the vote)

c. Transportation

i) W. 10th Avenue

Laura Mackenrot provided a brief verbal update noting there will be a follow-up working group session for the W. 10th Avenue project on October 13th at the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre. RSVP by October 7th.

8. New Business

a. Access4All Canada 150 Signature Initiative (Rick Hansen Foundation)

The Staff Liaison provided an update on the above-noted initiative and encouraged members to identify priorities for discussion at the next meeting. The deadline to apply for Access4All funding is March 31, 2017.

More information is available at:

<http://www.rickhansen.com/Access4All/About-Access4All>.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Darcie Kerr
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Daniel Ward absent for the vote)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, November 17, 2016
TIME: 5 pm
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:08 pm.

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