



**SPECIAL MEETING
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

APRIL 6, 2017

A Special Meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, April 6, 2017, at 5:35 pm, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Cathy Browne, Acting Chair
Tasia Alexis
Kristina Baerg
Zvonimir Basic
Peter Brown
Jacques Courteau
Mary-Jo Fetterly
Paul Gauthier
Chelsea Hitchen
Laura Mackenrot
Isla Robertson
Anita Rudolph

ABSENT: Varun Banthia (Leave of Absence)
Jocelyn Maffin (Leave of Absence)
Leonor Vlug (Sick Leave)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator
Denise Swanston, Committee Clerk

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Jacques Courteau
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Varun Banthia and Jocelyn Maffin for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Pearson/Dogwood Re-development Application

Paul Gauthier provided background on the Pearson/Dogwood re-development application process and introduced City staff and representatives from Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), who were present to provide an update and respond to the Committee's motion below, approved in March 2016 (*relevant materials distributed – on file*).

WHEREAS:

1. An application has been submitted to the City of Vancouver for rezoning of the Pearson Dogwood lands; and
2. A public consultation process is underway and some aspects of the redevelopment plan have not been finalized; and
3. The George Pearson Centre ("GPC") is being closed and the building demolished; and
4. The residents of GPC will be re-housed by Vancouver Coastal Health ("VCH") on the same site (the "VCH Units"); and
5. The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, Disability Alliance BC and Pearson Residents Redevelopment Group have agreed to the housing options for Pearson residents (the "Consensus Agreement"); and
6. Some of the Pearson residents may choose to live with a friend, caregiver or family member; and
7. The Consensus Agreement includes a group living option referred to as Greenhouses, and the future demand for such housing is uncertain; and
8. There is a severe shortage of affordable and wheelchair accessible housing in Vancouver and the shortage is especially acute for users of power wheelchairs; and
9. There is a need for wheelchair accessible units in all types of housing, including housing designated for families and seniors; and

10. Full inclusion of persons with disabilities requires that their housing be distributed throughout the community; and
11. The Pearson Dogwood redevelopment is expected to include, in addition to housing, a community health clinic, a therapeutic pool, a park, an urban farm, retail space and access to public transit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT support of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee for the rezoning application will be conditional on the following:

1. That the VCH Units be developed in accordance with the consensus agreement;
2. That, to accommodate Pearson residents who may choose to live with a friend, caregiver or family member, the City of Vancouver and VCH work toward allocating up to 2000 square feet to supplement the space now allocated for the VCH Units;
3. That the designs for the Greenhouses incorporate plans to efficiently modify them into smaller independent units to efficiently accommodate possible changes in future demand;
4. That 5% of all categories and sizes of housing on the site be wheelchair accessible; this includes market and non-market housing and in sizes from studio to three-bedroom;
5. That 50% of social and affordable wheelchair accessible units (which does not include the VCH Units) be designed for users of power wheelchairs; those designs are to be commensurate with the current designs for the VCH Units;
6. That wheelchair accessible units, including the VCH Units, be distributed throughout the site; and
7. That all public spaces, amenities and facilities on the site, including parks and walkways, the farm, the pool, the community health clinic, public transit and any retail space, be designed to maximize inclusion of persons with disabilities and in accordance with principles of universal design;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee will withhold approval of the rezoning application until after it has received further details of the redevelopment plan and may add to or amend the conditions for approval.

In discussion, feedback and concerns included the following:

- that the City's Parking By-law is followed regarding accessible parking spaces;
- retail space should include a pharmacy;
- park space, playgrounds and urban farm should all be fully accessible;
- individuals will have some choice in regards to total support worker; however, could vary if it is a unionized environment;
- shared units and shared space seems small for the number of people, plus total support workers;
- couples who make more than the income cut-off could be restricted;
- mixed units are preferred; and
- Committee to provide standards for power-wheelchair units.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Tasia Alexis

SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, May 4, 2017
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:36 pm.

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