



## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

**November 23, 2017**

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 23, 2017, at 5:34 pm, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

**PRESENT:** Cathy Browne, Co-Chair (*via teleconference*)  
Jacques Courteau, Co-Chair  
Tasia Alexis  
Varun Banthia  
Zvonimir Basic  
Peter Brown  
Mary-Jo Fetterly  
Paul Gauthier  
Laura Mackenrot, Vice-Chair  
Jocelyn Maffin  
Anita Rudolph  
Leonor Vlug\*

**ABSENT:** Kristina Baerg (Leave of Absence)  
Chelsea Hitchen (Leave of Absence)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Robyn Newton, Social Policy and Projects,  
Staff Liaison

**CITY CLERK'S  
OFFICE:** Denise Swanston, Committee Clerk

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

## **Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territory**

Jacques Courteau, Co-Chair, acknowledged that we are on the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

## **Leave of Absence Requests**

MOVED by Varun Banthia  
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve a Leave of Absence for Kristina Baerg and Chelsea Hitchen for today's meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Leonor Vlug absent for vote)

## **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Zvonimir Basic  
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting held September 7, 2017.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **1. 2018 Meeting Schedule**

MOVED by Anita Rudolph  
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the 2018 Meeting Schedule as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## 2. Millennium Line Broadway Extension Update (MLBE)

Ian MacPhee, Rapid Transit Office, presented an update on the Millennium Line Broadway Extension, including City Principles and Construction Mitigation. Following the presentation, discussion took place with the Committee noting the following:

- Language in contract is too vague (e.g. remove “consider”, “whenever possible”), specifically in relation to the inclusion of accessible washrooms and elevators. Committee would like to see stronger wording.
  - Members noted that legislation is anticipated to come into effect requiring accessible washrooms; the Committee would like TransLink to be proactive and install in advance of regulations.
  - Many members felt this is a Human Right’s issue and will investigate relevant clauses.
  - It was suggested to have one shared platform with two elevators to reduce costs and can act as backup if one breaks down.
    - It was noted that although staff advocate for them, staff cannot guarantee TransLink will include washrooms and elevators.
  - Members noted this issue is in the City’s Transportation 2040 plan and feel the City is not doing enough to advocate for it.
- Members would like to see a feasibility study on an underground walkway from Broadway to West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Suggested wording change – “power wheelchairs” to “all mobility devices” and/or “all power wheelchairs”.
- Outside of station – currently no clause ensuring drop/pick up off zones, would like this to be added.
- Committee would also like to see wording including RFID’s in the contract.

The Committee may reach out to the TransLink Users Advisory Committee and the Social Issues subcommittee group for increased advocates on accessibility issues.

### **3. Engineering Update on Advances in Accessible Design & Pedestrian Signals**

#### **a) Accessible Pedestrian Signals**

Winston Chou, Traffic and Data Management, presented an update on Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) in the city, noting that the City is working with a manufacturer to design Vancouver-specific devices that include vibrating feedback once pushed. Mr. Chou passed around a prototype of one of the devices. After discussion, the Committee provided the following feedback:

- Members found the button hard to press and noted the sensor-style APS currently used is preferable (with modifications to include tactile and sound feedback).
  - Members also appreciate the design at Cambie & 57<sup>th</sup>, which senses compass cards and doesn't require any action from the pedestrian.
- Design and situation of the pole needs to be considered e.g. some buttons can be too close to the road or too close to edges making it precarious for anyone with mobility issues.

#### **b) Advances in Accessible Design**

Dylan Passmore, Active Transportation Design, presented research and summarized findings from his extensive review on accessible pedestrian intersection crossings. Mr. Passmore highlighted pros of cons of various tools currently in use for crosswalk accessibility and highlighted examples from different cities around the world.

The Committee was pleased with these efforts and thanked to Mr. Passmore for his research into accessible design and look forward to future consults.

### **4. Subcommittee Reports**

#### **a) Accessible City Subcommittee**

- Anita Rudolph, Accessible City Subcommittee, noted that IT is working on, but will take time, to ensure the City's website is compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

- Subcommittee connected with the Children Youth and Families Advisory Committee (CYFA), and reviewed CYFA's letter for incoming Vancouver School Board Trustees, agreeing to reword letter to include students with disabilities.

**b) Housing Subcommittee**

- Paul Gauthier, Chair, Housing Subcommittee, will meet with Abigail Bond, Director, Housing Policy and Projects, in January to discuss social, non-market reboot, current 5% accessible housing requirement, as well as how to better communicate and become involved with the City.
- Pearson Dogwood is at the development stage; the project facilitator has been in contact with the Housing Subcommittee; subcommittee to meet with Disability Alliance.

**c) Social Inclusion Subcommittee**

- None.

**d) Transportation Subcommittee**

- Laura Mackenrot, Chair, Transportation Subcommittee, reminded the committee of the ongoing TransLink fare review, and noted an upcoming HandiDart consultation in Surrey.

**5. New Business**

Robyn Newton, Social Policy and Projects, Staff Liaison, noted that the Food Policy planners are looking for input from PDAC on the features required for accessible community kitchens, as part of the Food Security Strategy.

- Jocelyn Maffin and Ms. Newton to connect on accessible kitchens.

Jacques Courteau, Co-Chair, provided comments and/or updates on the following:

- Bigger picture of City Projects – would like someone to present an overview of how projects will overlap and intersect.
- West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Jim Deva Plaza Accessible washroom

### **Adjournment**

MOVED by Zvonimir Basic  
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Next Meeting:**

DATE: February 1, 2018  
TIME: 5:30 pm  
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room (110)  
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:33 pm.

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