



2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JUNE 4, 2020

A meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on June 4, 2020, at 5:30 pm, by electronic means.

PRESENT: Brooklyn Fowler, Co-Chair*
Tribesty Nguyen, Co-Chair
Raj Alamchandani
Kyle Demes
Eddy Elmer
Stephanie Goodwin*
Jutta Kolhi
Sylvia Machat*
Rob McDowell
Aisha Tejani*
Chase Willier

ABSENT: Shawnessy Luke (Leave of Absence)
Nazanin Moghadami (Leave of Absence)
Linnea Strom

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Lisa Dominato, Council Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Bonnie Kennett, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

1. Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Eddy Elmer
SECONDED by Rob McDowell

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Shawnessy Luke and Nazanin Moghadami.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Brooklyn Fowler and Sylvia Machat absent for the vote)

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Stephanie Goodwin
SECONDED by Raj Alamchandani

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of March 5, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Brooklyn Fowler and Sylvia Machat absent for the vote)

3. Roundtable Discussion – COVID-19 Check in

Tribesty Nguyen, Co-Chair, led the roundtable check in with all members present.

4. Universal & Inclusive Design Feasibility Study

Venus Vane, Real Estate and Facilities Management, along with Aiden Callison and Fiona Jones, both from HCMA Architecture + Design, provided an update on the Universal and Inclusive Design Feasibility Study which covered upgrades to washroom and change room facilities throughout City facilities and also touched on next steps for the project. Ms. Vane, Mr. Callison, Ms. Jones and Danica Djurkovic, Director of Facilities Planning and Development, responded to questions.

5. Updates

Committee members provided updates since the meeting in March which included the recent resignation of Olive Bing, Jutta Kolhi's recap regarding speaking on the Committee's behalf to the Council motion entitled, "Safety for Residents with Precarious Status: Delivering Access without Fear", and the Co-Chairs meeting with Councillor Dominato regarding COVID-19 feedback and suggestions.

6. Approval of Letter to Councillor

MOVED by Raj Alamchandani
SECONDED by Brooklyn Fowler

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee send a letter to Councillor Hardwick regarding statements made in Council Chamber at the February 26, 2020, Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting, with respect to the Report dated February 14, 2020, entitled, "2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Note: The Committee's letter to Councillor Hardwick dated April 20, 2020, is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

7. COVID-19 – City’s Recover Program

The Committee discussed the newly formed Council COVID-19 Recovery Committee and how the Committee could become more involved in providing input.

8. Motion to Support Street Saviours and Good Night Out

MOVED by Eddy Elmer

SECONDED by Kyle Demes

WHEREAS

1. The 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee is appointed by Vancouver City Council to provide advice on enhancing access and inclusion for two-spirited, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities so they may participate fully in civic life;
2. The City of Vancouver website states that the City “makes significant investments to ensure that the entire city, and everyone in it, remains as safe as possible at all times”;
3. Vancouver’s *Healthy City Strategy* aims to “increase residents’ sense of belonging and safety by 10%, and make Vancouver the safest major city in Canada”;
4. High rates of crime, sexual violence, mental health problems, addiction, drug overdoses, and homelessness are growing concerns for residents and visitors in the Downtown Eastside and the Central Business District;
5. These problems disproportionately impact marginalized populations, especially the 2SLGBTQ+ communities and sex trade workers;
6. Vancouver is developing a comprehensive strategy to realize the full potential of the City’s nighttime economy, which must include attention to the health and safety of workers and customers in nighttime industries;
7. Good Night Out Vancouver is a volunteer-based organization formed in 2014 to provide educational and intervention activities to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and assault in the hospitality, entertainment, and nightlife sectors, especially in the Granville Entertainment District;
8. The Street Saviours Society is a volunteer-based organization formed in 2016 to patrol the Downtown Eastside and provide emergency after-hours support to marginalized people, including drug overdose intervention, referral to housing and social services, and provision of food and warm clothes;
9. Both organizations free up critical time and resources for the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, and the BC Ambulance Service;
10. Good Night Out relies on funding from the City of Vancouver for its street outreach activities and from contracts with event organizers;

11. Street Saviours receives donations of supplies from businesses and the BC Centre for Disease Control, but has not applied for funding from the City of Vancouver, and volunteers cover a significant portion of expenses from their own pockets; and
12. Both organizations met with the Committee on March 5, 2020, to explain the important work they do, especially for the 2SLGBTQ+ and sex work communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee supports the ongoing work of both Good Night Out Vancouver and the Street Saviours Outreach Society, and views their activities as critical;

FURTHER THAT the Committee strongly supports the applications of both organizations for funding from the City of Vancouver for their ongoing activities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Pride

The Committee discussed the upcoming 2020 Pride Launch and 2SLGBTQ+ Proclamation at City Hall and had the following questions:

- Which flags will be raised? How many flags will be raised? Can more flag poles be added? Can the flags be rotated?
- Can the 2SLGBTQ+ Committee provide additional wording on the proclamation to include more history such as riots and protests?
- Has a date been set for the flag raising? Can a “save the date” email be sent to the Committee?

The Meeting Coordinator agreed to contact the staff in Protocol for more information.

10. Liaison Updates

Councillor Dominato, Council Liaison, provided a brief update on the Council COVID-19 Recovery Committee that was recently created to share and discuss information regarding pandemic response and recovery planning. A brief update on street lighting was also provided.

Eddy Elmer, on behalf of Dale Quiring, Police Liaison, provided an update including continued work on several projects to promote inclusion of queer and trans people in sport and work on recruitment for the ElderPride program that improves relations between police and older queer and trans people.

11. Subcommittee Updates

Eddy Elmer provided an update from the Aging and Intergenerational and Public Safety Subcommittee which included the following:

- Virtual meeting with Prime Timers, an active social, recreational, and educational group for mature gay and bisexual men, where commonly cited issues such as mobility, transportation and street safety were discussed.
- A meeting with a local United Church congregation keen on helping isolated and lonely older adults including queer and trans seniors, during the pandemic. There was also discussion on the recommendations of the [Seniors' Advisory Committee report](#) on social isolation and loneliness and whether the City would be seeking the Global Age-Friendly City designation from the World Health Organization.
- Ongoing work on an inclusive housing checklist.

Eddy Elmer provided an update from the Public Safety Subcommittee which included the following:

- Data received from Engineering Services regarding street lighting.
- Community concerns with an increase in open drug use, garbage, and aggressive behaviour at Jim Deva Plaza.
- The importance of helping queer and trans people feel more comfortable in reporting hate crimes and incidents, citing his own recent experience with a gay-bashing.

Kyle Demes provided a brief update from the Anti-Hate Subcommittee and suggested in light of current events, a meeting online should take place before the working session in July.

12. New Business

Jutta Kolhi will follow up with staff from the Vancouver Plan and Equity Framework to be present at the working session in July.

Chase Willier expressed interest in providing outreach with the Two-Spirit community. The meeting coordinator agreed to flag this for Paul Czene and Dakota Shelby, Committee Liaisons.

MOVED by Sylvia Machat
SECONDED by Rob McDowell

WHEREAS

1. The modern North American queer & trans liberation movement was originated at Stonewall by risks taken predominately by activists such as Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnston, Black and Latinx trans women and drag queens; and
2. The experiences of Two-Spirit people are underrepresented in conversations pertaining to 2SLGBTQ+ people in the city of Vancouver.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee strongly advises that city staff consider inclusion of an intersectionally representative Pride flag, including representative stripes for race, to acknowledge the varying, intersectional experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ people.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Stephanie Goodwin and Aisha Tejani absent for the vote)

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Raj Alamchandani
SECONDED by Chase Willier

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Stephanie Goodwin and Aisha Tejani absent for the vote)

Next Meeting:

DATE: September 17, 2020
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: WebEx Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:52 pm.

* * * * *