



2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

June 14, 2022

A Special Meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 6:32 pm, via electronic means.

PRESENT: Eddy Elmer (Co-Chair)
Serena Jackson (Co-Chair)*
Saif Al Shamaa
Laura Dale
Rick Hurlbut
Alicia Oeser
Mitchell Prost
Bradley Sarandi
Kyle Simunovic
Rodney Stehr

ABSENT: Katie Anne Reimer

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting

WELCOME

Co-Chair Jackson acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh People. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

Leave of Absence Requests

None.

1. Exploring Feasibility of Honoraria for "Type A" Advisory Committee Members

MOVED by Eddy Elmer

SECONDED by Serena Jackson

WHEREAS

- a) Advisory committees play a vital role in the City's democratic process by proactively providing advice on issues that affect the wellbeing of all residents; by considering matters referred to them by Council; and by providing feedback to staff on draft reports and community engagement processes;

- b) Most committees meet 11-12 times per year: 5-6 official meetings plus an equal number of informal working sessions, all of which are at least 2 hours long;
- c) Most members also attend at least one monthly subcommittee meeting and spend several more hours reviewing correspondence and reports; consulting with staff and councillors; conducting research; reviewing minutes; drafting and following up on letters, memos, and motions; responding to surveys; doing media interviews; holding public engagement events; and waiting hours, even days, to speak at Council meetings, which are usually scheduled during business hours;
- d) As in-person events restart, many members will resume traveling to and from meetings, engagement events, and Council meetings;
- e) All of the above require a considerable amount of time, which is difficult for members who also work, attend school, or have family responsibilities (i.e., the majority of members);
- f) As a result of workloads, some members skip meetings, leave early, or even resign, which can affect the functioning of committees (e.g., not attaining quorum);
- g) In addition, members incur out-of-pocket expenses for transportation; dependent care; office supplies; web hosting for committees that wish to have their own websites; food and drink for meetings/engagements outside city hall; and other incidentals;
- h) Constraints on time and money likely discourage many people from sitting on advisory bodies, especially marginalized people with a diverse range of lived experiences (e.g., people with low income, precarious employment, disabilities, inadequate housing, and language barriers, as well as those who continue to face oppression, such as Indigenous people, racialized minorities, 2SLGBTQ+ people, drug users, sex workers, and those working in informal economies);
- i) Other cities recognize the above-noted challenges and therefore provide honoraria for their advisory committee members (e.g., the City of Toronto's 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee pays each member \$125 for attending each official meeting, in addition to reimbursement for eligible expenses);
- j) A few ad-hoc City of Vancouver committees, such as the steering committee for the Imagine West End Waterfront project, also provide an honorarium of about \$60 per meeting plus expenses;
- k) Members of City boards regularly receive both honoraria and per diems;
- l) In a [recent report](#) on improving City of Vancouver advisory bodies, the City Clerk wrote that "many Advisory Body members have indicated that automatic honoraria for all members, paid per meeting, would be a preferable means to reduce barriers to participation...and staff have marked this as a clear and consistent request from members"; and

- m) Although the City has started to reimburse members up to \$45 per regular meeting for transportation and dependent care, this process is an additional barrier for people as they must submit a request each month to receive reimbursement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee ask Council to direct the City Clerk to:

- a) Conduct a one-year pilot project, beginning with the appointment of new members in 2023, to provide all Type A Advisory Committee members with a reasonable, automatic honorarium per meeting attended which recognizes the time, commitment, and expertise contributed to committee work;
- b) Determine sources of funding for this pilot project in developing the City Clerk's Office budget for 2023;
- c) In concert with the Nominations Committee, meet with all advisory committees to gauge their experiences with the pilot project;
- d) Report back to Council on the effectiveness of this proposal on committee attendance and retention, with special attention to members who traditionally face barriers attending meetings; and
- e) Consider and address any taxation ramifications for members that may arise from CRA regulations around honoraria; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to all Type A Advisory Committees for their review, amendment, and possible ratification.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Supporting Vulnerable Residents During Heat Domes and other Climate Emergencies

MOVED by Serena Jackson
SECONDED by Eddy Elmer

WHEREAS

- a) On May 16, the City of Vancouver Seniors Advisory Committee hosted an expert panel to better understand how to support seniors and other vulnerable residents during heat domes and other climate emergencies;
- b) Staff from the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Coastal Health indicated the importance of engaging with advisory committees when drafting plans to respond to these emergencies;
- c) The Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committees were explicitly mentioned as committees that should be, or are being, consulted;

- d) Seniors and Persons with Disabilities are represented by many other advisory committees, including the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee;
- e) Older adults in the 2SLGBTQ+ communities are disproportionately impacted by climate emergencies due to poorer health, greater risk for disability, demographic factors, and various barriers they continue to experience (e.g., lower income, substandard housing, estrangement from families of origin, living alone, and other forms of social isolation); and
- f) Younger members of 2SLGBTQ+ communities are also disproportionately affected by climate emergencies as they are at greater risk for homelessness;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee recommends and requests that City Council, the Board of Parks and Recreation, and City staff work with Vancouver Coastal Health and other decision-making bodies to proactively engage with this Committee and other relevant City advisory bodies when drafting policy and strategies related to climate emergencies and how they affect marginalized groups; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to all advisory committees for their review and possible ratification.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Ensuring Adequate Funds for Street Lighting in 2023-2026 Capital Plan

MOVED by Eddy Elmer

SECONDED by Bradley Sarandi

WHEREAS

- a) At its meeting of September 17, 2020, the City of Vancouver 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee [passed a motion](#), subsequently [ratified by Council](#) in 2021, calling for the installation of “new lighting in poorly lit areas, especially sidewalk-level and alleyway lighting in areas identified by residents as being at higher risk for public safety concerns”;
- b) This motion made reference to a [similar motion](#) from 2013, passed by the Seniors Advisory Committee, ratified by other advisory committees, and ultimately passed by [Council](#);
- c) In the [2021 Business Roundtable on Property Crime](#), which was requested by Council, stakeholders recommended improved street lighting to improve safety;
- d) During a 2022 Special Council Meeting, City staff, numerous community organizations, businesses, and members of the public underscored the importance of street lighting in promoting public safety;
- e) In a response to the 2021 motion passed by Council, staff wrote [a memo](#) indicating that “there is an annual capital budget of \$200,000 to address requests for new ‘infill’ lighting across the City and to address poorly lit areas”;

- f) The memo also indicated that “this budget is insufficient to address all of these requests, as new lighting installations typically require costly underground electrical infrastructure or other changes to the street infrastructure to accommodate”; and
- g) The proposed [2023-2026 Capital Plan](#) has allotted \$1,000,000 towards installing only 100 new street lights (25 per year), with new and upgraded lighting delivered in-kind through development (p. 41);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee recommends that Council direct Staff to ensure that there are adequate funds in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan for a sufficient amount of new street and sidewalk-level lighting in poorly lit areas that pose significant safety risks; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to all advisory committees for their review and possible ratification.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

New Business

The Committee discussed the letter sent to the Park Board in January regarding funding issues for the Aaron Webster Memorial Bench. Rick Hurlbut agreed to draft a motion on this topic, to be presented at the meeting of July 21, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Rick Hurlbut
SECONDED by Bradley Sarandi

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Serena Jackson absent for the vote)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, July 21, 2022
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall
Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:02 pm.

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