



2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 16, 2024

A meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 5:31 pm, in the Business Centre Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

PRESENT:

Eddy Elmer, Co-Chair
Tara Fraser, Co-Chair
Saif Al Shamaa
Mathew Fleury
Hana Chisako Acorn
Rick Hurlbut
Chris Morrissey
Michael Yus

ABSENT:

Tristan Lai (Leave of Absence)
Ilaine Marjoribanks (Leave of Absence)
Bradley Sarandi (Leave of Absence)
Viplav Subramanian, Vice-Chair (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT:

Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky, Park Board
Liaison
D/Cst. Gagan Luddu, Vancouver Police Department
Liaison Representative
Samantha Mills, Vancouver Public Library Liaison
Sonmin Bong, Equity Consultant, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:

Ana Denissenko, Committee Clerk

WELCOME

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

Modified Procedures

MOVED by Chris Morrissey
SECONDED by Rick Hurlbut

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee suspend the rule of section 15.13 of the *Procedure By-law* in order to allow for modified decision-making methods during the meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
AND BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

Leave of Absence Requests

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Tristan Lai, Ilaine Marjoribanks, Bradley Sarandi and Viplav Subramanian, for this meeting.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Approval of Minutes

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, March 7, 2024, as circulated.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Note: See pages 5 to 7 of Appendix A for Draft Supplementary Notes from that meeting.

1. Presentation: Municipal Election Report Back and Future Planning

Staff from Business and Election Services provided a presentation and responded to questions.

2. Discussion - Visit from Scholar at LaTrobe University in Australia

Dr. Sean Mulcahy introduced work underway at the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society regarding 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion in local government. Following his presentation, he took questions from the Committee.

3. Presentation: Needs of 2SLGBTQ+ People in Shelters and Community Centres

In response to the Committee's discussion from March, the Staff Liaison provided an update and responded to questions about the operation of City-run shelters and community centres.

4. Follow-up from March Motion re: 2SLGBTQ+ Inclusion in City-Designated Events

Following discussion, the Committee agreed

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee ask that Council respond to the Committee motion passed on March 7, 2024, entitled "[2SLGBTQ+ Inclusion in Designated Civic Events](#)".

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

5. Past Motion Update: Recognition and Stewardship of 2SLGBTQ+ Memorials

The Committee discussed the staff response to a [past motion](#) from July 21, 2022 regarding recognition and stewardship of 2SLGBTQ+ memorials.

6. Approval of Work Plan

Following discussion, it was agreed

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve the 2023-2026 Work Plan, as attached in Appendix B.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Note: See pages 8 to 10 of Appendix B.

7. Working Session Updates

Rick Hurlbut provided an update on the working session held Thursday, April 18, 2024, during which Committee members discussed the importance of liaising with community organizations.

8. Liaison Updates

The Park Board Liaison provided updates on the following:

- [Sport Fields Strategy](#)
- [Playoffs in the Park](#)

The Vancouver Public Library Liaison provided updates on the following and responded to questions:

- [Man in the Moon Program](#)
- [Vancouver Dyke March](#) to reoccur in 2024

9. Subcommittee Updates

None.

10. New Business

None.

ADJOURNMENT

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, July 4, 2024
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall
/ Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:35.

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Appendix A

Draft Supplementary Notes from City of Vancouver 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee Meeting: March 7, 2024

Discussion with Anthony Kupferschmidt, New Strategic Lead for Older Persons

- Anthony will be working in Business Planning and Support in the City Manager's office
- Will be doing systems-level work in the following domains: an age-equitable city; housing; transportation; social connection; civic engagement
- Role is separate from that of social policy planners
- Intends to work across city departments
- Mentioned that Vancouver is committed to an Age-Equitable Action Plan focusing on recommendations from the World Health Organization Global Age-Friendly Cities guidelines
- This plan will extend the work of the City's previous [Age-Friendly Action Plan](#)
- Eddy Elmer asked if Vancouver ever submitted paperwork to seek designation as a Global Age-Friendly City; Anthony is unaware if anything was ever submitted; however, he did note that Vancouver received designation as an "Age-Friendly Community" through the Province, but this is not a strong designation (i.e., it simply states that a City intends to become more age-friendly)

Discussion with Marc White and Susan Scott Gabe of the City of Vancouver Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee (OPEAC)

Introduction

- Noted that many of our advisory bodies have constituents who are seniors

Inclusive Housing

- OPEAC does not see housing in isolation; they consider it part of a healthy city
- Mentioned that, historically, seniors have not specifically been referenced in our housing plans
- Rick Hurlbut mentioned that he is in favour of a queer-inclusive housing strategy, but would be much more supportive of a queer-*led* housing strategy; EDI can only go so far; we need leadership from identifiable communities to ensure that their needs are built into housing strategies; Marc White noted that this sentiment came out loud and clear during planning of the [Seattle Pride Place](#) project
- Chris Morrissey noted there are many different subpopulations within the queer community; plans for queer-specific housing have never been clear about who the housing would be for and what kind it would be; for example, housing needs and desires may differ between men and women, or homeless and non-homeless people; Eric Berthelet noted that Living with Pride Society will be conducting focus groups to understand these differences in more detail
- OPEAC has a special task force on non-profit housing philanthropy; will meet with Eric Berthelet, member of our Committee's Age and Housing Subcommittee, to discuss further

- Ilaine Marjoribanks noted that we must address discrimination in assisted living and residential care; current policy is first-come, first-served, so no queer or trans-specific housing for those who need specialized housing services
- Ilaine also noted that many queers seniors have chosen family (i.e., non-kin); they are not considered legal family members, so queer people may be accused of over-crowding if they choose to live with them; they can try to claim one person as a partner, but cannot claim others
- Marc White said it is important to consider intergenerational housing for queer people
- Ilaine Marjoribanks noted there is also discrimination in co-op housing (e.g., strata councils not accommodating people who need bed lifts)
- Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee may be interested in 2SLGBTQ+ housing given the higher rates of disability among queer people
- Eddy Elmer mentioned the importance of knowing how many queer seniors are in Vancouver and which neighbourhoods have larger proportions; he suggested that the City look into current census data or geo-mapping technologies to find out; SPARC BC may be a good starting point; it was also suggested that Eddy contact Peter Marriot at the City of Vancouver
- March 13: [motion](#) going to Council re: False Creek South; OPEAC suggests that our Committee speak to the motion

Social Isolation and Loneliness

- OPEAC has looked closely at Eddy Elmer's report on [Social Isolation and Loneliness](#) and intends to prioritize the various recommendations
- Looking to address the issue from a municipal, provincial, and pan-Canadian perspective
- Did a jurisdictional scan last term to see what other cities are doing; had specific questions regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which will they discuss with our Committee at a later date
- Looking to work with health authorities and other advisory bodies to ensure that social isolation and loneliness are integrated with their work

Other Focus Areas

- Age-friendly business codes

Seniors Housing Strategy

- City staff provided an update and took questions on the draft Strategy, which is planned for release mid-April
- Eddy asked if the Strategy considers NORCs ("naturally occurring retirement communities"); [OASIS](#) in Kingston, Ontario has been starting and evaluating NORCs across Canada; they currently have two in Vancouver, with two more planned
- Staff indicated that NORCs will be part of the Strategy
- Anthony Kupferschmidt also mentioned programs like Closer to Home (run by West End Seniors Network), in which staff from seniors' centres visit apartment buildings or neighbourhoods with large proportions of seniors and provide services right on site
- Eddy underscored the importance of architectural design features to facilitate social interaction; he suggested that Vancouver look into the [City of North Vancouver's policies](#) in this regard as well as the City's own review of sociable design features, which was part of the early work on the [Hey Neighbour initiative](#)

- Staff noted that [Happy Cities](#) is doing work on sociable design, which is informing the Seniors Housing Strategy; they are also trying to harmonize the Building By-law with provincial changes, notably around accessibility and adaptability; this will include features like broad hallways, where a lot of social interaction occurs; work is also underway on City-wide design guidelines
- Committee members also suggested that the City advocate to the Province re: culturally appropriate services and reducing discrimination in residential care and assisted living
- Ilaine asked if there are plans for an equitable housing strategy that targets the queer community, and for organizations to provide a more diverse range of housing, perhaps in partnership with more experienced agencies that specialize in assisted living and complex care
- Staff noted that they are working with community groups to solidify the City's plans for assisting older people who are homeless or at risk for homelessness; also looking to work with BC Housing on supportive housing for seniors; may also explore seniors-only shelters
- A lot of this work follows the Vancouver Plan; staff have tried to look at the data on at-risk seniors; they are prioritizing non-market housing to meet the greatest needs
- Ilaine suggested that staff contact April Sumpter-Freitag for further guidance on queer seniors' housing
- Chris Morrissey said that providing diversity training for staff in residential care is not sufficient because it often glosses over queer people's rich cultural heritage
- She also noted that many seniors do not know how to access SAFER ([Shelter Aid for Elderly Residents](#)); perhaps the City could help with this.

Appendix B

2023-2026 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee Work Plan

Area	Topics/Issues	Members
<p>Aging and Housing</p>	<p><u>Top Priorities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing advice on housing for older queer people (e.g. Living with Pride Foundation) • social isolation and loneliness (e.g., write motion based on recommendations from SILAS report) • ensuring that new developments have enough space for queer businesses and community groups; explore if there can be subsidized units in partnership with BC Housing • assist the new Strategic Lead, Seniors, with mandate (e.g., meet to discuss our community's priorities) <p><u>Other Priorities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intergenerational programming • age-friendly recreational spaces (motion to Park Board) • Davie & Burrard development (follow up to see if McLaren Housing Society's mandate has changed re: who will be eligible to live there) • inclusive housing checklist for staff • advance specific recommendations from TGD2S+ Housing Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Morrissey • Hana Hata • Tara Fraser • Michael Yus • Ilaine Marjoribanks • Dr. Eric Berthelet (external)

Safety and Well-Being	<p><u>Top Priorities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety in public spaces: UN Safe Public Spaces Initiative (follow up on survey findings and make recommendations based on results)• safety-related infrastructure (follow up on lighting improvements; recommend additional improvements if needed)• Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) Inclusion and Safety Action Plan (follow up with staff; ensure Committee is included) <p><u>Other Priorities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy (ensure Committee is consulted)• inclusive services and housing for sex workers, people living with HIV, and people at risk for interpersonal violence• support for vulnerable residents during climate-related emergencies like heat domes (e.g., support proposed temperature regulations in new and existing apartment buildings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eddy Elmer• Taylor Fraser• Bradley Sarandi• Mathew Fleury• Tristan Lai• Ilaine Marjoribanks
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2SLGBTQ+ Spaces, Place-Making, and Events	<p><u>Top Priorities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• preservation of cultural and historical spaces (including follow-up re: 1157 Burrard Street development)• revitalization of Davie Village and other 2SLGBTQ+ areas• review accessibility and free access to “Privately Owned Public Spaces” (follow up on City’s report and motion from Seniors Advisory Committee) <p><u>Other Priorities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2SLGBTQ+ public art (including follow-up re: 5083 Joyce Street development)• consult with Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, West End BIA, and other groups re: barriers for queer business community (e.g., bylaws that impede their work)• review Park Board procurement policy• address noise concerns from residents in Davie Village (e.g., late-night noise in Jim Deva Plaza; use of amplification devices)• provide input on events (e.g., 2030 Gay Games, LOVELLOUD Festival)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Viplav Subramanian• Saif Al Shamaa• Michael Yus• Rick Hurlbut
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