



2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

July 4, 2024

A meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, July 4, 2024, at 5:36 pm, in the Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

PRESENT: Eddy Elmer, Co-Chair
Tara Fraser, Co-Chair
Saif Al Shamaa
Hana Chisako Acorn
Mathew Fleury
Tristan Lai
Chris Morrissey
Bradley Sarandi
Viplav Subramanian, Vice-Chair

ABSENT: Rick Hurlbut (Leave of Absence)
Ilaine Marjoribanks (Leave of Absence)
Michael Yus

ALSO PRESENT: Constable Stephen Jones, Vancouver Police Department
Liaison
Samantha Mills, Vancouver Public Library Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

WELCOME

The Co-Chairs 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 Bradley Sarandi

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 approves a leave of absence for Rick Hurlbut and Ilaine Marjoribanks for this meeting.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Approval of Minutes

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, May 16, 2024, as circulated.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Note: See pages 4 to 6 of Appendix A for Supplementary Notes from that meeting.

1. Presentation: Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) Inclusion and Safety Action Plan Renewal

Staff from Arts, Culture and Community Services provided a presentation and responded to questions.

2. Motion: Measures to Preserve Davie Village as a 2SLGBTQ+ Entertainment District

The Co-Chairs provided background information on the motion.

Following discussion, the motion below was put on the floor:

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee recognize the importance of preserving Davie Village as a 2SLGBTQ+ entertainment district and community space;

FURTHER THAT the Committee would like to consult with staff to gather further information to inform next steps on this issue.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

The Committee agreed to add this item to the Regular Meeting on September 12, 2024.

3. Discussion: Role of Working Sessions vs. Regular Meetings

The Co-Chairs discussed receiving feedback on draft Committee motions.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to continue to consult with Council Liaisons in a proactive and timely manner when drafting motions.

4. Pride Week Events, Including Flag-Raising Ceremony at City Hall

Tristan Lai and Eddy Elmer agreed to be the MCs for the City's Flag Raising Ceremony on July 29, 2024.

5. Working Session Updates

The Co-Chairs provided an update on the working session held Thursday, June 6, 2024.

Note: See pages 7 and 8 of Appendix B for Draft Supplementary Notes from that working session.

6. Liaison Updates

The Vancouver Public Library Liaison provided information on [Vancouver Pride Week](#), and responded to questions.

The Vancouver Police Department Liaison responded to comments and questions, and noted the VPD Community Policing Centres are planning to have an annual Pride Day event starting in 2025.

7. Subcommittee Updates

None.

8. New Business

None.

ADJOURNMENT

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, September 12 2024
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall
/ Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:47 pm.

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APPENDIX A

Supplementary Notes from May 16, 2024 Regular Meeting

Municipal Election Outreach Report

- Post-election surveys noted the following top-two reasons for not voting in the last municipal election
 - candidate list was too long
 - not enough information about the voting process, candidates, etc.; this was also frequently mentioned after the 2018 election
- Committee members made the following observations and suggestions:
 - surveys were mostly online, thus missing people who do not use the Internet
 - surveys did not allow people to rank-order their reasons for not voting; this should be changed
 - qualitative research (e.g., focus groups) should be conducted to get more in-depth information about why people do not vote and how barriers could be reduced
 - to improve outreach in our community, the City should engage people during Pride events, Queer Film Festival, etc., which occur around the same time as the municipal election
 - more outreach could be done with new immigrants, who may be unaware if they are eligible to vote and how they can do so
 - [MOSAIC](#) offers a good voter workshop in cooperation with the City; the City should continue reaching out to other organizations that may be interested in hosting these events
 - Chris Morrissey mentioned that [Rainbow Refugee](#) will be holding voter workshops

Recognition and Stewardship of 2SLGBTQ+ Memorials: Update on Committee Motion

- Members were pleased with the report that the Park Board provided on this [motion](#)
- Members made the following observations and suggestions:
 - The Committee should work with the City to create a list of people, places, and events that could be memorialized
 - Contact Ron Dutton, creator of the [BC Gay and Lesbian Archives](#), for suggestions; **Action Item**: the Committee will invite him to a future meeting
 - Find ways to let the public to make suggestions (e.g., allow them to “pin” noteworthy locations on a digital map)
 - Consult [Mapping the Gay Guides](#) for ideas
 - Existing memorials have tended to focus on gay men; consider memorials that reflect other parts of the community
 - Consider a variety of locations; for example, in addition to parks, memorials could be located outside of buildings

Needs of 2SLGBTQ+ People in Shelters and Community Centres

- In response to a query from the Committee, staff from Homelessness Services provided the following information:

“Shelters located in the City of Vancouver are generally provided operating funding from BC Housing and the direct operations of shelters are overseen by non-profit organizations. The City of Vancouver does not play a role in the direct operation of shelters. The exception will be a shelter that is operated by City of Vancouver staff in a community centre. The two examples are at the Gathering Place, and a winter shelter at Evelyne Saller. In this case, operating funding will still be provided by BC Housing.

The City does support the opening/building of shelters in a variety of ways, that may include providing land, a nominal lease, or grants to support the ability for a shelter to be opened, as well as supporting organizations through the permitting process. An example would be the work with Atira and Watari to open the Nest (320 Alexander) as an Extreme Weather Response (EWR) site this season, which supported trans and gender diverse individuals specifically.

It will be beneficial to connect with the three community centres directly so they can provide information from their sites.”

- **Action Item:** The Committee will invite staff from the three community centres to provide further information on support and services for 2SLGBTQ+ people
- Members also discussed ongoing encampments in the city and the need for long-term housing solutions for vulnerable members of our community

Subcommittee Updates

Aging and Housing Subcommittee

- Dr. Eric Berthelet advised that Living with Pride Foundation (LWP) is planning focus groups to better understand the housing and social service needs of 2SLGBTQ+ seniors
- He said there is a particular need to hear from older transgender individuals
- He asked Committee members to share information about the focus groups with their networks; **Action Item:** LWP will provide information that can easily be shared on social media

2SLGBTQ+ Spaces, Place-Making, and Events Subcommittee

- Members suggested that the Committee send letters to 2SLGBTQ+ community organizations to let them know who we are and to invite them to provide any feedback or ask questions

Liaison Updates

Vancouver Public Library: Samantha Mills

- For the last year, VPL has worked with an EDI consultant to understand and work to improve the experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ and other equity-seeking staff, and to work towards better representation at all levels; **Action Item:** The Liaison will discuss the consultant's recommendations at a future committee meeting
- VPL has recently updated the description of its [Man in the Moon](#) program with more inclusive language. The program "provides opportunities for fathers and caregivers who are men and non-binary to learn ways to support early literacy and language development in their children through playing, singing, talking and reading together."
- VPL is no longer participating in VPD's [Safe Place](#) program; VPL has internal staff training on inclusion and support for equity-seeking groups, and now has its own stickers
- After being asked by the Vancouver Pride Society not to participate in the Pride Parade in 2019, VPL has been allowed to participate in Pride events once again for the last couple of years. Last year, the decision was made, on the advice of VPL's internal staff 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee, to devote more of its energy to tabling and interacting directly with the community at events like the Dyke March Festival and VanPrideFest, in addition to marching in the Parade.
- Chris Morrissey mentioned that she will be participating in a book launch about 2SLGBTQ+ elder abuse; **Action Item:** See if VPL can obtain the book for its collection

Park Board: Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky

- Park Board has approved the [Imagine West End Waterfront Plan](#); Council has not accepted it; Park Board is currently negotiating with Council to reach a compromise
- Park Board is finalizing the [Sport Field Strategy](#)
- Park Board is organizing "[Playoffs in the Park](#)" for those wishing to view the Stanley Cup playoffs in a safe, family-friendly environment

APPENDIX B

Supplementary Notes from June 6, 2024 Working Session

Street Lighting

- Members discussed the Committee's [previous motion](#) to improve street lighting; despite the motion passing, deficiencies persist
- There is a need for more sidewalk-level lighting; this is especially important in the summer when tree cover can block street lights
- There is insufficient lighting near bus stops
- There is an overreliance on residents to report non-functioning lights
- Many residents will report non-functioning lights near their homes, but they assume that the City will flag non-functioning lights elsewhere, especially in commercial areas; due to this assumption, lights in commercial areas may remain non-functioning for extended periods
- The City should do more advertising to remind the public that they can report non-functioning lights by calling 311 or using the Van311 app
- The City and TransLink should place signs inside bus shelters reminding people to report non-functioning lights
- **Action Item:** The Staff liaison will invite Streets and Engineering and TransLink to present to the Committee; if a motion is to be written, other advisory committees should be invited to provide feedback

Draft Motion:

Measures to Preserve Davie Village as a 2SLGBTQ+ Entertainment District

- Rick Hurlbut presented a draft of the above-noted motion
- Committee members offered the following feedback:
 - the motion should add references to relevant City reports, including the [West End Community Plan](#) and [Davie Village: Space for People](#)
 - staff from Liquor Licensing and other relevant departments should be invited to provide further information as needed
 - the motion should be trimmed to focus on a few key resolutions
 - a future motion could focus on spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ organizations and non-commercial spaces for community members to meet (e.g., communal board rooms)

Vancouver Police Department Liaison

- Constable Stephen Jones introduced himself as the Committee's new liaison
- Cst. Jones currently runs the [Community Crime Watch](#) program
- He looks forward to a constructive working relationship with the Committee
- Eddy Elmer asked Cst. Jones if VPD increases patrols in District 1 during June Pride Month; Eddy noted the following:
 - although Vancouver officially celebrates Pride later in the summer, the risks to

community members can be elevated in June due to the high profile of Pride Month and the negative online rhetoric that occurs during this time

- in previous years, community members have reported being harassed and feeling unsafe in the Granville Entertainment District and Davie Village during June Pride Month
- **Action Item**: Cst. Jones will inquire with VPD about staffing levels during June Pride Month
- Committee members suggested that the VPD Community Policing Centre hold an annual event to improve outreach to intersectionally identifying 2SLGBTQ+ communities