



## 2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

**September 12, 2024**

A meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 5:46 pm, in the Business Centre Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

**PRESENT:** Eddy Elmer, Co-Chair  
Saif Al Shamaa  
Hana Chisako Acorn  
Rick Hurlbut  
Chris Morrissey  
Bradley Sarandi  
Viplav Subramanian, Vice-Chair

**ABSENT:** Tara Fraser, Co-Chair (Leave of Absence)  
Mathew Fleury  
Tristan Lai (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:** Alyse Stewart, Meeting Coordinator  
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies

### WELCOME

The Vice-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 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 leaves of absence for Tara Fraser, Tristan Lai 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, July 4, 2024, as circulated.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

*Note: See Appendix A, pages 6 to 8, for Supplementary Notes from that meeting.*

### **1. Presentation: Davie Street – Transportation and Public Space**

Staff from Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability provided a presentation and responded to questions and comments.

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*Prior to the start of Item 2, the Committee agreed to vary the agenda in order to deal with item Item 5 first, due to staff availability.*

*Note: For clarity, the minutes are recorded in chronological order.*

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### **5. Presentation: Healthy City Strategy Refresh (Follow-Up)**

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

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

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

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has seen value in protecting the historic and cultural heritage of distinct community groups and assets by promoting the preservation of Gastown and Chinatown;
2. Vancouver's 2SLGBTQ+ community gathering places have been displaced several times as the city underwent commercial redevelopment and changes in zoning. Specifically, this has occurred in historic downtown, the Granville Entertainment District, and more recently, Yaletown;
3. Vancouver City Council was successfully petitioned to establish a dedicated 2SLGBTQ+ Entertainment District along Davie Street, a.k.a. Davie Village, as a safeguard against homophobic violence which might occur if queer-centric licensed establishments were relegated to the Granville Entertainment District;
4. All queer-centric licensed establishments are currently located within the Davie Village catchment area, in addition to several other like businesses and community organizations;
5. The future redevelopment of the St. Paul's Hospital site, along with additional increased residential density in proximity to Davie Village, threatens to bring mainstream commercial pressure on the makeup of Davie Village;
6. The proposed upgrading of Davie Village streetscaping acknowledges the 2SLGBTQ+ distinctiveness and would include features which celebrate this.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee recommends that Mayor and Council recommit to maintaining Davie Village's designation as Vancouver's 2SLGBTQ+ Entertainment District, with consideration for:

- i. Preventing liquor licenses currently attached to Davie Village establishments from being moved outside of the district; and
- ii. Including a proviso that any redevelopment within one block of Davie Village cannot allow noise complaints based on the activities of entertainment establishments or community events held on Davie Street, as reasonable noise is an inevitable part of a vibrant and healthy entertainment district.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

**3. Update: Gastown Public Spaces Plan**

Saif Al Shamaa noted he attended a staff presentation on the Gastown Public Spaces Plan and provided an update to members via email, which will be included in the Supplementary Notes for the October 2024 meeting.

#### **4. Honoraria for Advisory Committee Members**

The Co-Chair noted that he would follow up with staff about the Committee's prior motion on this topic as well as questions regarding payment methods.

#### **6. All-Candidates Debate on 2SLGBTQ+ Issues**

The Committee members discussed hosting or co-hosting an event prior to the provincial election. They also discussed sharing general voting information with their networks (e.g., how, when, and where to vote).

#### **7. Pride Update**

Committee members discussed this year's Pride celebrations.

#### **8. Liaison Updates**

The Vancouver Public Library Liaison provided an update on the following:

- [Vancouver Pride Week](#)
- [The Vancouver Dyke March and Festival](#)

The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) Liaison introduced Constable Kat Dauncey, Hate Crime Investigator, and provided updates.

#### **9. Subcommittee Updates**

None.

#### **10. New Business**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

**Next Meeting:**

DATE: Thursday, November 7, 2024  
TIME: 5:30 pm  
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall  
/ Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:32 pm.

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## Appendix A

### Supplementary Notes for July 4, 2024 Meeting

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

Following a presentation from staff, Committee members offered the following comments about the Action Plan Renewal

- Would like to see more attention to the needs of sex workers addressed
  - Staff: engagement with sex work community did take place
- Transit safety must be addressed, as TGD2S people feel unsafe when using public transit
- More attention should be paid to street lighting
- Rather than simply indicating gender neutrality, washroom signs should explicitly indicate that “trans people are welcome”
- Need more inclusive shelters and permanent housing for TGD2S people; members noted that TGD2S may feel unsafe in mainstream shelters, including cold weather shelters, and there may be need for a dedicated shelter for them
  - Staff advised that they have done a roundtable with unhoused people
- There should be a phone number that TGD2S people can call to report or request information about safety issues, as some TGD2S people may feel uncomfortable calling 911
- What is available in terms of TGD2S victim services?
- Is there adequate support for TGD2S refugees coming to the city?
- There is a serious lack of localized quantitative and qualitative data about queer people’s experiences and perceptions about safety in public spaces
  - hearing about people’s lived experiences with transphobia and violence would help to inform this Action Plan Renewal
  - one committee member asked if the City has collected any relevant data as part of the [UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces initiative](#)
  - Staff advised that that the UN Safe Spaces initiative is in a renewable phase; data from the initiative has been collected and could inform the current Action Plan Renewal
- Need more access to safe and inclusive recreational services for TGD2S; there is a trans swim program but it is just one program in one pool and requires Internet access to sign up
- Need more library spaces that are safe and inclusive, including reading spaces for unhoused people, many of whom are TGD2S; need to ensure that staff are well-equipped to support these patrons; VPL liaison responded:
  - VPL participated in the original work on this action plan back in 2016

- lots of work had been started to make library spaces more welcoming and inclusive, but then this work petered out and staff stopped participating in training
- VPL now has an internal committee focused on this issue, so hopefully there will be more improvements forthcoming
- VPL liaison noted that 20% of VPL staff are queer or trans
- City staff noted that they will have further consultation on the TGD2S Inclusion and Safety Action Plan with the chief librarian
- What work is the City doing with business re: TGD2S safety and inclusion?
- Staff advised that the City licenses businesses, so there are already certain policies that they must follow; City also has good relations with the Business Improvement Associations and is liaising with them regarding the Action Plan Renewal
- TGD2S competency training for City staff should be continuous, rather than one-off sessions
- To learn about needs of TGD2S people, need to go beyond advisory committees, surveys, and focus groups, which tend to reach a select group of people; need to talk to people on the street and liaise with community groups (e.g., QMUNITY, WISH Drop-In Centre)
  - Staff advised that more could be done with public engagement
- Have Two-Spirit individuals been consulted about whether they wish to be included in this Action Plan, given that they may not necessarily identify as transgender or gender diverse?
  - Staff: Yes, consultations have begun

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

- Some members suggested that the motion be expanded to address the perception that Davie Street is not as inclusive as it could be for different groups

### **Working Sessions**

- Members felt it is important that there be consultation as early as possible with staff liaisons when a motion is being drafted; this allows liaisons to provide timely information that could strengthen the motions or direct the Committee to any work that is already underway by staff or other advisory committees
- Early consultation would prevent prolonged work on motions that might ultimately be unsuccessful
- It was reaffirmed that Committees are free to pass any motions they wish, even if they may ultimately result in no action

### **Vancouver Public Library Liaison Update [Samantha Mills]**

- VPL working on library's presence at Pride (e.g., presence at parade and other events)
- Marketing department has produced some Pride swag
- Staff very supportive of VPL's work

### **Vancouver Police Department Liaison Update/Discussion [Cst. Stephen Jones]**

- Community Policing Centres Pride Day: Cst. Jones reached out to the head of the CPCs and was told that they are open to an annual one-day Pride event at all 12 CPCs; details would need to be worked out next year; would likely be done in partnership with [Out on Patrol \[outonpatrol.ca\]](http://OutonPatrol.com)
- In response to a member's question about police presence in District 1 during June Pride Month, Cst. Jones advised that there are supplementary patrols on weekends all summer, which includes the West End, Davie Village, and beaches
- Other members noted that some 2SLGBTQ+ feel unsafe with the increased police presence during Pride, which discourages them from attending events
- Some members asked if the police at Pride could be in plain clothes; Cst. Jones advised that many of them are; however, a uniformed presence is also important to deter any criminal activity that might put the safety of 2SLGBTQ+ people at risk
- Committee members raised concerns about 2SLGBTQ+ not always feeling comfortable to call 911 and speak with police; would like to see alternative means for people to report crimes and seek support; a special hotline was suggested that would not involve police
- Cst. Jones mentioned [Crime Stoppers \[solvecrime.ca\]](http://CrimeStoppers.com) as one way that 2SLGBTQ+ people could report crimes without talking to police; these reports would go to E-Comm, which could then be forwarded to police, if the reporting party wishes
- Members asked what more can be done to address 2SLGBTQ+ people's fears and improve community-police relations, including more education for police officers; members would like to see VPD take more steps to be an ally to the 2SLGBTQ community
  - Cst. Jones advised that ever since the Aaron Webster killing, there has been stronger dialogue, support, and collaboration between the community and VPD, although there is always room for improvement
  - He pointed to the numerous programs the VPD has implemented over the years, including [Safe Place \[vpdsafeplace.com\]](http://SafePlace.com) and the dedicated 2SLGBTQ+ Liaison Officer [Eddy noted that this position no longer exists and that other officers in Diversity have taken over this work]
  - Eddy noted that the VPD's Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee has been discussing these matters at length; he can provide a summary of meetings at a future date