



## 2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

January 9, 2025

A meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 5:33 pm, in Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

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

**ABSENT:** Tristan Lai (Leave of Absence)  
Michael Yus

**ALSO PRESENT:** Samantha Mills, Vancouver Public Library Liaison  
Constable Stephen Jones, Vancouver Police Department Liaison  
Khoa Vo, Alternate Member  
Robert Hadley, Alternate Member

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

### WELCOME

The Co-Chair acknowledged that 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 Saif Al Shamaa  
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 a leave of absence for Tristan Lai for this meeting.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, November 07, 2024, as circulated;

FURTHER THAT the Committee submit additional notes for this item to administrative staff, to be appended to the minutes as Appendix A.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

*Note: See pages 5 to 9 of Appendix A of the Minutes for the Additional Notes.*

#### **1. Election of Co-Chairs**

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

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee appoint Eddy Elmer and Tara Fraser as Co-Chairs, and Viplav Subramanian as Vice-Chair, for the term January 9, 2025, to November 1, 2026.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

#### **2. Committee Housekeeping**

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

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee invite City staff to come to the February 13<sup>th</sup> Working Session to discuss procedures related to the payment of honoraria for Advisory Committee members, with an emphasis on privacy, security, alternate payment methods, and communicating procedures to Advisory Committee members.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

The Committee also agreed to add the topic of “Creating a Community Agreement” to their February 13<sup>th</sup> Working Session.

### **3. October 9, 2024, Council Motion Regarding Committee Structures**

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

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee requests that City staff consult with the Committee at its February 13<sup>th</sup> Working Session about the motion entitled "[Reviewing Council's Committees & Structure to Enhance Decision-Making Processes](#)", considered at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services on October 9, 2024;

FURTHER THAT the Committee requests City staff to share the results of the review;

FURTHER THAT the Committee do an in-depth evaluation of the value it provides as an Advisory Committee;

AND FURTHER THAT the Committee liaises with other City of Vancouver Advisory Committees about this topic.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

### **4. Davie Village and 2SLGBTQ+ History**

Committee members discussed the development at 1177 Burrard Street and noted that City staff would be attending the February 13<sup>th</sup> Working Session to present on prioritizing 2SLGBTQ+ organizations in the cultural community hub of the development.

### **5. Supporting and Promoting 2SLGBTQ+ Businesses, Tourism, and Events**

The Committee discussed the history of the Davie Village and its future possibilities.

### **6. Workplan and Priorities for Remainder of Term**

Due to time constraints, this item was not considered.

### **7. Liaison Updates**

The Vancouver Public Library Liaison noted that VPL is in the process of searching for a new Chief Librarian following the resignation of the current Chief Librarian.

The Vancouver Police Department Liaison discussed 2SLGBTQ+ hate crime statistics and responded to questions and comments regarding under-reporting and how to reduce barriers to reporting.

### **8. Subcommittee Updates**

Due to time constraints, this item was not considered.

**9. New Business**

**a) Recent Passing of Joe Average**

The Committee acknowledged the recent passing of Joe Average, a Vancouver artist who championed LGBTQ rights and advocated for people with AIDS. He was the recipient of the Order of British Columbia and the Order of Canada.

**b) Street Lighting**

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

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee invite Engineering Services staff to present about procedures for reporting and repairing non-functioning streetlights, which is a vital safety issue for 2SLGBTQ+ community members.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

**ADJOURNMENT**

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

**Next Meeting:**

DATE: Wednesday, March 6, 2024  
TIME: 5:30 pm  
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room, 2nd Floor,  
City Hall / Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:45 pm.

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## Appendix A

### Draft Supplementary Notes for 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee Meeting

November 7, 2024

#### Park Board Presentation: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Initiatives and Programming for 2SLGBTQ+ Communities

- Jessica Land, Associate Director, Recreation Services, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, provided an overview of equity and access initiatives at Park Board
- Her portfolio includes the Leisure Access program, queer inclusion, and youth services

#### Arts and Culture Group Initiatives

- Implementing Council's [UNDRIP Strategy Action Plan](#)
- Reporting back on Park Board [Reconciliation Strategies Plan](#)
- Conducting [Colonial Audit](#)
- Reconciliation and Recreation Committee: considers how we can ensure that recreation staff are well-trained and that the public receives the desired recreational programming and services
- Arts and Culture Group: activating field houses and community centres, with focus on EDI

#### Park Planning and Development

- Opened a new park at Smithe and Richards streets named [sθəqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7](#) ('Rainbow Park')
- First park in Vancouver to be gifted with a name by the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nation
- Has elevated, wheelchair-accessible pathway

#### Strategic Operations

- Hired a new Accessibility Planner focused on federal and provincial accessibility standards and the City's [Accessibility Strategy](#)
- Also working on [Parks Washroom Strategy](#)

#### Business Services

- Manages Stanley Park Train, which is now entirely wheelchair-accessible

#### Park Operations

- [Washroom and Field House Implementation Plan](#), focusing on park field houses with public washrooms, change rooms, concession areas, staff support, programming, and living quarters
- Emphasis on universal single-use washroom replacement and accessibility

### Leisure Access Program

- Free and reduced-cost [programs](#) for low-income residents
- Examples: fitness centres and outdoor pools

### Adapted and Supported Recreation

- Equipment: aquatic lifts and wheelchairs; ice sleds; mobi-mats
- Free admission for support persons
- Supported summer camps for children who need behavioral support (very high-demand program)

### Urban Park Activation

- Since the pandemic, working on offering additional programming for people not connected to traditional recreational opportunities
- Focus on inner city parks
- Examples: Art at Andy Livingston Park; powwow groups; drumming; cedar carving; skateboarding

### Queer Inclusion Team

- Various [programming for queer residents](#); examples:
- STGD Swim, a weekly opportunity for Two Spirit, trans, and gender diverse people to use the pool or gym to swim, exercise, and socialize; includes games, crafts, etc.
- Registered and drop-in yoga
- Baby Story Time for STGD families, in partnership with VPL
- Queer holiday skate parties
- Trans Day of Remembrance

### Non-Traditional Programming

- Exploring non-traditional areas like specialized childcare, cultural programming, social service programs, and partnerships with non-profits

### *Questions/Recommendations from Committee*

#### Consistency of Locations

- Programming seems to migrate from one location to another
- Important to have more consistency because people become comfortable with a particular location over time
- They may also have trouble getting to a new location, finding parking, etc.,
- Some may also feel unsafe in a new location
- Rick mentioned that Rainbow Roundtable—a social group for 2SLGBTQ+ older adults—used to be at the same place and time (Roundhouse Community Centre); this helped ensure consistent participation
- Should try to have at least 3 or 4 locations in the city where programming is offered

- Staff: community centres can be very busy; sometimes we are limited by what space is available at a given time; will try to see if there can be more consistent locations

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#### Consistency of Programming

- Tristan asked how much consistency there is in DEI policies and queer programming across community centres; seems like there is a lot of subjectivity from centre to centre; can there be more consistency?
- Staff: programming at each community centre is run by a small non-profit Community Centre Association (CCA); each CCA has a different focus; Park Board staff work with these CCAs to see what type of programming is most suitable for their community, but Park Board cannot dictate the programming offered; staff can only make a good case for particular kinds of programming and offer matching funds to get programs going; must work with the CCAs on programming that is of interest to them
- However, Park Board staff do provide queer inclusion on-boarding materials to all community centre staff and do annual workshops on accessibility; hoping to do annual workshops on DEI, too

#### Programming for Older Adults

- Chris said that Park Board does not appear to offer any services for 2SLGBTQ+ seniors
- Even Rainbow Roundtable, mentioned above, is no longer offered

#### Park Board Procurement Policy

- Eddy asked if the Park Board's [Procurement Policy](#) encourages contracts with suppliers from 2SLGBTQ+ communities
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky will consult with staff and report back

#### **Motion Regarding 2SLGBTQ+ Programming by Park Board**

- Discussion deferred

#### **Prima Properties Development (“Monogram”) at Davie and Burrard**

- As a Community Amenity Contribution (CAC), Prima Properties is giving the City some space in the building to lease to arts and culture organizations
- Given the building's location in the Davie Village, the Committee would like 2SLGBTQ+ organizations to be given priority for that space
- Would like staff to attend a meeting and discuss plans for the space

#### **Noise and Lighting Complaints**

- With increasing residential development around Davie Village, there is concern that new residents may request noise restrictions in the area, which would be a detriment to the Village's nightlife
- This issue has arisen in other cities like [Montreal](#)
- In the past, the Committee has received complaints that long-time residents around Davie Village have left because of late-night noise from Jim Deva Plaza

- There are similar concerns around what some people consider intrusive lighting (e.g., lit signage, decorative lighting)
- Committee feels that a *reasonable* amount of noise and non-essential lighting should be permissible in an entertainment district

### **Scooters and Pedestrian Safety**

- Members raised concerns about pedestrian safety amid a steep rise in use of e-scooters on sidewalks
- This is especially problematic for older adults and those with disabilities; notably, queer seniors are at greater risk for frailty than other older adults
- Committee would like a presentation from staff and VPD on current by-laws and enforcement

### **Travel and Tourism**

- Rick suggested that Tourism Vancouver attend a future meeting to discuss initiatives for promoting 2SLGBTQ+ tourism
- Would also like to know if there is a brochure or other material for visitors highlighting relevant sites, attractions, and events relating to the 2SLGBTQ+ community

### **Vancouver Public Library Update from Samantha Mills**

- Chief Librarian Christina De Castell is stepping down this year
- She worked hard to ensure that 2SLGBTQ+ staff feel heard and a part of the culture; staff is hoping the new Chief Librarian will have the same approach
- Internal 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee working on Safe Place stickers and staff pronoun pins
- Annual staff wellness conference: staff learned skills to support colleagues' mental health and resilience; also had a therapy dog session

### **Vancouver Police Department Update from Cst. Stephen Jones**

- As requested: For August, there were 13 reported hate crimes/incidents, down from the same period in 2023; none were specifically related to the 2SLGBTQ+ community, compared to 1 in the same period last year
- Eddy would like statistics for June, as well, given the heightened attention to 2SLGBTQ+ people that month
- For the full year, two incidents of note for the community:
  - Unprovoked assault against a 2SLGBTQ+ person in the West End in August; suspect was identified and charges were forwarded to Crown; no physical injury to victim but emotional impact is obviously significant
  - A pride flag was damaged; under investigation by a hate crime detective
- Cst. Jones can provide annual statistics, broken down by category, at the next meeting
- Cst. Jones also addressed a [recent article](#) re: FOI requests for hate crime statistics; Eddy asked why a FOI request is needed to access these statistics; can they be made available on the VPD's website?
- Responding to concerns that VPD no longer has a dedicated 2SLGBTQ+ Liaison Officer, Cst. Jones advised that the portfolio is now being handled by a general Diversity Liaison



Officer; however, community members strongly prefer a dedicated 2SLGBTQ+ Liaison Officer, as has been [recommended](#) elsewhere

- [VPD Safe Space](#) program is continuing; Eddy advised that the VPD SOGD Liaison Committee has been providing input on how to refresh the program

### **Committee Attendance**

- Members discussed the importance of attendance, especially during regular meetings
- Quorum cannot be achieved if there are insufficient people present, meaning that motions cannot be passed
- While it is recognized that members are volunteers and have many other commitments, regular attendance is necessary for basic committee functioning
- If members anticipate being absent, they should let the Meeting Clerk and Co-chairs know in advance as soon as possible so that the meeting can be rescheduled or items can be deferred
- Members sought clarification from the Clerk regarding the maximum number of meetings that can be missed before a member is asked to resign