



2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 8, 2025

A meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, 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
Hana Chisako Acorn
Saif Al Shamaa
Rick Hurlbut
Tristan Lai
Stephen Menon
Ash Rich
Bradley Sarandi
Khoa Vo

ABSENT:

Viplav Subramanian, Vice-Chair (Leave of Absence)
Michael Yus

ALSO PRESENT:

Emily Gow, Vancouver Public Library Liaison
Representative
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 Rick Hurlbut

SECONDED by Hana Chisako Acorn

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 Viplav Subramanian 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, March 6, 2025, as circulated;

FURTHER THAT the Committee submit Supplementary Notes for this item to administrative staff, to be appended to the Minutes as Appendix A.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Note: Supplementary Notes can be found on pages 5 and 6 in Appendix A of the Minutes.

1. Honouring the Legacy of Chris Morrissey

Committee members shared their memories of Chris Morrissey, a former member who passed away recently, and noted her strength, humour, dedication, and lasting impact on the lives of 2SLGBTQ+ Canadians.

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

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee recognizes the legacy and contributions of Chris Morrissey, and respectfully requests that Council allocate time at a future Council meeting to formally honour her life;

FURTHER THAT members of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee and the public be invited to attend that meeting and have the opportunity to share a few words of remembrance;

AND FURTHER THAT the Committee explore options for an audiovisual commemoration, and request that staff consider additional ways to honour Chris Morrissey's legacy—such as including her in public signage or artwork along Davie Street and exploring whether

an existing City program or grant supporting 2SLGBTQ+ communities or older adults could be renamed in her honour.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

2. Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) Inclusion and Safety Action Plan Event

Three Committee members attended the City of Vancouver's Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) Inclusion and Safety Action Plan event and provided an update. The Committee discussed inviting the City staff team working on this initiative to a future meeting.

3. Vancouver Quality of Life Survey

The Co-Chair led discussion on a recent City of Vancouver quality of life survey. The Committee agreed to invite the City's Healthy City Strategy team to the September meeting to present on the findings, especially those pertaining to 2SLGBTQ+ people.

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The Committee recessed at 6:25 pm and reconvened at 6:38 pm.

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4. Future of the Advisory Committee: Preparation of Statement for Council

The Committee discussed the pending Council report regarding the future of advisory committees, and agreed, if possible, to speak at the relevant Council meeting once the report is available.

5. Working Session Updates

The Committee received an update on the Working Session of April 10, 2025, including discussion on:

- i. Rainbow Refugee Community Space
- ii. New QMUNITY Building
- iii. Street Lighting

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

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve the Supplementary Notes from the April 10, 2025, Working Session, attached to these Minutes as Appendix B.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Note: Supplementary Notes can be found on pages 7 to 10 in Appendix B of the Minutes.

6. Liaison Updates

The Vancouver Public Library Liaison Representative noted that Ben Hyman has recently been appointed Chief Librarian and Chief Executive Officer.

The Co-Chair provided an update on behalf of the Vancouver Police Department Liaison, noting two upcoming events on June 11, 2025: a Personal Safety Workshop for Seniors at the Roundhouse Community Centre and a Hate Crime Forum at UBC Robson Square. The Co-Chair also mentioned that the VPD has a new Hate Crime Detective, Kat Dauncey, who will be attending the Committee meetings with Cst. Stephen Jones.

7. New Business

a) Corporate Sponsorship

The Committee discussed the decline of corporate sponsorships for Pride Events across Canada. The Committee agreed to reach out to City staff for further information on possible implications for Vancouver's Pride festivities this year.

b) Upcoming Events

The Committee noted the following upcoming events:

- Vancouver Canadians Pride Night baseball game on July 22, 2025;
- QMUNITY's 2025 IDAHOBIT breakfast on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver.

ADJOURNMENT

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, June 12, 2025
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room, 2nd Floor,
City Hall/ Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:15 pm.

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Appendix A

2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

Supplementary Notes from March 6, 2025 Regular Meeting

Council Motion Regarding Committee Structures

- Eddy noted that the cross-committee consultation last year was not well advertised and had poor attendance as a result.
- He also noted that the survey sent to committee members appeared to be a general survey about members' experiences, rather than a survey to be used in deciding how to restructure committees. Had this been more explicit, the response rate would likely have been higher.
- Khoa noted that models like the [Community Advisory Assembly](#) are very commercial and put civic engagement in the hands of paid consultants who set the agenda and lead the discussion. These assemblies are also unable to bring motions forward
- Other members expressed fears that restructuring committees would erode democratic participation.
- Tristan wondered if more education was needed to help staff understand the purpose of the advisory committees and make better decisions about which items should be sent to which committees for feedback. He also noted that he would like us provide feedback on a broader range of items, noting that engagement requests have tended to come from only a small handful of departments.
- Eddy noted that the Clerk's office has streamlined the engagement process (e.g., staff are requested to complete a form indicating why they would like our feedback on a given item and the type of feedback they are seeking).

Liaison Update on the Motion

- Clr. Meiszner mentioned that the rationale for Council's October 9 motion ([Minutes, p. 13](#)) is to help committees be more effective in providing recommendations to Council.
- He noted a report back to Council is not due until late April or early May.
- The Committee shared concerns that the potential elimination or consolidation of this Committee could diminish 2SLGBTQ+ voices and reduce focused feedback on issues pertinent to this population (see Committee motion from [March 6, 2025 Minutes](#)).
- The Committee also conveyed its perception that staff have already made a decision about the future of the committees without fulsome consultation.

Davie Street: Transportation and Public Space

- Following the staff presentation, members offered various feedback.
- Defining the space now will prevent its erosion as one of the main centres of 2SLGBTQ+ life.
- Members appreciate the focus on Indigenous art but feel that the proposed plans lack narrative elements relating to 2SLGBTQ+ people.
- Is it possible to embed metal stars or other elements in the sidewalk that depict 2SLGBTQ+ events and figures, like we see in San Francisco's Castro neighbourhood?
 - Staff advised that they explored this idea but chose not to implement it due to the risk of slipping and falling on the stars as well as theft (in some cities, people steal these decorative elements and sell them to make money from the metal)
 - To address this concern, Rick asked if the stars could be embedded in the metal tree grates; after all, the grates are cast-iron, less slip-resistant, and set in a theft-resistant frame. However, staff advised that the grates need to allow water to flow through; blocking them with decorative stars would interfere with this
 - Eddy and Tara suggested that perhaps these elements could be incorporated into benches or the footrest areas under benches
- Staff advised that instead of embedding elements into the sidewalk, it may be possible to incorporate story-telling elements into pole wraps, seating, bus shelters, etc. These elements can be added later on, after the basic infrastructure upgrades are made. Staff will circle back to the Committee to see which stories should be highlighted.
- What material will be used for benches? Metal is not preferred as it can get very hot and uncomfortable for many, especially older people.
 - Staff: metal will not be used in any seating. Benches will be made of wood. Material for shared seating is still under consideration; it could be wood, but perhaps plastic, which is less likely to crack.
- What will be done to prevent vandalism of the Heart of Davie sign?
 - Staff will increase height of the neon element and will make the pole and base sturdier.
- Cooling should be considered, including space for cooling stations.
 - Staff: more trees will be added to cool the area. No changes are proposed to the water fountain.
- Given that 2SLGBTQ+ people are over-represented among the unhoused population, hostile architecture should be avoided (e.g., spikes or dividers on benches).
 - Staff: seating will not include these elements.
- The colour palette is not very distinctive; something more lively would be welcome.
- With population growth in the area, will wider sidewalks increase traffic congestion?
 - Staff: many of the people who will move to the area will walk instead of drive, so wider sidewalks are important.
 - Wider sidewalks will also ease pedestrian congestion in front of entertainment venues.
 - Vehicle access will not change; only parking lanes will change. This will streamline traffic by reducing vehicle movement in and out of parking spaces.

Appendix B

Supplementary Notes from April 10, 2025 Working Session

Street Lighting

- Adequate street lighting is a simple way to improve real and perceived safety for 2SLGBTQ+ people and other marginalized groups.
- Identification and repair of non-functioning lights are two ongoing problems that have been raised by various advisory committees since at least 2012.
- Other problems are the absence of adequate lighting in some areas and the obstruction of lighting (e.g., by tree cover in the summer).
- Council brought forward committees' concerns in 2013 ([Minutes, p. 29](#)), 2014 ([Minutes, p. 6](#)), and 2020 ([Minutes, p. 22](#)) calling on staff to examine these matters.
- Engineering Services attended the current meeting to respond to these concerns.

Identifying Outages

- Members wondered how the City identifies outages. It seems it still relies on residents to report outages using 311. While this is helpful, do staff proactively identify outages on their own?
- Also, how likely is it that someone will report an outage in non-residential areas? People might report an outage in front of their home, but will they report an outage in front of a business or in an alleyway? Some people just assume that the City will identify and repair these lights.
- Eddy noted that outages in non-residential areas often last for months; it does not seem residents are reporting these outages, so relying on them is ineffective.
- Staff noted that in addition to relying on residents to report outages, Engineering staff report outages proactively (e.g., while doing nightly repair work). Other staff are also encouraged to report outages (e.g., sanitation crews).
- With the installation of new smart LEDs throughout the city, outages will be minimized because these lights last longer (15 years vs. 5 years for the older sodium vapour lights). The new lights also have control nodes that transmit real-time information about outages. So far these nodes have been installed in all commercial areas. The Committee wonders if and when the nodes will be installed on lights in residential areas.

Amount of Time to Repair Lighting Problems

- After consultation with committees and in advance of Council's motion from 2014, Engineering Services committed to repairing reported outages in 7-10 days. This commitment appears to have been honoured for many years, but service levels appear to have waned again.
- Most recently, Eddy noted two outages that left three busy residential blocks nearly pitch black in the winter. One of the outages was in front of a residential care facility. These outages are dangerous for pedestrians who cannot see where they are walking and cannot spot e-bikes, which are increasingly common on our sidewalks. Low visibility also increases risk of slipping and falling during wet and icy conditions.
- Eddy noted that even though he and others made multiple requests using the Van311 app and calling 311, these outages lasted 7 weeks.
- After further inquiries, Eddy was advised that the outages were due to a wiring problem caused by salt erosion, which required extended repair. Eddy wonders why the City did

not advise residents of this. Given the lack of updates, residents thought the City was unaware of the outages.

- Staff advised that when a repair request is made, a work order is created and a crew is assigned. Per the current service level agreement, staff aim to review requests within 4 days and make repairs within 15 days.
- Burned out bulbs are repaired on the spot. If special electrical repairs are needed, they are re-assigned to a different crew.
- Going forward, staff said they will be more proactive in providing updates for repairs that require more time; the Committee welcomed this change.

Inadequacy of Lighting

- There is a need for additional lighting in poorly-lit areas (e.g., in front of shelters; alleyways that people pass frequently).
- It is also important to consider limiting obstructions (e.g., excessive overhang from shrubbery and trees).
- Staff advised that it regularly reviews lighting levels throughout the city to ensure that it meets international lighting standards. Tree cover can make it harder to reach these standards. However, the installation of new LED lighting will provide greater overall visibility than existing sodium vapour lights, compensating for obstructions.
- Eddy asked how residents can make suggestions for new or different types of lighting. Staff advised that residents can make suggestions to 311, which will forward the suggestions to the Electrical Design Group.

Update from QMUNITY

Capital Campaign

- Executive Director Anoop Gill advised that QMUNITY has launched a new capital campaign to meet growing demand for services.
- Since the COVID pandemic, there has been a stark uptake in QMUNITY's youth and seniors programs. Some people come in as far as Langley as to access services.
- Youth are also looking for safer spaces given the increasing hostility they face in school.
- QMUNITY has a new legal clinic focused on family, employment, and immigration cases.
- It also provides various services for trans people, including helping them with identification and health services like laser hair removal.
- The counselling programs are in high demand and there is a long waiting list; one-third of people who request these services will be unable to access them. The same issues are affecting QMUNITY's employment services program, PRISM.
- More funding is needed to meet growing demand for these services. Funding is also needed for QMUNITY's new building at Davie and Burrard.
- Unfortunately, corporations and individuals have scaled back funding over the years, and QMUNITY is falling short of its funding goals.
- In the last 3 years, the federal government has provided no funding, despite launching a 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan. The provincial government has a few arcane funding streams that have not kept pace with changes in queer people's needs.
- Anoop says that although politicians say that funding cuts are not having a negative impact on 2SLGBTQ+ people, the knock-on effects of austerity take a while to

materialize. Building resilience now is important because nobody knows what societal and legal challenges 2SLGBTQ+ people will face in the future.

New Building at Davie and Burrard

- QMUNITY's space at Davie and Bute has been falling apart and is not accessible for people with disabilities (e.g., unable to install stair lifts).
- QMUNITY is grateful to Gordon Neighbourhood House for having providing accessible spaces, but notes that people want to visit spaces specifically run by QMUNITY; the new building will meet this need.
- The second floor will have a multi-purpose room that can be used for socializing, sporting events, parenting groups, etc. It could also be used by other organizations as meeting spaces.
- The exterior will be designed to make the new building appear safe and welcoming for all community members, but financial support is needed for this.
- Rick suggested that perhaps QMUNITY could coordinate its exterior artwork with that of other buildings going up in the area. Perhaps the developers of those buildings could provide funding?
- Tristan said he could share information about additional funding streams that might be available to QMUNITY (e.g., through UBC).
- Tristan asked if there will be a committee to advise on the exterior artwork. Anoop said there was already a consultation with a diverse five-member group, but there may be opportunities for further consultation on the eight art installations that are planned.
- Anoop wonders will happen to all the people accessing substance use programs in the area when St. Paul's Hospital on Davie Street closes. Who will fill the gap in services at Davie and Bute when QMUNITY leaves that block?
- Committee members discussed the importance of BIAs in helping QMUNITY and other 2SLGBTQ+ organizations. Anoop noted that some people are leaving Davie Village because of lack of services; she would welcome the BIAs' support to stem this flow.

Lease Issues for 2SLGBTQ+ Organization

- A local organization providing vital services to 2SLGBTQ+ people is having challenges securing new space after its lease recently ended.
- The current space will be converted to commercial use.
- Although the organization leases another space which it can try to reconfigure, it says the loss of the other space will materially impact its ability to serve its clients.
- The organization can also share space with other groups, but would strongly prefer to have its own spaces because clients would feel more comfortable and safe there.
- Committee members offered to connect the organization with City staff to explore options.
- Members also suggested getting in touch with the West End BIA.
- Tristan suggested looking into the [Cultural Spaces Grant Program](#).
- Rick noted that the loss of this and other spaces is an example of gentrification and could be prevented if the City were to endorse the Committee's motion to preserve Davie Village as a distinct neighbourhood (e.g., see [Minutes, July 2024, p. 2](#))

Council Motion Regarding Committee Structures

- Eddy and Tara attended a cross-committee chairs' meeting on this topic.
- Some chairs stated that the primary problem is not the structure of committees but lack of engagement from liaisons. Committees would like to discuss possible improvements with liaisons but this has not been possible due to their irregular attendance.
- Some suggestions for improvement include clear mandate letters and set allocation of time for considering Council priorities vs. member motions.

VPD Liaison Update

- Cst. Stephen Jones advised that VPD is happy to work with our Committee and the Community Policing Centres on a 2SLGBTQ+ event during Pride.

Other Items

- Khoa mentioned he is looking for youth who have been in and out of care to help him with an SFU art project focused on their experiences. He will share an advertisement for distribution to our networks.