



2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 11, 2025

A meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 5:30 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
Robert Hadley, Vice-Chair
Rick Hurlbut
Tristan Lai
Stephen Menon
Ash Rich*
Khoa Vo*

ABSENT:

Saif Al Shamaa (Leave of Absence)
Bradley Sarandi (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Rebecca Bligh, Council Liaison
Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky, Park Board Liaison
Detective Constable Kat Dauncey, Vancouver Police Department Liaison
Emily Gow, Vancouver Public Library Representative

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

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 Robert Hadley
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 AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY
(Stephen Menon opposed)
(Ash Rich and Khoa Vo absent for the vote)

Leave of Absence Requests

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Saif Al Shamaa and Bradley Sarandi 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, June 12, 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 to 9 in Appendix A of these Minutes.

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VARY THE AGENDA

The Committee agreed by consensus to vary the agenda in order to deal with New Business Item (a) Harry Potter: A Forbidden Forest Experience, prior to Item 1.

For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in chronological order.

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8. New Business

a) Harry Potter: A Forbidden Forest Experience

The Co-Chair provided an update on the Vancouver Park Board's recent approval of the Harry Potter: A Forbidden Forest Experience attraction, scheduled to open in Stanley Park in November 2025. The Committee discussed concerns that had been raised and received background information from the Park Board and Council Liaisons. Members offered comments

and suggestions to address issues related to this and future events, emphasizing the importance of timely consultation with the Committee and other relevant civic bodies.

1. Pride 2025: Debrief and Discussion on Funding

The Committee discussed Pride 2025 and noted concerns about funding for the Vancouver Pride Society.

2. Purple Lights Nights Intimate Partner Violence Campaign: Exploring Collaborations

The Co-Chair shared information about the [campaign](#) and asked members to think about potential partner organizations, especially those working with 2SLGBTQ+ communities.

3. City of Vancouver Social Connections Day: Collaboration on Motion from Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee (OPEAC)

The Committee discussed a draft motion from OPEAC and agreed to reach out to the Committee for additional information.

4. FIFA World Cup: 2SLGBTQ+ Inclusion and Events

The Committee discussed the June 2026 FIFA World Cup in Vancouver. Rick Hurlbut agreed to contact [Out For Kicks Vancouver](#) for updates and will attend a meeting later this month about the City's FIFA World Cup Human Rights Framework.

5. Safety in Community Centres and Pools: Follow-up on Committee Suggestions Regarding Signage

The Co-Chair noted this matter was resolved and signage has been put in place to enhance safety of 2SLGBTQ+ patrons in community centres and pools.

6. Events and Dates to Remember

Members discussed the following upcoming items:

- a. City of Vancouver FIFA World Cup Human Rights Framework Meeting, September 29, 2025, City Hall
- b. [Chris Morrissey Public Memorial, October 18, 2025, Roundhouse Community Centre](#)
- c. VPD [2SLGBTQIA+ Safety Workshop](#), November 26, 2025, Renfrew Community Centre, and
- d. Deadline to complete annual Civic Agencies Training and Declaration of Completion.

7. Liaison Updates

The Vancouver Public Library Liaison representative reported on VPL's participation in Pride 2025, upcoming gender diversity training, and plans to consult the Committee on the Library's Strategic Plan.

The Vancouver Police Department Liaison shared updates on the 2SLGBTQIA+ Safety Workshop noted above, and a potential "What to Expect" video explaining the criminal record check process for transgender individuals.

8. New Business

b) Vice-Chair

By unanimous consent, Robert Hadley was appointed Vice-Chair of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee.

c) Working Session – July 4, 2025

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

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

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Note: Supplementary Notes can be found on pages 10 and 11 in Appendix B of these Minutes.

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, November 13, 2025
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room, 2nd Floor,
City Hall/ Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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APPENDIX A

2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

Supplementary Notes from June 12, 2025 Regular Meeting

Safety in City-Owned Public Facilities

- Members discussed a complaint relayed to the Committee from a member of the 2LGBTQ+ community whose partner felt harassed at Lord Byng Pool.
- Members reiterated that all signage at all City facilities should refer to codes of conduct/policies so there is no ambiguity about what behavior is acceptable or not.
- Through email to Eddy Elmer, staff noted that all Park Board pools have gender inclusive signage on washroom doors as well as signage outlining the Board's [Code of Conduct](#). However, members suggested that signage should also explicitly remind patrons to speak to staff if they feel unsafe or unwelcome; in an emotionally charged situation, patrons may forget to do this, or may feel helpless or embarrassed.
- Samantha Mills, VPL Liaison, noted that VPL has a lot of signage to make spaces more welcoming and to convey expectations for appropriate behaviour. Staff are also trained to be welcoming and to monitor inappropriate conduct. They also complete security incident reports and flag any visitors with a history of problematic behaviour; such visitors may be spoken to or banned from facilities if necessary.
- VPD Liaison Cst. Kat Dauncey underscored the importance of reporting, even if just to facility staff. If a person commits an offence later—in the facility or elsewhere—police can establish a pattern of inappropriate conduct that may be useful in initiating enforcement action
- Khoa Vo said that reporting is important because it may protect other patrons from experiencing similar behaviour. Even if a person does not feel the situation is bothering them too much, the behaviour may escalate and affect others. He also said it is important to gather witnesses to corroborate a complaint.
- Members thanked the complainant in this particular case for feeling comfortable to reach out to the Committee and share their experience.
- Eddy will follow up with Park Board regarding this situation and the Committee's suggestions.

Honouring Chris Morrissey

- Mayor and Council will read the Committee's proclamation at one of the last two meetings in July. Hana Acorn will draft the proclamation and Eddy Elmer will edit.
- Several committee members will attend.
- Invitations will be sent to interested community members as well as the media.
- Members also discussed naming a program or fund after Chris. Hana suggested a program or space at the Britannia Community Centre or library branch, where Chris was

very active with [QUIRK-E](#) and other initiatives. Samantha Mills said she could put us in touch with staff at the library as well as the Dunbar VPL branch. She could also put us in touch with dementia organizations, given Chris's work in that area.

Pride Season

- Rick Hurlbut noted that Pride Society had not yet shared information about this year's festivities, which was unusual. There was speculation this was due to funding and other internal challenges with the organization.
- Members wondered if Pride would still happen this year and in what form.
- Rick reached out to Pride society several times but received no response. He suggested that City staff follow up with Pride to see what was happening and if the Committee or staff could offer any assistance.
- Kat Dauncey reached out to Pride Society, too, but did not hear back.
- Eddy Elmer heard that Pride had contacted EOPS, so at least there was some contact with VPD about security preparations. Security is especially important in the aftermath of the Lapu Lapu tragedy.
- Rick noted that the federal government provided \$1 million in funding to cover security costs at Pride events across the country.
- Eddy reminded members about the flag-raising at City Hall, to be held July 28 at noon. He and Tara Fraser will co-emcee the event. Eddy will update last year's script and share with the Committee for their feedback.

International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)

- QMUNITY hosted its annual fund-raising breakfast at the Hotel Vancouver in May. Kat Dauncey attended with several VPD members. Eddy Elmer and Rick Hurlbut attended as guests of VPD.
- The focus was on fund-raising for QMUNITY's counseling services, where demand has exceeded available resources. Attendees heard from a father whose son died by suicide because counseling services were not available when he needed them.
- Kat enjoyed learning about the different organizations serving 2SLGBTQ+ communities.
- Rick said more time should be set aside for networking. Eddy suggested that representatives from different groups should sit at different tables, rather than with their own colleagues. This would enhance networking.

VPD Hate Crime Forum

- Eddy Elmer and Rick Hurlbut attended the forum on June 11 at Robson Square.
- The event had a very good turnout.
- The first presentation from BC Hate Crimes—run by RCMP—did an excellent job distinguishing between [hate crimes and hate incidents](#).

- There is no specific offence called a “hate crime” in the *Criminal Code*. Only three offences explicitly relate to hate: Advocating Genocide, Public Incitement of Hatred, and Wilful Promotion of Hatred. In most cases, the term “hate crime” is used more broadly to describe any offence in which hate is believed to be a motivating factor. If hate is an element of the crime, this will be considered during sentencing.
- Although police receive training on hate-motivated crimes, there is a lot to learn and not all officers are fully aware of the different avenues they can pursue when laying charges. This is why BC Hate Crimes does in-service workshops for police agencies.
- Eddy wished there was more information on prevention of hate crimes/incidents.

Reporting

- Eddy also wished the forum had more information on how to report crimes and incidents. Kat Dauncey reminded committee members about the different [ways to report](#):
 - Call 911 if your immediate safety is at risk.
 - If there is no immediate safety risk, and you saw the suspect, or there is physical evidence of an offence, call VPD non-emergency at 604-717-3321.
 - Online reporting had been available before but has been disabled for various technical reasons; the VPD SOGD Liaison Committee continues to have conversations about this with VPD
 - When reporting to police, always ask for the officer’s badge number, contact information, and the file number. Even when calling non-emergency, ask for a file number. This way you can refer to the case again if you have new information to share. Even if you do not mention your name, a file number will always be generated.
 - Third party or anonymous reporting through [Crime Stoppers](#) is also possible, but can be challenging because a victim statement is typically needed to pursue charges; still, even without a victim statement, reports are relayed to police, which can be helpful for intelligence gathering, resource allocation, etc.
 - People can also reach out to Kat, who can explain the reporting process.
- In all cases, if a possible hate-motivated element is identified in a police report, Kat will review the file and determine if appropriate charges should be recommended to Crown.
- Kat mentioned that if a person experienced a hate crime or incident and is unhappy with how an officer handled the matter (e.g., did not record that the incident was hate motivated, or did not make a report at all), they can ask for another officer or supervisor to review. Kat can also review the file. Even if it is determined that the incident cannot be pursued criminally, at least a report can be generated, which is important for establishing a pattern of conduct that may eventually reach a criminal threshold.
- Going forward, Kat will be hosting smaller-scale hate crime and personal safety information sessions throughout the community. These can be tailored to 2SLGBTQ+ audiences. If anyone knows community groups that would like a session, please contact Kat. Rick suggested that Kat reach out to the Community Policing Centres for leads.

City of Vancouver Youth Safety Forum

- Khoa Vo attended one of the sessions and found it very informative.
- He was pleased to see the City plans to partner with numerous community groups to improve safety and well-being for youth, including refugees.
- Many youth attended, including those working with the Park Board and School Board.
- Khoa was especially touched by one speaker who shared his story about leaving his country in Africa, where he witnessed war crimes and was involved in gang activity. This young man found that participating in extracurricular activities in Vancouver helped him overcome his trauma and turn his life around.

Advisory Committee Chairs' Meeting with Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies

- Eddy Elmer and Tara Fraser attended.
- Chairs discussed the [Review of Advisory Committee Structures and Systems](#). It was noted that the report was received by Council for information only and no actions have been proposed at this time. It appears the current structures will continue for the remainder of the term, with small incremental adjustments as suggested in the review.
- Chairs discussed making small updates to the staff engagement process to ensure staff understand that committees expect post-engagement report-backs. This will help committees see if and how their recommendations have made an impact. The Clerk will look at updating the Engagement Request Form to reflect this expectation and to request that staff provide an anticipated timeline for follow-up.
- Chairs discussed the process for claiming member expense allowances after meetings. This included a conversation about privacy concerns relating to the City's supply portal being hosted by a U.S. company. Kevin will connect with the Supply Chain team to see about preparing a short set of instructions to help committee members navigate the supplier registration system and receive payments without needing to provide sensitive persona information.

Vancouver Public Library Liaison Update

- Samantha Mills mentioned that VPL's Pride activities are likely to be similar to last year's. Staff will be present at the Pride Parade. A new staff member will be in charge of VPL's Pride Parade entry. Staff are waiting to hear back from the Dyke March about having a VPL table at their Grandview Park event.
- VPL plans to have tables at various events, as well as children and family activities and library card sign-ups near the Grandview branch.
- 2SLGBTQ+ reading lists, movies, and local resources will be posted on a special Pride webpage. Eddy wondered if this resource could be available year-around.
- Samantha will introduce herself to the new CEO to let him know about VPL's annual Pride participation and that she is on the internal VPL 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee.

VPD Liaison

- Kat Dauncey will be taking on the role of the VPD 2SLGBTQ+ Liaison Officer. It will be similar to the role that Dale Quiring had, but will not be formalized.
- Kat would like to meet as many community members as possible and is happy to have coffee with anyone who would like to discuss safety and policing.

Other Business

- Rick Hurlbut said there appeared to be no progress on the 2SLGBTQ+ lighting installation promised at the Joyce-Collingwood residential development. Eddy said he would follow up with staff and the developer to get an update.
- Hana noted that Rainbow Refugee has been able to find additional programming space after their eviction from their current space, but they feel it is not enough. They continue to seek more suitable space.

APPENDIX B

Supplementary Notes from July 4, 2025 Working Session

Chris Morrissey Proclamation

- Members approved the proclamation wording and confirmed their attendance for the reading.

Pride Flag-Raising

- Members confirmed their attendance and approved the script that Eddy Elmer and Tara Fraser will read at the event.

Pride Activities

- Rick noted the Parade will take a new route this year. There will not be very much shade, so he has contacted Pride Society to see if they will provide covered seating for seniors in front of the Roundhouse Community Centre. In previous years, this seating has been sponsored by Amica, but perhaps this funding has been eliminated. Samantha Mills mentioned that some seniors have also complained about lack of appropriate seating at the Dyke March.
- Kat Dauncey mentioned that EOPS has been in touch with the Dyke March and has confirmed that VPD will ensure that both sides of Commercial are blocked to vehicle traffic, as per the procedure from prior years.

TGD2S and Anti-Racism Action Plan Update

- Rob Hadley attended the event on June 19.
- Attendees discussed the need to compare historical patterns to measure progress in reporting hate crimes. Kat Dauncey mentioned this is difficult because of changes in data collection over time. For instance, hate crimes and incidents used to be grouped together as one category, but are now disaggregated, so it is difficult to compare statistics over time.
- Attendees discussed the need to streamline data collection so that reports from disparate sources and agencies at the local, provincial, and federal levels can be centralized and so that duplicate reports can be removed (e.g., reports coming to VPD, from third parties, from provincial hotline, etc.). Duplication coupled with underreporting can paint a confusing picture about prevalence of hate crimes and lead to difficulties in assessing progress in reporting, incidents, etc. Kat Dauncey says streamlining and centralizing data collection and removing duplicates is already occurring.
- Eddy asked if hate crimes/incidents are reported on [GeoDash](#). If not, perhaps they should be because this may be of interest to the public, researchers, etc.
- Transgender individuals would like more information about local resources in the city. This might take the form of an online handbook but should ideally have offline components as well. The resources should include a unified “one-stop-shop” listing

resources on homelessness, food security, counselling, and youth/senior supports.

- Transgender individuals would also like more public education about trans issues so the general public becomes more comfortable with them. This information should be customized for different age groups. Our committee would be happy to advise staff on this.
- There are no apparent metrics gathered consistently to understand measurement or evaluation of systems. Whilst this is a difficult challenge, particularly with legacy systems, it is important for demonstrating success in the Trans and Anti-Racism Action Plan.
- Eddy noted that the VPD SOGD Liaison Committee is currently discussing several of the foregoing topics in more depth.
- The event host, April Sumpter-Freitag, welcomed attendees to have one-on-one sessions with her if they would like to discuss any matters further.

VPD Liaison Update

- Kat mentioned that VPD is looking to refresh the [Safe Place](#) program, with a new logo, stickers, and awareness campaign.
- The Community Policing Centre Pride Event that the VPD SOGD Committee had recommended will likely not go forward this year due to timing. However, Eddy and Kat will be in touch with Neil Fernyhough at WECHCPC, who is still interested in helping host this event with all CPCs.

Other Business

- Vancouver Canadians will be having a Pride game on July 22, 2025.