



2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 13, 2025

A meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 5:31 pm, via electronic means.

PRESENT:

Eddy Elmer, Co-Chair
Tara Fraser, Co-Chair
Saif Al Shamaa
Hana Chisako Acorn
Robert Hadley, Vice-Chair
Rick Hurlbut
Khoa Vo

ABSENT:

Tristan Lai (Leave of Absence)
Stephen Menon (Leave of Absence)
Ash Rich (Leave of Absence)
Bradley Sarandi (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT:

Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky, Park Board
Liaison
Detective Constable Kat Dauncey, Vancouver Police
Department Liaison
April Sumter-Freitag, Social Planner, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:

Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies

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 Rob Hadley

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 leaves of absence for Tristan Lai, Stephen Menon, Ash Rich, 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, September 11, 2025, as circulated;

FURTHER THAT Supplementary Notes from the September and October meetings be circulated by the Co-Chair following this meeting and, absent any objection from members, be appended to the minutes for the current meeting.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Note: Supplementary Notes included as Appendix A of these Minutes.

1. Presentation: Gastown Public Spaces Plan

Staff from Engineering Services provided a presentation and responded to questions and comments.

2. Park Board Event: “Harry Potter – A Forbidden Forest Experience”

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

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee retroactively approve the oral statement read before the Park Board on October 6, 2025;

FURTHER THAT the oral statement be appended to the minutes for the current meeting.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

The Committee then engaged in further discussion.

Note: The statement referenced in the resolution is included as Appendix B of these Minutes.

3. City of Vancouver Budget Cuts

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

WHEREAS

- A. The City of Vancouver has established grants and other funding for arts and cultural organisations, and for groups which produce important community events, including those for and by the Vancouver 2SLGBTQ+ community;
- B. At the Vancouver City Council meeting of July 9, 2025, Mayor and Council pledged to find ways to financially support the Vancouver Pride Society at a time when it has seen a substantial shortfall in corporate sponsorships;
- C. The Vancouver Department of Parks and Recreation delivers programming specific to 2SLGBTQ+ individuals—programs not offered by Community Centre Associations;
- D. The Vancouver Department of Parks and Recreation receives a substantial contribution from City Council toward its operating budget—contributions that will be effectively decreased under the proposed City Council 2026 budget; and
- E. The *Proposed 2026 Operating and Capital Budget* puts at risk funding for all of these essential services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee requests that Council does not implement any budget cuts, freezes, or reallocations that result in a reduction to the current funding levels for programs, grants, organizations, strategies, or other financial support that promotes the wellbeing of Vancouver's 2SLGBTQ+ communities.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

The Committee further agreed by consensus that if there are future opportunities to speak to Council about the 2026 budget, Rick Hurlbut and any other members be authorized to speak on behalf of the Committee.

4. Vancouver Pride Society Funding

The Committee engaged in discussion.

5. Older Persons Strategic Framework

The Committee discussed an update on a joint engagement for advisory committees that took place November 3, 2025.

6. 2026 Census

The Committee discussed the upcoming Census, which will include questions related to sexual orientation, and considered opportunities to work with the City on promoting Census participation by 2SLGBTQ+ individuals.

7. FIFA World Cup 2026 Updates

None.

8. Chris Morrissey Memorial

The Committee discussed the memorial that took place October 18, 2025, at the Roundhouse Community Centre, as well as further opportunities to commemorate Chris's legacy.

9. VPD Intimate Partner Violence Presentation and Purple Lights Nights Campaign

The Co-Chair provided an update and the Committee engaged in discussion.

10. Liaison Updates

All Liaisons present provided updates and responded to questions and comments.

The VPD Liaison informed the Committee of a [VPD 2SLGBTQ+ Safety Workshop](#) taking place November 26, 2025, 6 pm to 9 pm at Renfrew Community Centre.

11. New Business

None.

ADJOURNMENT

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

The Committee adjourned at 7:29 pm.

APPENDIX B

City of Vancouver 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

October 6, 2025

To: Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

Re: “Harry Potter: A Forbidden Forest Experience”

The 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee provides advice to Vancouver City Council and staff on issues impacting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, Two-Spirit, and other gender- and sexually diverse communities in Vancouver. Our mandate includes identifying barriers to full participation in civic life and recommending actions to ensure equitable access to City services and programs. We also work collaboratively with counterparts from other civic agencies to identify opportunities for joint action on issues of mutual interest.

Vancouver’s parks are vital public spaces that foster recreation, community connection, and cultural engagement. However, sexual and gender minorities— especially transgender, Two-Spirit, and racialized members of our communities—have historically experienced exclusion, discomfort, and targeted harassment in public and recreational spaces. Unfortunately, these experiences remain a reality for many.

2SLGBTQ+ community members have brought to our attention various concerns about the Park Board’s decision to commission an event centered on the work of J.K. Rowling. As many of you may be aware, Rowling’s widely publicized comments about transgender people have caused significant distress for many transgender and non-binary individuals globally, including here in Vancouver.

Although the Park Board has taken important steps toward transgender inclusion—as outlined in the [report](#) from the Trans* and Gender Variant Inclusion Working Group—many in our community tell us they remain deeply concerned that the Board is giving a platform to a high-profile figure they feel has consistently amplified negative messages about transgender individuals.

While we recognize that the broader public may not be fully aware of J.K. Rowling’s views and actions on this issue, the decision to feature her work in a publicly funded event risks overlooking or minimizing the lived experiences and concerns of many transgender residents in our city. Community members have also expressed concern that a portion of the event’s proceeds could contribute to Rowling’s ongoing legal proceedings related to transgender issues.

Although unintended, hosting this event sends a message that conflicts with Vancouver’s stated values of inclusion, safety, and respect for all communities. As an open and affirming city, we expect public bodies like the Park Board to uphold and reflect these values in their programming.

We recognize that contractual commitments may limit the ability to make changes to this specific event. However, the Park Board still has an opportunity to affirm its commitment to equity and inclusion moving forward. We therefore submit the following recommendations:

1. Publicly acknowledge the concerns raised by 2SLGBTQ+ communities in relation to this event.
2. As a gesture of goodwill, consider directing a portion of the proceeds from the event to 2SLGBTQ+ community programming, in consultation with stakeholders.
3. Commit to more frequent and inclusive consultation processes for future cultural and recreational programming, including any repeat of this event.
4. Engage relevant advisory bodies as early as possible—including the Park Board's Trans* and Gender Variant Implementation Steering Committee and our own committee—during the planning stages of future events. Early engagement will allow advisory bodies to provide feedback on similar events, helping to identify and mitigate potential risks to community members, the City, and the Park Board.
5. Implement equity-based impact assessments for all future programming and events to ensure alignment with the City's commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the Park Board in the development of inclusive, respectful, and representative public programming that affirms the dignity and safety of all Vancouver residents.

Approved by majority,

City of Vancouver 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee