



## 2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

January 8, 2026

A meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, January 8, 2025, at 5:34 pm, in Cascadia Meeting Room, 3rd 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  
Bradley Sarandi  
Khoa Vo

**ABSENT:** Ash Rich (Leave of Absence)  
Saif Al Shamaa

**ALSO PRESENT:** Detective Constable Kat Dauncey, Vancouver Police  
Department Liaison  
April Sumter-Freitag, Social Planner, Staff Liaison

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Alyse Stewart, 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 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 BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY  
(Stephen Menon opposed)

### **Leave of Absence Requests**

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Ash Rich 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 13, 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 8 in Appendix A of the Minutes.*

#### **1. Miscellaneous Housekeeping Items**

None.

#### **2. Committee Functioning: Optimizing Staff Resources and Support for Remainder of Term**

The Committee discussed a Council report entitled “Change to Council Advisory Committees Term Dates,” that was withdrawn from the December 9, 2025 Council meeting [agenda](#).

#### **3. Annual Report Review**

The Chair introduced the item and the Committee agreed to work further on the Annual Report at the next working session.

#### **4. Council Motion Entitled “[Cementing the City of Vancouver’s Support for Pride Weekend](#)”**

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

WHEREAS Vancouver City Council passed the “[Cementing the City of Vancouver’s Support for Pride Weekend](#)” motion on December 10, 2025;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee requests that the City Staff who have been directed to report back to Council regarding the above-noted Council members’ motion consult with the Committee and community partners in

advance for input on managing costs effectively and showcasing the economic benefits of Vancouver Pride and other community events.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

**5. Council Motion Entitled “[Advancing a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy](#)”**

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

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver City Council passed the “[Advancing a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy](#)” members’ motion on November 5, 2025; and
2. Gender-based violence has a unique impact on 2SLGBTQ+ individuals;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee requests that staff teams meet with the Committee to discuss the above-noted motion.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

**6. Federal Government Funding to Support 2SLGBTQ+ Communities and Respond to Gender-Based Violence**

The Chair introduced the item, followed by Committee discussion.

**7. FIFA World Cup: Protecting 2SLGBTQ+ Visibility and Inclusion**

The Committee discussed the item and requested that the Staff Liaison explore possible collaboration the City’s FIFA staff team.

**8. Park Board Response to Committee Letter re: Harry Potter Event**

The Chair introduced the item as well as gave an overview of the response from Park Board.

**9. License Extension Applications at Numbers Cabaret and 1181 Lounge on Davie Street**

The Chair gave an overview of the item and the Committee discussed the importance of supporting local businesses.

**10. Public Art: Update on 2SLGBTQ+ Installations at 5083 Joyce Street**

The Committee discussed the item and agreed to follow up on the progress of the art installation at 5083 Joyce Street.

## **11. Liaison Updates**

The Vancouver Police Department Liaison provided updates on a recent [safety workshop](#), upcoming Vancouver Police speaker series, as well as the possibility of an online safety forum.

The Staff Liaison provided updates on the [Healthy City Strategy](#) and the [Accessibility Action Plan](#).

## **12. New Business**

The Committee discussed the economic value of Queer tourism in Vancouver, and the possibility of having a future speaker from [Qmunity](#).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

The Committee adjourned at 7:39 pm.

## APPENDIX A

### City of Vancouver 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

#### Supplementary Notes for November 12, 2025 Meeting

Recorded by Eddy Elmer

#### Gastown Public Spaces Plan

Following the staff presentation, members offered the following comments and suggestions:

- The proposed gray colour palette is too cold and uninviting, especially for night and during darker parts of the year. It also does not suit Gastown's historic character. A warmer palette is preferred. Warmer lighting—similar to what is currently installed—is also preferred over harsh LED lighting.
- Wayfinding is insufficient. More signage is needed to help people locate and navigate Gastown.
- A question was raised about improving wayfinding for Maple Leaf Square. Staff indicated that options are being explored, including placing the Gastown sign there to help draw people to the Square.
- Bollards, benches, and planters could incorporate a consistent theme or emblem to signify the Gastown area.
- Pavers and other infrastructure could be used for storytelling and highlighting local materials (e.g., local clays). Consultation with First Nations, Black, Asian, and other communities that have shaped Gastown would be beneficial.
- Pavers currently in place are quite slippery in wet or snowy weather; the new pavers should have better traction.
- It would be nice to have water features installed.
- A question was raised about whether public realm improvements will increase perceptions of safety and how this would be measured.
- Eddy noted that some people may feel safer at night when cars are present, as this can mean more eyes and ears on the street and a greater likelihood that crime will be reported.
- Members noted that well-maintained streets can help people feel safer.
- Aside from bars, many businesses close early. The City could work with businesses to encourage longer hours to improve liveliness and safety. 24-hour eateries or coffee shops would be welcome. Consider the [Night-Time Economy Strategy](#) proposed by Hospitality Vancouver and also raised previously by Councillor Dominato.
- A question was raised about increasing car access across the train tracks and whether this could improve pedestrian access. Staff noted that access to Waterfront Road has been considered, but the Port of Vancouver, which has jurisdiction, does not want additional traffic in the area.

### **Harry Potter: “A Forbidden Forest Experience”**

- Commissioner Bastovanszky provided an update and noted that a letter of apology is forthcoming from the Park Board.
- Committee members reiterated the need for greater consultation with the Committee during planning stages of any events that may impact 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Regular updates from the Park Board Liaison(s) about any upcoming events would be helpful in this regard so that potential issues can be flagged in advance.
- Members expressed dismay at the length of time it took to announce the event, which occurred well after in-camera decision-making had concluded.
- April mentioned that Park Board issued press releases highlighting the work it does to promote 2SLGBTQ+ safety and inclusion. This included a mention of the [2STGD+ Safety and Inclusion Action Plan](#).

### **City of Vancouver Budget Cuts and Impact on 2SLGBTQ+ Organizations**

- Members expressed concern that the budget cuts will place additional pressure on 2SLGBTQ+ organizations already facing funding shortfalls.
- Members noted that Council had promised to help the Pride Society address its funding shortfalls; the proposed budget cuts call this commitment into question. Rick has reached out to Pride Society in this regard but has not heard back.
- Organizations like [Directions Youth Services](#), which provides support for 2SLGBTQ+ with housing challenges, may also be at risk.
- The [2STGD+ Safety and Inclusion Action Plan](#) may be at risk, since it is not a specific program or service.
- In light of the above, the Committee’s proposed motion was expanded to address funding for “programs, grants, organizations, strategies, or other financial support that promotes the wellbeing of Vancouver’s 2SLGBTQ+ communities.”

### **Older Persons Strategic Framework and Relevance to 2SLGBTQ+ People**

- Rob attended the staff presentation and noted the following points.
- 17% of Vancouver’s residents are aged 65+ (about 112,000 people).
- It is important to ensure that 2SLGBTQ+ older adults feel safe and comfortable in public spaces.
- Older adults, including newcomers, may benefit from education about equity, diversity, and inclusion in Vancouver, as they may be unaware of the experiences and perspectives of 2SLGBTQ+ older adults.
- The City should help to foster more recreational programming for 2SLGBTQ+ older adults (e.g., cycling groups).
- There is a continuing need to focus on 2SLGBTQ+ older adults in long-term care. [Dignity Seniors Society](#) has recently done work with Haro Park Centre to support queer seniors in their care. This work can be a model for other organizations.

## 2026 Census

- For the first time, the federal Census will include a question on sexual orientation. The purpose is to “inform programs that promote equal opportunity for everyone living in Canada to share in its social, cultural, and economic life.”
- In addition to providing a general sense of the 2SLGBTQ+ population nationally, estimates of the 2SLGBTQ+ population in specific cities can help inform the allocation of funding for programs.
- Sexual orientation will be defined as “how a person describes their sexuality.” Response options will be:
  - Heterosexual (i.e., straight)
  - Lesbian or gay
  - Bisexual or pansexual
  - Write-in field: please specify
- Members noted that the Census measures household composition only and may not capture alternative living arrangements common among 2SLGBTQ+ people (e.g., couples living apart).
- Members suggested that the City encourage 2SLGBTQ+ residents to participate in the Census and remind residents that responses are aggregated and cannot be used to identify individuals, which may help alleviate concerns about being “outed.”
- Eddy suggested inviting Peter Marriott from Social Policy and Planning to discuss these matters. Ideally this would be before the Census begins.
- Members suggested inviting someone from the Vancouver Public Library to discuss how residents can use library computers to complete the Census. Digital access may help reduce potential bias if responses are disproportionately submitted by individuals who tend to complete paper forms.

## FIFA World Cup 2026 Updates

- Rob attended the latest staff briefing and will attend any future meetings.

## Chris Morrissey Memorial

- 200-300 people attended, including Hana.
- The Committee will continue reaching out to staff to explore naming a civic asset, park, or city program/fund in honour of Chris.
- Kevin mentioned the [Commemoration Framework](#), which may be helpful, but progress on this has stalled. The City also had a [Civic Asset Naming Committee](#), but it is no longer operational.
- There may be opportunities to recognize Chris’s legacy as part of the [Davie Village upgrades](#). The exterior of QMUNITY’s new building at Davie and Burrard could also be used.
- Rick suggested that naming an existing fund or program may be the best route, as there is already a long list of prospective candidates for asset naming. Honouring Chris through a program or fund would be easier, and a fund could also be recognized annually.

## VPD Intimate Partner Violence Presentation and [Purple Lights Nights](#) Campaign

- Members noted they very much enjoyed the recent presentation by Detective Constable Adrian Lawson. April shared his presentation with City staff.
- Members suggested that radio spots could be effective in promoting the Campaign.
- Kat can arrange additional speakers to come and discuss IPV in 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Speakers could address online safety, sexual images, and other safety-related topics.
- Kat will ask Det. Cst. Bryan Watson for an update on the community IPV forum that had been planned for last year. The forum was intended to bring together stakeholders to learn more about the issue and how it could be addressed in 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Eddy noted that the project appeared to have stalled over a year ago during the ethics review process at SFU, one of the partner organizations.

## Updates from Staff Liaison, April Sumter-Freitag

- April acknowledged [Transgender Awareness Week](#), which is observed annually from November 13-19 and leads up to the [Transgender Day of Remembrance](#) on November 20—a day to memorialize victims of transphobic violence.
- Staff are receiving training from [TransFocus Consulting](#), which centers the experiences of trans people in the Canadian context and helps participants become effective allies.
- Various plans/strategies are coming before Council in Q1 2026:
  - [2STGD+ Safety and Inclusion Action Plan](#). April will present on the Plan to the TGD2S Housing & Services Roundtable and BC Non-Profit Housing Association.
  - [Anti-Racism Strategy](#)
  - [Accessibility Strategy Action Plan](#)
  - [2026 Healthy City Strategy](#)
- Two Council motions of relevance to the Committee:
  - [Ensuring Continuity of the Women's Equity Strategy Following the Closure of the Equity Office](#) (p. 15)
  - [Advancing a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy](#) (p. 17)
- Staff are working on a policy to be more proactive in engaging with advisory committees on relevant strategies and action plans. Members noted the importance of timely consultation so that suggestions can be incorporated in the early stages of planning rather than being tacked on at the end or introduced during Council deliberations.

## Updates from VPD Liaison, Det. Cst. Kat Dauncey

- Next Trans ID clinic will be held December 3<sup>rd</sup> at QMUNITY, 3-5pm.
- Kat is preparing a video to help transgender individuals become familiar with the process of visiting VPD to get an ID. It is hoped this will help allay anxieties about visiting VPD.