



2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 12, 2026

A meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 5:34 pm, in Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

PRESENT: Eddy Elmer, Co-Chair
Hana Chisako Acorn
Tara Fraser, Co-Chair*
Robert Hadley, Vice-Chair
Rick Hurlbut
Tristan Lai
Stephen Menon
Ash Rich
Bradley Sarandi
Khoa Vo*

ABSENT: Saif Al Shamaa (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky, Park Board
Liaison
Samantha Mills, Vancouver Public Library Liaison

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 Rick Hurlbut
SECONDED by Robert 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 AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY
(Stephen Menon opposed)
(Tara Fraser and Khoa Vo absent for the vote)

Leave of Absence Requests

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Saif Al Shamaa for this meeting.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS
(Tara Fraser and Khoa Vo absent for the vote)

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, January 8, 2026, 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
(Tara Fraser and Khoa Vo absent for the vote)

Note: Supplementary Notes can be found on pages 5 to 9 in Appendix A of the Minutes.

1. 2SLGBTQ Inclusion in Sport: Update on Meeting with French Consulate General

The Co-Chair and the Park Board Liaison provided an update on the meeting and responded to questions. They noted that they met with former French footballer Ouissem Belgacem and discussed their experiences in sport.

2. Citywide Equity Strategy: Staff Presentation and Discussion

Staff from Arts, Culture and Community Services provided a presentation and responded to questions.

3. Promoting 2SLGBTQ+ Participation in Census

The Committee discussed ways to encourage 2SLGBTQ+ individuals to complete the upcoming Census. It was noted that questions regarding sexual orientation will be included for the first time.

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Vary Agenda

THAT the Committee vary the order of the agenda to consider New Business Item a) Commemoration of Jim Deva's Legacy: Staff Presentation and Discussion, prior to considering Item 4.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Note: For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.

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4. Dignity Seniors Society and Work with 2SLGBTQ+ Older Adults

The Co-Chair encouraged Committee members to read the Dignity Seniors Society newsletters to learn about their work and to remind older adults in their networks about services that may be available to them.

5. FIFA World Cup 2026 Updates

The Committee discussed a meeting held with the Vancouver Police Department to discuss security and strategies to promote inclusion, respect, and prevent harassment and discrimination during events in Vancouver.

6. Working Session Updates

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

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve the Supplementary Notes from the February 12, 2026, Working Session, attached to these Minutes as Appendix B.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

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

7. Liaison Updates

The Vancouver Public Library Liaison representative reported on strategic planning and VPL's participation in upcoming CUPE 391 bargaining. She also shared information about the Queer Silent Book Club, Queer Rhyme Time, and an upcoming event: The Flash of Fireflies--Writing the Short Story.

8. New Business

a) Commemoration of Jim Deva's Legacy

Staff from Engineering Services provided a presentation and responded to questions about upcoming changes to the Megaphone in the Jim Deva Plaza.

b) All Chairs Meeting

The Co-Chair agreed to send out information from the All Chairs meeting he attended.

c) 2SLGBTQ+ Themed Lighting at 5083 Joyce Street

The Committee discussed the latest updates on this project.

ADJOURNMENT

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, May 14, 2026
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall/
Teams

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APPENDIX A

City of Vancouver 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

Draft Supplementary Notes for January 8, 2026 Meeting

Recorded by Eddy Elmer

Meeting with Dr. Julie Podmore, Professor and Chair of Geosciences, John Abbott College, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec

- The Committee was pleased to welcome Dr. Julie Podmore, who is working on a large SSHRC-funded research project on queer cultural infrastructure and 2SLGBTQ+ social inclusion in Canadian cities.
- One of her case studies is the Davie Village and Little Sister's Book & Art Emporium. Prior to the meeting, she met with Rick Hurlbut to discuss this.
- Following her discussion with Rick, she attended our meeting to learn more about the Committee and to understand how 2SLGBTQ+ individuals are included in municipal decision-making.
- This is the second time the Committee has welcomed a visiting scholar. A few years ago, we had a visiting scholar from Australia who was interested in learning more about 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion in municipal governance. Both he and Dr. Podmore noted that committees like ours—especially those that are run by community members and not elected officials—are rare in Canada and Australia. They both found our meetings very stimulating and appreciated the breadth and depth of our discussions, as well as our ability to work through our differences in a constructive manner. They said they were inspired to start similar committees in their own jurisdictions.

Committee Functioning: Optimizing Staff Resources and Support for Remainder of Term

- Members and staff noted that the Committee functions very efficiently and places minimal demands on staff time and resources.
- Staff indicated that they value being involved with the Committee, as it provides insight into issues affecting the community, which they may not learn about through their own networks.
- Members disputed the claim that the advisory committees are expensive, noting that expenses are primarily limited to food (e.g., pizza) and modest reimbursements for transportation and childcare (\$5 and \$40, respectively).
- Bradley noted that expenses are higher in other cities, where advisory committee members receive honoraria (e.g., Toronto's 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee).
- Robert noted that advisory committees provide good value for money, as they help staff avoid costly risks in decision-making.
- Several members shared their perception that Council and staff may not want citizen input.

Council Motion: Cementing the City of Vancouver's Support for Pride Weekend

- Members discussed the December 10 [motion](#) (p. 21) by Councillor Meiszner.
- Rick felt the Council motion was too general. He drafted a Committee motion requesting that staff consult with the Committee before preparing their report to Council, and that

they consider specific suggestions on how the City can enhance its support for the Vancouver Pride Society

- In particular, Rick suggested that the City explore alternatives to existing insurance providers (e.g., a group self-insurance model or collaboration with the Municipal Insurance Association of BC), develop a certification program for volunteer security personnel in cooperation with the Vancouver Police Department to supplement VPD staffing, and facilitate group purchasing of third-party event services such as sanitation, barricades, transportation, catering, staging, and amplification.
- Some members wondered if it would be too complex and costly to certify volunteers and if doing so would overlap with structures already in place.
- Hana noted that many people from other cities visit Vancouver in the summer to attend Pride festivities and suggested that the motion should ask staff to highlight the economic benefits of Pride.
- The final motion was revised to be less prescriptive, inviting staff to attend the next meeting for an informal discussion on strategies to manage costs effectively and highlight the economic benefits of Pride and other community events.
- Rick noted that the Council motion directed staff to provide a report in Q1; therefore, it is important for consultation with the Committee to happen quickly.
- **Action Items**: Eddy will invite staff to a Committee meeting. He will also reach out to Tourism Vancouver to see if they have any data on how much 2SLGBTQ+ events and visitors contribute to the local economy.

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

- Rick shared information about the federal government's [Equality for Sex, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression Program](#).
- The program provides funding to eligible organizations for time-limited projects that support equity and inclusion for 2SLGBTQ+ communities, including partnership development, capacity building, and applied community research.
- Rick wondered whether the Committee could apply for funding to support community outreach activities related to its mandate.
- Members will review the funding criteria and consider if the Committee would be eligible to apply.

FIFA World Cup 2026: 2SLGBTQ+ Visibility and Inclusion

- Rick mentioned that Seattle Pride's annual festivities will coincide with the World Cup.
- Seattle, one of the host cities, wants to host a "Pride Match" during the weekend of Seattle Pride—two days before the anniversary of the Stonewall riots. The event will highlight 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion in sport.
- The Egyptian and Iranian soccer teams, which are scheduled to play against each other that weekend, have [complained](#) to FIFA, stating they reject any activities perceived as promoting sexual and gender diversity. Seattle organizers have [urged FIFA](#) to allow the Match Pride to go ahead, noting that plans had been in place before the team schedules were decided.
- To address the controversy, it was reported that the Egypt-Iran match might be moved to Vancouver. However, Vancouver Pride Society [said](#) that Pride activities would likely be taking place in the city around that time (e.g., Eastside Pride). Stephen also mentioned that QMUNITY will be hosting a Pride House during the games (funded by QMUNITY and donations, not FIFA).
- Members noted that if the Egypt-Iran match is moved to Vancouver, the City should not allow

local Pride festivities or public displays of support for sexual and gender diversity to be curtailed. They emphasized that Vancouver is a 2SLGBTQ+ destination and that a single month of sporting events should not change that.

- **Update** (March 2026): Iran has indicated that it will [not be participating](#) in the World Cup due to the recent war in that country. Khoa noted that he signed up to volunteer during the games and attended an information session hosted by the City in December. He observed that although the City has made commitments to beautify the city, no information was provided on human rights, protecting 2SLGBTQ+ communities from harassment, or engaging with local queer groups.
- Kat Dauncey, the VPD Liaison, proposed an educational campaign to remind the public that harassment and violence will not be tolerated during the games. VPD executives appear to support this initiative.
 - **Action Item:** Kat will provide an update in April.
- April noted that the volunteer form has no space to indicate gender, so she wonders how safe the volunteer experience will be for 2SLGBTQ+ individuals.
 - **Action item:** April will request an update from staff about human rights issues and the volunteer form.

Park Board Response to Committee Letter re: Harry Potter: “A Forbidden Forest Experience”

- The Park Board issued a letter of apology in relation to this matter. It is appended to these notes.

Liquor License Extension Applications at Numbers Cabaret and 1181 Lounge on Davie Street

- Rick noticed that applications for extended hours and increased capacity were posted outside of these establishments. He hoped the Committee could consult with staff to remind them of the importance of supporting 2SLGBTQ+ businesses. However, the signage in question was quickly taken down, suggesting that a decision about the applications has already been made.

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

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- Rick requested an update from the developer, Westbank, on the status of the queer-themed programmable lighting installation that was promised.
- In consultation with the Committee, Westbank selected the installation as the project’s art contribution, as required under a condition of development pursuant to Council’s direction of [October 6, 2020](#) (p. 10).
- The campaign for the installation was led by Rick, with support from Collingwood Neighbourhood House, the Collingwood BIA, the Collingwood Community Policing Centre, and the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee.
- The lighting is intended to project animated queer-themed images, such as the Progress Pride and Trans* Pride flags, as well as lighting that celebrates other communities.
- The installation was envisioned as marking the historic eastern gateway to Vancouver and celebrating the 2SLGBTQ+ community as an expression of the city’s openness and welcome to people from all walks of life. It would be visible to pedestrians and drivers on Joyce Street, SkyTrain passengers, and users of the BC Parkway bike and walking trail.
- Other art installations, including sculptures, were considered but deemed unfeasible due

to site restrictions, rights-of-way, and wiring constraints. Rick expressed surprise that a sculpture has nonetheless been erected, while the lighting display has not yet been installed. **Action Item**: Eddy will ask staff and the developer for an update.

Updates from Staff Liaison, April Sumter-Freitag

- Various plans/strategies are coming before Council in Q1 2026:
 - [2026 Healthy City Strategy](#) (February 4)
 - [2STGD+ Safety and Inclusion Action Plan](#) (February 24)
 - [Anti-Racism Strategy](#)
 - [Accessibility Strategy Action Plan](#)
- As the Committee Vancouver School Board Liaison, Joshua Zhang, has not attended any meetings, April has been in touch with the alternative liaison, Trustee Jennifer Reddy, who will be pleased to attend meetings. Trustee Reddy had wanted to attend prior meetings but was unsure if this was appropriate because she had not heard from the Committee about Trustee Zhang's absences. Eddy apologized for this oversight and noted that Trustee Reddy's attendance will be valuable, as it will allow the Committee to provide feedback on issues affecting 2SLGBTQ+ students.

Updates from VPD Liaison, Detective Constable Kat Dauncey

2SLGBTQ+ Safety Workshop

- Kat noted that the 2SLGBTQ+ Safety Workshop held in November at Renfrew Community Centre was well-attended. Eddy, Tara, and Hana attended and found the event very educational. They hope more such events will be held in the future and that the Committee will help to promote them.
- Kat noted that a similar workshop focused on 2SLGBTQ+ youth is being planned.
- Eddy said it would be good to have a workshop about online safety, too.

VPD Officer Education

- Kat discussed plans for a speaker series to educate VPD officers on respectful and professional interactions with 2SLGBTQ+ individuals. Kat is currently seeking speakers from this Committee and the broader community. Rob and Eddy expressed interest and will follow up at the VPD SOGD Liaison Committee.
- Tristan discussed additional resources, including [Taking Pride](#), a six-workshop series for 2SLGBTQ+ youth that addresses relationship violence and helps participants develop healthy relationships skills.
- Rob suggested that Kat reach out to [Directions Youth Services](#), part of Family Services of Greater Vancouver, for more resources.

New Business

QMUNITY Capital Campaign for New Building

- Stephen mentioned that QMUNITY is scheduled to move into the [new building](#) at Davie and Burrard in Spring 2027. This will provide QMUNITY with 18,000 square feet of community space.
- The new building would not have been possible without generous donations. Notably, a

private foundation recently donated \$1.625 million, which is expected to be matched, making it the second-largest donation ever given to a 2SLGBTQ+ organization in Canada.

- To date, QMUNITY has received \$4.7 million as part of this capital campaign, with a goal of \$6.5 million.
- Stephen mentioned that tickets for QMUNITY's IDAHOBIT breakfast will [go on sale soon](#).

City of Vancouver Strategic Lead for Aging and Older Persons

- Eddy was advised by another committee that the Strategic Lead position might be in jeopardy due to budget cuts. The Committee was asked to write a letter of support reiterating the importance of the position, including for 2SLGBTQ+ older adults.
- Members decided to wait until there was more definitive information on the status of this position.
- **Action Item**: Eddy will provide an update at the next meeting.

November 14, 2025

Michael Robach,
Interim Executive Director,
QMUNITY

Tara Fraser & Eddy Elmer
Co-Chairs,
2SLGBTQ+ Committee

Sent via email: michael.robach@qmunity.ca,
eddy@eddyelmer.com,
taracfraser@gmail.com

Re: Letter to QMUNITY and 2SLGBTQ+ Committee on Harry Potter™ Event

Dear Members of QMUNITY and of the 2SLGBTQ+ Committee,

I am writing as Chair, to provide the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation's deep apology for the harms caused to transgender, gender diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) people, and their community, by our hosting of the Harry Potter™ event in Stanley Park.

The Park Board reiterates that it unequivocally supports the lives and rights of TGD2S people, it will continue to celebrate and honour them and their communities, and it will continue to support their specific needs and opportunities in the Vancouver parks and recreation system. We recognize that transphobia sets a precedent to the reduction in human rights that affects all of us.

As we work toward repairing the trust between us, and addressing the harm caused to TGD2S people and their communities, I wish to state, [per the motion passed on October 7, 2025](#):

- B. The Park Board confirms that the Harry Potter™ event will run for one season only, with no renewal or extension.
- C. Staff will be reporting back to the Board on concrete actions the Park Board can take to repair trust and address the harm, including:
 - i. Actions to increase TGD2S inclusion and safety according to the renewed TGD2S Action Plan anticipated for Q1/2026;
 - ii. Strengthened consultation processes to ensure events with equity or human rights implications are referred to the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee as early as possible in the planning process;
 - iii. Expanding spaces, place-making and events to celebrate and honour TGD2S people and communities.



Additionally, I am writing to you as Chair to express my deep appreciation for your public presentations at the Park Board on October 7, 2025, and your on-going work to help the Park Board understand the mistakes made in this situation. Your commitment to fostering inclusion, equity, and safety for TGD2S individuals is truly commendable.

I also wish to acknowledge the unique perspectives and lived experiences that you bring to this public discussion. Your voices are essential in shaping policies that reflect our values and ensure that our actions match our words. Please know that your work is seen, valued, and supported.

I truly hope that on the basis of our actions going forward together, your organizations and members will in due course find a way to accept the apology offered herein.

With respect and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Laura Christensen (*she/her*)
Board Chair - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

APPENDIX B

City of Vancouver 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

Draft Supplementary Notes for February 12, 2026 Working Session

Recorded by Eddy Elmer

2STGD+ Safety and Inclusion Action Plan

- Councillor Meiszner updated the Committee on the [Action Plan](#), scheduled to go before Council on February 24.
- He noted that the City has been engaging in community consultation on the Plan, including outreach in multiple languages.
- One of the key focus areas is to increase inclusive, accessible housing and shelter options for 2STGD+ individuals. Stephen referenced the [Friends of Ruby](#) Home in Toronto, Canada's first transitional home for sexual and gender minority youth. Located near The 519, Friends of Ruby also provides ongoing housing support. Stephen noted that the home was built in just a few years with support from [Egale Canada](#) and serves as a strong example for Vancouver to follow.
- VPD Liaison Kat Dauncey noted that another focus area of the Action Plan—inclusive work environments—will help inform educational initiatives to promote inclusion for 2SLGBTQ+ employees at VPD.
- Eddy asked if the development of the Action Plan will be informed by the survey data collected by the City as part of its [UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Initiative](#). April indicated that it would not be, but the data may be used in the implementation of the Action Plan or the updated [Healthy City Strategy](#) which Council approved on February 3rd.

Council Motion: Cementing the City of Vancouver's Support for Pride Weekend

- Members discussed the December 10 [motion](#) (p. 21), sponsored by Councillor Meiszner.
- Cllr. Meiszner acknowledged that Vancouver Pride Society is facing challenges securing corporate sponsors.
- He also noted the City is working with the Pride Society and West End BIA to ensure the Davie Street Block Party will take place again this year.
- Eddy asked if the one-day fireworks celebration recently [approved by Council](#) would take place around the same time as Pride festivities, which could help attract more visitors to the city to enjoy both events. Cllr. Meiszner replied that the date selected by the production company, Brand Live Management, coincides with a Pride event at Davie and Denman. However, the Pride Society has raised concerns about potential conflicts between visitors going to the fireworks and those attending the Pride event. Cllr. Meiszner will provide further updates as they become available.
- He also noted the City may submit a bid for [WorldPride](#) and will explore federal funding support.
- Kat mentioned that [Out on Patrol Society](#) will be the host organization for the [5th World 2SLGBTQ+ Conference for Criminal Justice Professionals](#), July 27 - 30, 2027. This is a big honour for Out on Patrol and will reinforce Vancouver's reputation as a prime destination for 2SLGBTQ+ events.

Updates for Staff Liaison, April Sumter-Freitag

- Staff are preparing an update regarding a Council motion passed late last year: : [Advancing a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy](#) (p. 17)
- The 35th Annual Women's Memorial March will be happening on February 14, 12-4pm at Main and Hastings.

Updates for VPD Liaison, Det. Cst. Kat Dauncey

- Kat will be away from June 11 to July 19 to assist with FIFA World Cup planning. Cst. Stephen Jones will fill in for her during that time.
- Kat has submitted funding proposals for two initiatives:
 - pronoun pins for officers who wish to wear them
 - a course for police officers on respectful interactions with 2SLGBTQ+ people; the course might be produced in cooperation with the [Canadian Police Knowledge Network](#) or produced in-house by VPD and shared with other police departments
- Many negative comments about transgender people have been posted online following the Tumbler Ridge shooting incident. Stephen mentioned that QMUNITY is doing some risk planning in relation to this.
- Kat advised that if anyone observes an immediate threat online, they should call 911..
- Members emphasized to Kat the importance of the VPD providing multiple avenues for 2SLGBTQ+ people to report hate crimes and incidents. Standard reporting methods (e.g., calling 911 or the non-emergency line) may be inadequate, particularly for individuals who are hesitant to engage with police through formal channels.
- Eddy reminded members to review [Bill C-9: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code \(Hate Propaganda, Hate Crime and Access to Religious or Cultural Places\)](#). The Bill is in second reading.