CITY OF VANCOUVER

2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 17, 2026

A meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 5:32 pm, in via electronic means.

PRESENT:	Eddy Elmer, Co-Chair Saif Al Shamaa Hana Chisako Acorn Tara Fraser, Co-Chair Rick Hurlbut Tristan Lai Ash Rich Bradley Sarandi Khoa Vo
ABSENT:	Robert Hadley, Vice-Chair (Leave of Absence) Stephen Menon (Leave of Absence)
ALSO PRESENT:	Constable Kat Dauncey, Vancouver Police Department Liaison April Sumter-Freitag, Social Planner, Staff Liaison
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:	Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

WELCOME

The Co-Chair acknowledged 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 approves leaves of absence for Stephen Menon and Robert Hadley, for this meeting.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Approval of Minutes

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meeting of Thursday, July 9, 2026, as circulated.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

* * * * *

Vary Agenda

THAT the Committee vary the order of the agenda to consider New Business Item a) Update Regarding Motion on Gender-Based Violence, prior to considering Item 2.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

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

* * * * *

1. Inclusive Playground Design Presentation

Staff from Parks and Recreation provided a presentation and responded to questions.

2. Advisory Committee Annual Report for 2026

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

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approves the Term Report for 2023 to 2026.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

3. Approval of Notes from Past Meetings

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

THAT the Committee submit Supplementary Notes from the regular meetings on March 12, 2026, and May 14, 2026, and from the working session on June 11, 2026, to administrative staff, to be appended to the Minutes of the September 17, 2026, meeting.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Note: Supplementary Notes can be found on pages 4 to 17 in Appendices A to C of the Minutes.

4. Committee Debrief

The Committee discussed its four-year term.

5. Liaison Updates

The VPD Liaison informed the Committee of an upcoming 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Safety Workshop taking place on October 2, 2026, from 4-6 pm at The Landing Youth Centre. The Liaison also discussed internal gender diversity training and Bill C9, the Combatting Hate Act.

The Staff Liaison provided an update on the 2STGD+ Safety and Inclusion Action Plan.

6. New Business

a) Update Regarding Motion on Gender-Based Violence

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

b) Chris Morrisey Commemoration

The Chair introduced the item, followed by Committee discussion.

c) Supplementary Notes for September 17, 2026 Meeting

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

> THAT the Committee submit Supplementary Notes for this meeting to administrative staff, to be appended to the Minutes of the September 17, 2026, meeting.

Note: Supplementary Notes can be found on pages 18 to 25 in Appendix D of the Minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

> THAT this meeting be adjourned.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

The Committee adjourned at 7:08 pm.

* * * * *

APPENDIX A

2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

Supplementary Notes for March 12, 2026, Meeting

Recorded by Eddy Elmer

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

- On February 25, 2026, Eddy and Park Board Liaison Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky attended a meeting at the Consulate General of France in Vancouver with former French footballer Ouissem Belgacem to discuss 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion and safe sport.
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky described the meeting as a valuable opportunity to exchange perspectives on safe sport and the responsibility of institutions to create environments in which athletes can participate without fear of exclusion or harm. He noted similarities between his experiences in rugby and Belgacem's experiences in soccer, observing that their experiences across different sporting systems demonstrate the persistence of cultural challenges and the need for structural responses in addition to awareness-building.
- Belgacem discussed his experiences as a Tunisian, Muslim, and gay athlete, including the lack of support he experienced within sport and the importance of sporting organizations establishing and enforcing appropriate standards of conduct.
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky discussed the potential for sport to serve as an agent for social change. He highlighted work by the Park Board to advance safe sport through codes of conduct incorporated into its permitting framework, under which facility users are required to adhere to standards of conduct as a condition of access. He noted that adequate funding and staffing are necessary to implement and enforce such policies effectively.
- The Commissioner also discussed the role of Out on the Fields research in informing policy discussions concerning 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion in sport. He noted research identifying discriminatory and harmful language within sporting environments as a significant issue and emphasized the importance of codes of conduct in addressing inappropriate behaviour. He also noted that coaches play an important role; if they promote respectful conduct and language, other players are more likely to be respectful.
- The Park Board has undertaken revisions to codes of conduct that apply to sporting fields, arenas, change rooms, and other facilities. Commissioner Bastyovanszky discussed how these policies can help address abuse, discrimination and sexualized violence in sporting environments and how this work intersects with broader efforts to address gender-based violence. He also discussed connections between harmful attitudes and behaviours within sporting environments and other forms of interpersonal abuse.
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky suggested there may be opportunities to better align municipal policy tools with research and advocacy efforts to advance safe and inclusive

sporting environments and expressed interest in continuing these discussions with stakeholders in Vancouver and elsewhere.

- Eddy noted that homophobia in sport can also be directed toward men who are perceived as gender non-conforming, regardless of their sexual orientation.
- Rob highlighted the importance of all-gender washrooms and change facilities, citing the facilities at Jericho Beach as an example. He discussed challenges he has experienced at some older recreation centres where gendered changing facilities can make him feel uncomfortable, while noting that he has generally felt accepted at many recreation centres.
- Stephen noted that sport can provide an important means of community-building for 2SLGBTQ+ people and asked how the City could better support 2SLGBTQ+ sports teams. He observed that recreational sport can provide a relatively affordable social alternative to activities centred on bars and alcohol.
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky discussed the inclusivity of Vancouver's gay rugby community and his involvement in establishing a team during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Eddy asked about opportunities for people who may not consider themselves particularly athletic or physically fit to participate in 2SLGBTQ+-inclusive recreational sports.
- Rob asked what the Committee could do to support this work. Commissioner Bastyovanszky advised that the Park Board will hold a special meeting on April 7 regarding the Capital Plan and is expected to seek significant investment in recreation infrastructure, including aging sports fields and pools. He noted that capital investment is also needed to support the development of gender-neutral washroom and change facilities. He suggested that the Committee could support these priorities, including by submitting a letter of support once further information on the Capital Plan becomes available.

Citywide Equity Strategy: Staff Presentation and Discussion

- Sonmin Bong, Equity Consultant, provided an update on the City's new Citywide Equity Strategy. The Strategy is intended to bring together and better coordinate the various streams of equity work taking place across the City.
- Sonmin noted that the Strategy does not necessarily introduce new areas of work, but seeks to improve how existing equity initiatives are coordinated, reported and incorporated into annual updates and work plans.
- A key objective of the new steering committee is to make more effective use of existing staff and leadership resources. Previously, executives participated on a number of separate committees that did not always communicate with one another, making it difficult to develop a holistic picture of equity work across the organization. This siloed approach could also contribute to communities feeling that their needs were being considered in competition with those of other communities.
- Given current budget constraints, staff are seeking to focus on concrete and achievable actions. The overall aim is to make the City's approach to equity more effective, concise and consistent. An update on the Strategy will be provided to Council annually.

- Khoa questioned how the new structure differs from the former Equity Office and how it would produce better outcomes and deliverables. He also questioned whether relying on general managers and senior leadership could ultimately be more costly than maintaining a dedicated Equity Office.
- Sonmin noted that one of the most significant impacts of the closure of the Equity Office has been the reduction in staff capacity to undertake internal, staff-facing equity work.
- Samantha asked where responsibility for staff-facing equity work now resides. Sonmin advised that this work should generally fall within Human Resources, while responsibility for public-facing equity initiatives should reside within the relevant areas of the organization.

Promoting 2SLGBTQ+ Participation in Census

- The Committee discussed the inclusion of a question on sexual orientation in the 2026 Census for the first time. Members noted the importance of collecting information on 2SLGBTQ+ populations to better understand community demographics and inform government planning and resource allocation.
- Members discussed what the City could do to promote participation in the Census and how Committee members could share information through their community networks. It was noted that the Government of Canada has historically begun promoting the Census in April.
- Sam will inquire whether the Vancouver Public Library can assist people with completing the Census.
- Rick emphasized the value of using the City's existing communication channels to encourage Census participation, given the City's interest in obtaining comprehensive demographic information. Approaches could include email communications and notices in community centres.
- Ash noted that targeted community outreach could be useful, while recognizing that public awareness and participation are generally addressed through the broader Census infrastructure. Ash suggested reviewing what the City has done to support Census participation in previous years.
- Rick noted that the City has previously considered ways of encouraging voter participation and suggested that similar communication mechanisms could potentially be used to encourage Census participation.

Dignity Seniors Society and Work with 2SLGBTQ+ Older Adults

- Eddy encouraged members to learn more about the work and services provided by Dignity Seniors Society, now renamed Queer Aging BC. He asked members to share information with their networks, including older people who may find the services useful. Uptake has been low for some services. If the services are not used, funding may be cut.
- Rick noted that some programming for older adults can feel overly structured or contrived, with participants kept busy through planned activities rather than being given sufficient opportunities for informal social interaction and relationship-building.

Proposal to Remove and Replace Megaphone Sculpture at Jim Deva Plaza

- Staff presented plans to remove the megaphone at Jim Deva Plaza and replace it with an alternative feature. Staff described ongoing concerns associated with the megaphone, including people lighting fires inside it for warmth, its use as a washroom, and late-night noise that is amplified by the structure and affects nearby residents. Eddy noted that several years ago he had been informed that some area residents had moved because of noise associated with the plaza.
- Staff advised that the City had previously considered relocating the megaphone but decided against doing so. The megaphone was temporarily shut down in 2024, and staff subsequently explored whether it could be modified to address some of the identified concerns. Staff indicated that the options considered were not technically feasible and that the structure could not be modified in a way that would adequately address the issues.
- The City therefore intends to remove the megaphone and replace it with another feature. The replacement is expected to be determined in partnership with the West End Business Improvement Association and the Plaza Stewardship Committee, with the intention of selecting a feature appropriate to the plaza and respectful of Jim Deva's legacy.
- Staff advised that a removal plan has been developed but that broader community consultation has not yet occurred. Key stakeholders, including the Plaza Stewardship Committee, Jim Deva's family, and Little Sister's, are being notified. BC Hydro will also be undertaking approximately two weeks of construction in the plaza. Following completion of that work, public notification will occur in and around the plaza, with removal of the megaphone anticipated in April.
- Several Committee members expressed concern about the speed of the process and the limited opportunity for consultation before the decision to remove the megaphone. Members suggested that consideration be given to retaining it through Pride and FIFA.
- Rick stated that, while he understood the concerns associated with the megaphone, the process appeared to be moving very quickly and that consultation should have occurred before the decision was made. He expressed concern that the Committee was being informed of a decision rather than being consulted about it. He also asked whether the megaphone would be preserved following its removal and requested assurance that it would be retained until a decision is made regarding its future.
- Eddy asked why removal needed to proceed so quickly. Rob similarly questioned the urgency and noted the potential for negative public reaction. He asked how long the original process of planning and installing the megaphone had taken and suggested that the City consider determining what will replace it before announcing its removal.
- Stephen asked how the proposal relates to the broader Davie Street revitalization initiative and suggested that consideration of the plaza might benefit from being situated within that broader context. Rick reiterated that, regardless of the relationship between the projects, consultation should have occurred before a decision was made.
- Stephen also noted that he has not felt safe in the plaza at night because of activities occurring around the megaphone and indicated that he was therefore not opposed to its removal.

- Staff clarified that the Davie Street revitalization project focuses primarily on Davie Street itself, whereas this initiative is specific to Jim Deva Plaza. Staff acknowledged members' concerns regarding the speed of the process and indicated that this feedback would be taken back for consideration.
- Staff reported that the Plaza Stewardship Committee had expressed similar concerns about the pace of the process, while also recognizing that removal could provide an opportunity for a broader process to improve the plaza while maintaining Jim Deva's legacy. Staff indicated that there has been some support among community groups for exploring changes to the plaza.
- Eddy will obtain further information about the membership of the Plaza Stewardship Committee. Organizations represented include the West End-Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre, West End Business Improvement Association, QMUNITY, Health Initiative for Men, and Gordon Neighbourhood House.
- Staff advised that consultation regarding the future of the plaza will begin immediately and is expected to continue through the fall, and potentially through the end of the year.
- Hana expressed support for retaining the megaphone and questioned how concerns about its use differ from issues associated with other public structures, such as the Engagement sculpture at Sunset Beach, where people may also sleep. Staff responded that noise is a particular concern with the megaphone because its design amplifies sound. Hana noted that Sunset Beach can also be very noisy during the summer and indicated that she did not find the noise argument persuasive.
- Members reiterated the importance of preserving the megaphone following its removal until its longer-term future can be determined.

2SLGBTQ+ Themed Lighting at 5083 Joyce Street

- Rick emailed the developer, Westbank, to ask why five years have now elapsed without installation of the lighting project.

VPL Liaison Update

- A new Chief Librarian is now in place and is focusing on funding and advocacy work.
- VPL is gearing up to develop its next Strategic Plan and would like the Committee to be included in the process.
- Events:
    - Queer Silent Book Club for Teens
    - Queer Rhyme Time at Trout Lake: a chance for 2SLGBTQIA+ parents and caregivers to connect while enjoying songs, rhymes, and stories
    - Short story writing event on May 19 at the Central Branch

APPENDIX B

2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

Draft Supplementary Notes for May 14, 2026, Meeting

Recorded by Eddy Elmer

Pride Society Support and Planning

- The Committee met with representatives of the Vancouver Pride Society (VPS) to discuss planning for upcoming Pride events, financial pressures, accessibility, safety, and City support.
- VPS representatives reported significant changes in the organization's financial situation. Competition for sponsorship funding, including spending associated with FIFA events, has reduced the funds available from sponsors. Pride sponsorship has declined from more than $1 million approximately four years ago to approximately $600,000 last year and $350,000 this year.
- Other factors contributing to sponsorship uncertainty include market conditions, anti-DEI sentiment in the United States, and changes in corporate profit margins. The reduction in sponsorship has occurred across the board, affecting larger corporate sponsors, community partners, smaller venues, and local businesses.
- VPS emphasized its desire to maintain the momentum it has built and to preserve the accessibility of its events. While cuts may ultimately be necessary to ensure the organization's financial sustainability, its first priority is to ensure that Pride events continue.
- Potential cost-saving measures could include shortening events or operating hours, increasing admission charges, reducing staffing, and scaling back programming. Softer ticket sales are also creating financial pressures.
- East Side Pride has already been scaled back to control costs, and the VPS has adjusted the footprint of other events to avoid overspending.
- Parade logistics are also creating additional pressures. The parade route may need to change in future years, and consideration may need to be given to the number and types of participating groups. VPS noted that some community members have expressed interest in returning the parade to a simpler format.
- Significant operational expenses include approximately $9,000 for ambulance services provided by BC Emergency Health Services.
- The Concord Pacific parking lot will not be available for staging this year, requiring staging to take place on the street and approximately $4,000 in additional fencing costs. VPS would like additional staging space.
- Many large groups have expressed interest in participating in this year's parade or joining in future years, but current capacity is limited without more funding.
- Additional security is also required in response to increasing conflict and tensions among some groups. VPS is working to ease these tensions so that all participants and

spectators can feel welcome and safe, while aiming to make Pride as inclusive as possible and avoid excluding groups.
- VPS emphasized that queer people and allies who wish to support Pride are welcome to march.
- VPS also emphasized that it operates throughout the year and requires funding to support year-round activities. Reduced funding limits its ability to undertake all of this work.
- It has been noted that the City provides 100% coverage of City-incurred public safety costs and, through the Festshare program, covers 75% of other City and VPD operational charges.
- Councillor Bligh intends to table a motion seeking a one-time extraordinary grant of $75,000 from the City's Operating Budget to support the VPS festivities this year. The motion is expected to come before Council on June 3. The Committee could consider submitting a letter of support. [Update: motion passed.]

Body-worn Cameras for Parking Enforcement Officers

- Currently, only 15 parking enforcement officers are equipped with body-worn cameras.
- Over the past decade, there has been an increase in violence directed toward parking enforcement staff. In 2024, staff experienced approximately one physical assault every two weeks, including incidents in which officers were punched, shoved, or spat at.
- Staff have received de-escalation training for several years; however, this has had limited impact on the incidence of violence. Staff therefore launched a pilot project in 2025 to equip officers with body-worn cameras as an additional safety measure.
- The City consulted with VPD and other agencies across Canada that use body-worn cameras. The use of this technology among bylaw enforcement officers remains relatively uncommon in Canada.
- The pilot has involved a very narrow use of body-worn cameras. Cameras are activated only when an officer perceives a risk to their safety. The footage is not used for routine parking enforcement, compliance, or other enforcement purposes; the cameras are intended solely as a safety and de-escalation tool.
- Ideally, officers will not need to activate the cameras. Their presence is intended in part to discourage individuals from approaching or threatening officers. Because cameras are activated only when a safety concern arises, they capture only a small portion of officers' interactions with the public.
- The initiative underwent a rigorous privacy assessment and received the necessary approvals. Video is uploaded to a secure server in Canada. Although the technology provider, Axon, is an American company, it cannot access the data stored in Canada.
- All recordings will by default be deleted within 5 days. Some recordings are kept according to the City's records management policies; this includes recordings that relate to a Parking Enforcement Incident Report; involve a Vancouver Police Department (VPD) file number; or capture behaviour considered criminal.

- Since the pilot began, violent incidents involving parking enforcement staff have decreased by 26%. There have been fewer escalating interactions with the public and an increased sense of safety among officers using the cameras.
- Based on these results, the City is moving toward full deployment of body-worn cameras for all parking bylaw officers, with regular deployment expected to begin within the next few weeks.
- To date, there have been no Freedom of Information requests from the public to view the footage and no public complaints regarding the cameras. This was noted as a positive indication that the cameras are being used for their intended safety purpose.
- Data collection about the pilot project will continue after full deployment to monitor outcomes.
- A separate pilot project, launched May 14, is expanding the use of licence-plate recognition so that parking tickets can be issued by mail instead of being placed directly on vehicles. Given the privacy implications associated with licence-plate information, particularly stringent policies govern the use of this technology.

Motion: 2SLGBTQ+ Inclusive Recreation Facilities

- April noted that the Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit Inclusion and Safety Action Plan has actions relating to inclusive spaces, but no actions specifically relating to the Park Board.

Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy

- Work has started on the Strategy, per the November 5, 2025 Council motion, "Advancing a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy."
- Staff are developing recommendations after reviewing best practices, previous reports, motions, etc. Scoping work will continue over the next few months.
- The Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit Inclusion and Safety Action Plan has some gender violence components.
- The Committee noted that there is inadequate attention to violence in same-gender relationships, including between men.

Meeting with VPD Sex Industry Liaison Officer and Community Policing Centres

- Eddy said he recently met with Cst. Cindy Lavallee, VPD's Sex Industry Liaison Officer, to discuss her role and then joined her on a tour of the West End-Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre and the new Gastown Hastings Crossing Community Policing Centre. Eddy learned a great deal about the important community work undertaken by the CPCs (e.g., programs for seniors).
- April noted she is the only sex worker planner left at the City; Councillor Fry is bringing forward a motion on May 20 to increase capacity for sex worker safety.

Jim Deva Plaza Update

- Eddy shared an email from City staff, who noted they have heard the Committee's concerns about the proposed removal and replacement of the Megaphone sculpture from the plaza, especially the proposed timeline, lack of engagement on the future of the Megaphone, and the need for a strong community process.
- Considering feedback received from the Committee and the Jim Deva Plaza Stewardship Committee, the City will be adjusting the timeline for the Megaphone removal and replacement. Rather than removing the structure this spring, staff will first undertake a collaborative process to determine what future feature could recognize Jim Deva's legacy and 2SLGBTQ+ history in the plaza. Staff will also develop a clear community and stakeholder consultation plan.
- Through that process, staff will be working closely with the Jim Deva Plaza Stewardship Committee and the broader community to explore questions such as:
    - How should Jim Deva's legacy and the community's 2SLGBTQ+ history be recognized in the plaza going forward?
    - What type of feature or installation could replace the Megaphone while meeting the current needs of the neighbourhood?
    - What should happen with the Megaphone itself following its removal and replacement?
- Staff look forward to continuing this conversation with the Committee and will keep the Committee updated as next steps begin to take shape.

City Inspections of Clubs and Bars

- The Committee discussed recent concerns it has heard relating to fire and safety inspections of clubs and bars and the perception that queer venues are being unfairly targeted.

2SLGBTQ+ Themed Lighting Installation at 5083 Joyce Street

- Rick noted that the building has gone into receivership. He has contacted Westbank, the developer, for an update on the status of the lighting installation.

Updates from Staff Liaison

- The Red Umbrella March for sex worker safety will be June 6 at Emory Barnes Park.

Updates from VPL Liaison

- Samantha Mills said VPL has been helping people complete the long-form Census at branches.
- VPL is still determining what it will do for Pride.
- Pride Family Story Time will be August 1.

Updates from VPD Liaison

- Detective Cst. Dauncey advised that VPD's Diversity, Community, and Indigenous Relations Section is working with the Women's Personal Safety Team to hold a safety workshop geared toward 2SLGBTQ+ youth. The free event will be Friday, October 2 at The Landing Youth Centre, 1648 East 1st Avenue. Dinner will be served. Kat will prepare a poster for distribution. Samantha said that VPL will be very interested in this and will advertise the event.

APPENDIX C

2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

Notes for Working Session, June 11, 2026

Recorded by Eddy Elmer

Supporting Vancouver Pride

- Councillor Meiszner noted that his December 10, 2025 motion, "Cementing the City of Vancouver's Support for Pride Weekend," asked staff to report back by the end of Q1 2025, but the report has been delayed.
- Rick met with Jodie Shebib, Associate Director, Film & Special Events, to discuss some options that could be discussed in the staff report.
- Councillor Meiszner expressed hope that the Vancouver Pride Society will have more stable funding in the future.
- Rick mentioned an announcement by the federal government this week that it will be investing $3 million over two years for Fierté Canada to help Pride festivals strengthen safety and security measures across Canada. Some of that funding is expected to go to the Vancouver Pride Society. This may help cover costs for VPD and private security but not larger expenses such as insurance.
- The next Committee could focus on ensuring more stable funding for Pride.

Chris Morrissey Commemoration

Proclamation for Chris Morrissey Day

- Members discussed having the Mayor and Council read the proclamation again this year, potentially following the Pride Flag-Raising. That might draw a bigger audience and avoid security hassles for attendees.

Permanent Commemoration

- The Committee discussed prioritizing a permanent commemoration for Chris Morrissey before the end of its term. Eddy has followed up with the Mayor's Office regarding the possibility of naming a City grant or program in Chris's honour.
- Members discussed several potential forms of physical commemoration, including a sidewalk star or plaque, building-mounted recognition, lamp-post installations, and wraps. Examples from Granville Street and San Francisco's Castro Street were discussed. Banners were considered less suitable because of their temporary nature. Members also discussed whether an opportunity to recognize Chris could be incorporated into future changes at Jim Deva Plaza. Eddy will follow up with staff.

- Other suggestions included naming a scholarship, bursary, award, or arts grant in Chris's honour, including a potential bursary supporting 2SLGBTQ+ journalism students.
- Hana noted that the Britannia Branch of VPL was one of Chris's favourite places and suggested naming a library space in her honour. Members also discussed the possibility of a dedicated space at the Vancouver Public Library featuring 2SLGBTQ+ materials and meeting space for queer community members (e.g., a "Chris Morrissey Reading Room", perhaps at the Britannia Branch, where Chris was very active, or at the Central Branch, which would provide strong visibility). The Committee expressed strong interest in the reading room idea; Eddy will follow up with the VPL liaison.
- Eddy briefly discussed other 2SLGBTQ+ community figures who could be considered for future commemoration, including former City Councillor Tim Stevenson.

Parks Canada Memorials

- Rick reported attending a queer history conference at Dalhousie University, where he learned about Parks Canada's program for commemorating historically significant people, places, or events through plaques. He suggested that the Committee consider 2SLGBTQ+ individuals from Vancouver who might merit recognition, noting that individuals must have been deceased for at least 25 years to be eligible.

Flag-Raising at City Hall, July 27, 12 p.m.

- Eddy asked who will be able to attend.
- Eddy will share the draft proclamation with the Committee for review.

QMUNITY IDAHOBIT Breakfast

- Eddy attended with Constables Kat Dauncey and Bryan Watson. He thanked VPD for covering his ticket.

***The Fruit Machine* Screening at Trout Lake Community Centre**

- Eddy and Rick congratulated Kat and Out on Patrol for hosting a successful screening of this important film about the LGBT Purge in Canada.
- Rick reported viewing the documentary *Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance* at the queer history conference he attended. The documentary examines the history of queer activism in Canada, including the historically difficult relationship between police and 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Rick suggested that it would be valuable viewing for police services, particularly younger officers who may be less familiar with this history. He emphasized the importance of historical memory and of recognizing that advances in 2SLGBTQ+ rights should not be taken for granted, particularly given changing political and social conditions internationally.

FIFA 2026 Updates

- Rick reported hearing assurances that FIFA has procedures to respond to homophobic chanting by spectators, including clearing the stadium and restarting play if necessary.
- The Vancouver Pride Society is hoping to operate a Pride House from its new West Broadway location during FIFA. It would focus particularly on supporting 2SLGBTQ+ players seeking assistance, including support related to migration. Pride House originated in Vancouver during the 2010 Winter Olympics through an initiative involving QMUNITY and organizers of Whistler Pride and Ski Festival. QMUNITY will support the FIFA Pride House initiative, with the Vancouver Pride Society taking the lead.

Staff Liaison Update

- The website for the 2STGD Safety and Inclusion Action Plan is expected to be online by the Pride Flag-Raising at City Hall [update: website now live]. It will include a summary of the engagement activities related to the Action Plan. The Committee could mention the Plan in its speech at the flag-raising.
- Council unanimously approved the motion "Understanding and Prioritizing Sex Worker Safety Policies and Resources." This is encouraging because a sex worker plan had never been brought to Council before. Unfortunately, reinstating the second Sex Worker Safety Planner was not approved, so April is still the only planner in that role. She is looking to see how other staff can assist with her work.
- The Red Umbrella March for Sex Worker Rights was held the previous Saturday. It was organized by Health Initiative for Men this year, giving the event a men's perspective. SWAN Vancouver Society also participated.
- April mentioned that *Hookers on Davie*, a 1984 documentary about the sex worker community in the West End, was screened at the Rio Theatre, with 400 people in attendance. Eddy also mentioned *Vancouver Vice: Crime and Spectacle in the City's West End*, a book by Aaron Chapman.
- Other staffing reductions include the anti-Black racism planner, several positions within Community and Economic Development, and a planner working on the Davie Village upgrades. Staff are looking at how existing staff can cover this work to ensure that the various action plans can be implemented.
- The Committee noted the importance of keeping commemorations and related work on the radar because they can easily be lost amid staffing changes.

Recommending Topics and Unfinished Business for the Next Committee

Queer Aging

- Dignity Seniors Society (now Queer Aging BC), Living with Pride Foundation, and other organizations are doing important work in this area, and members emphasized the importance of continued City support for this work.

Housing

- Tara: The next Committee could focus on the housing needs of 2SLGBTQIA+ residents in Vancouver, particularly where community members face unique barriers to accessing safe, affordable, and inclusive housing.
- While housing affordability and homelessness affect many Vancouver residents, some 2SLGBTQIA+ populations, including youth, seniors, trans, non-binary, and Two-Spirit people, may experience additional challenges related to discrimination, safety, and access to appropriate services.
- Although housing funding and programs are largely a provincial responsibility, the City of Vancouver plays an important role through housing policy, planning, development approvals, and advocacy.
- The Committee could explore opportunities for the City to support inclusive housing initiatives and advocate for housing solutions that address the diverse needs of Vancouver residents.

Regulatory Barriers Affecting Cultural Spaces

- Rob suggested consideration of the regulatory barriers affecting events held in community and cultural spaces, such as The Birdhouse and similar venues.
- These spaces play a vital role in fostering social connection, creativity, cultural expression, and inclusion. They provide opportunities for diverse communities—including Vancouver's 2SLGBTQ+ residents—to gather, celebrate, collaborate, and participate fully in the city's cultural and civic life. Their value extends beyond entertainment; they contribute meaningfully to community well-being, belonging, and social cohesion.
- Vancouver has long been recognized as a leader in supporting diverse and inclusive communities. There is an opportunity to build on that leadership by examining whether current regulations appropriately reflect the public benefit these venues provide.
- Dedicated mixed-use community spaces of this kind remain relatively uncommon, even among cities widely regarded as progressive. Vancouver has helped create an environment in which these spaces can emerge and thrive, and that is something worth preserving and strengthening.
- Many smaller venues face significant challenges in achieving regulatory compliance, often due to costs and requirements that can be difficult to meet regardless of the venue's demonstrated community value. Creating more accessible pathways to legitimacy and sustainability would help ensure these important cultural assets remain viable and continue serving the communities that rely on them.
- Areas for consideration could include:
    - Expanding the number of events permitted under Arts and Culture licences
    - Increasing attendance limits for smaller-scale events where appropriate
    - Exploring new licensing or regulatory frameworks for mixed-use community spaces that demonstrably provide significant public benefit

APPENDIX D

2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

Supplementary Notes for September 17, 2026, Meeting

Recorded by Eddy Elmer

Inclusive Playground Design Project

- Staff from Vancouver Park Board provided an overview of this initiative, which is intended to make playgrounds in our parks more inclusive.
- Inclusive play means:
    - creating welcoming opportunities for people of different ages, abilities, and backgrounds
    - going beyond basic accessibility requirements
    - considering physical, sensory, social, and cultural needs
    - helping children, caregivers, and community members take part in ways that work for them
- Survey results found that:
    - inclusive playgrounds are those which combine access, comfort, and opportunities to play
    - inclusive playgrounds include amenities, accessibility features, and opportunities for different ages contribute to positive experiences and help people feel welcome and motivated to participate
    - inclusive playgrounds have ample shade and seating; equipment and activities for multiple age groups; washrooms that are easy to access and use; easy-to-use play equipment
    - people want a variety of play experiences that support different interests and needs
    - people value a mix of nature, physical, challenging, sensory, creative, and social play opportunities
- One key point is that being able to get to and *access* a space is a key part of inclusion; one cannot be included if one faces barriers to accessing the parks.
- Inclusion also means *feeling comfortable* and *engaged* in spaces.
- People with disabilities are more likely than others to feel uncomfortable, excluded, overwhelmed, or unwelcome when accessing or participating in these play spaces.

Committee Feedback

- Members emphasized that playgrounds should not only be accessible and comfortable, but also *engaging*. Inclusive design should provide stimulating and enjoyable experiences for people with a range of interests, needs, and abilities.

- Eddy and Tristan emphasized the importance of incorporating sensory play areas that are accessible and engaging for neurodivergent children and children with mobility challenges.
- Eddy also highlighted the importance of adequate lighting in creating safe and welcoming public spaces.
- Khoa raised the importance of ongoing maintenance, including addressing graffiti, noting that the condition and upkeep of public spaces can affect whether people feel safe and welcome.
- Khoa, speaking from his perspective as a parent, emphasized that inclusive design should incorporate structures and pathways that accommodate people who use mobility aids and ensure that playgrounds are welcoming to children and community members of all abilities. He also noted the importance of recognizing that some people experience multiple or intersecting barriers to participation.
- He suggested providing comfortable and appropriately designed areas for breastfeeding, as well as seating and rest areas that meet the needs of older adults.
- Ash noted that members of 2SLGBTQ+ communities may form families through fostering or adoption, including families with children who have disabilities or additional support needs. She emphasized the intersection between 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion and disability inclusion.
- Hana asked how the design guidelines would accommodate international visitors and people from diverse cultural backgrounds, including those who may have different preferences for recreation and social activities. Staff noted that they have heard interest in spaces that accommodate larger group gatherings and intergenerational families, and that provide additional social seating.
- Tristan emphasized that public furniture should not incorporate hostile or unnecessarily restrictive design features, such as barriers between seats, and that public infrastructure should remain accessible to unhoused people. Staff noted that development of the design guidelines remains at an early stage.
- Tristan also emphasized the importance of inclusive and universally understandable signage, including signage identifying universal washrooms. He noted that signage describing the facilities available within a washroom—for example, the number of urinals—can communicate useful information without relying on binary gender designations.
- Eddy emphasized the importance of signage establishing expectations for respectful conduct. Such signage can communicate standards of behaviour, potentially discourage inappropriate conduct, and signal that the space is intended to be safe and welcoming, even though signage alone cannot prevent harassment.
- Members noted the value of emergency phones or similar communication infrastructure, recognizing that not everyone has access to a mobile phone or other means of contacting emergency services.
- Rick asked whether the improvements to Memorial South Park had been fully funded through a previous Capital Plan or would require additional funding through the upcoming Capital Plan. Staff advised that the project is partially funded through carryover funding from the previous Capital Plan. Final costs are not yet known; however, based on current

estimates, staff have submitted a request for additional funding through the next Capital Plan and are also exploring potential fundraising opportunities.
- Staff welcomed the Committee's feedback. The Committee invited staff to return to a future meeting to provide updates as the project progresses.

Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy

- Staff from Arts, Culture and Community Services discussed progress on Council's November 5, 2025 motion, "Advancing a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy."
- With many staffing changes in Social Policy and other departments, there have been delays implementing this motion.
- Staff are preparing some recommendations for Council, which they hope to present in the last quarter of 2026.
- It may be optimal to wait until after the City budget is approved because that would allow staff to propose some funds for the preliminary recommendations and actions.
- After recommendations are approved by Council, specific strategies to implement the recommendations will be presented later in 2027.
- Staff are looking to form an advisory committee or task force to help guide their work on the recommendations and strategies.

V*iolence Prevention Work During FIFA*

- Staff worked with FIFA Host Committee and 12–15 organizations to promote gender safety, sex worker safety, and community safety.
- Staff worked with the Host Committee to advocate and secure funding for community groups to expand their services or be able to provide more services knowing demand would be higher during FIFA.
- Considered community-based safety patrols in high-traffic areas with a focus on people at risk for gender-based violence.
- Staff conducted pre- and post-match debriefs. This provided an interesting test case for what a task force for the Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy might look like.
- So even though formal work on the gender-based violence prevention motion has been delayed, there has already been substantial gender-based work going on this year.
- Eddy asked about Good Night Out Vancouver, which offers specialized training and workshops aimed at tackling sexual harassment, with a focus on restaurants, bars, pubs, festivals, and art spaces. They also have a special foot patrol team on Granville Street to help patrons feel safer at night and provide resources as needed. Staff confirmed that the organization had received money from the City last year to conduct a pilot project relating to major sporting events like FIFA. Good Night Out worked closely with the Host Committee on violence prevention and held extended patrols during the event.

Intimate Partner Violence Among 2SLGBTQ+ Individuals, Including Men

- Eddy mentioned the importance of recognizing and addressing intimate partner violence among 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, including between sexual minority men.
- He suggested staff work with VPD Detective Constable Adrian Lawson of the Interpersonal Violence Risk Assessment Unit (IPVRAU) to help advance work on the Purple Lights Nights campaign, which could include more focus on intimate partner violence among 2SLGBTQ+ people.
- April asked if staff should connect with any particular organizations that can provide a focus on all genders. Ideas: Health Initiative for Men, QMUNITY, Ribbon Community, WISH Drop-In Centre, and SWAN.
- Eddy also suggested Queer Aging BC, which may provide a useful perspective on interpersonal violence among older 2SLGBTQ+ people.
- He also suggested Crisis Centre of BC, given that people experiencing interpersonal violence may reach out to reach out to crisis lines. He wondered, however, how much training Crisis Centre staff receive on this topic; perhaps there are opportunities to collaborate in training.

Connection with Other Strategies

- Work on the Strategy will also be informed by the Healthy City Strategy, data from the UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Initiative survey, and a recent Council motion about Understanding and Prioritizing Sex Worker Safety Policies and Resources.

Measurement and Evaluation

- There will be a strong focus on measurement during all stages of implementation.
- Members said it is vital to have meaningful outreach with hard-to-reach people when collecting data. This involves going beyond the Internet and online surveys, because not all people have Internet access. There needs to be more focus on in-person community engagement events. Face-to-face outreach is especially valuable in creating an environment which fosters honest dialogue.

End-of-Term Report and Supplementary Notes

- Members thanked Eddy for the comprehensive End-of-Term report, which lays out accomplishments, work that requires follow-up, and ideas for the future committee to pursue.
- Members also thanked Eddy for all the time and attention he has devoted over the last term to providing detailed supplementary notes. Rick observed that our committee is probably the only one that provides this level of record-keeping, which has greatly enhanced the work of the committee and will hopefully provide a roadmap for future committees.
- Members expressed frustration with new policies requiring meeting clerks to use decision-based minutes only and forbidding the addition of important context. Without

context, minutes are not very useful and, in many cases, resemble a re-written version of the agenda.
- In previous terms, meeting clerks were permitted to add context in collaboration with chairs/co-chairs, but that changed over the last four years. Now the only way to add context is through attachment of supplementary notes, which can only be approved at the next regular meeting, creating a gap in reporting.
- Going forward, it is strongly recommended that meeting clerks be able to add additional context to minutes. The context need not be as lengthy as in the supplementary notes (which may still be produced), but would at least provide some important context to understand what was discussed in a meeting and the rationale for motions and letters. Additional context also allows all committees to understand what work they are doing and how they could collaborate on areas of mutual interest and concern. Adding links to all documents cited in the minutes is also a good practice.

Staff Liaison Update

2STGD+ Safety and Inclusion Action Plan

- April Sumter-Freitag announced that the 2STGD+ Safety and Inclusion Action Plan has its own webpage now.
- Implementation of the Plan is underway. One action relates to supporting City employees who are navigating a gender transition by providing information on how to access appropriate support through the City's Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP), alongside information to help managers and staff support their colleagues respectfully and confidently. The Plan also includes providing an overview of the benefits and services that may be available through the City's extended health provider, GreenShield.
- Another action is an annual learning session for staff coinciding with Transgender Awareness Week in November. Last year, this session was conducted by TransFocus Consulting.
- April also discussed results from a survey that was conducted as part of the Plan. 700 community members completed the survey; 288 provided qualitative responses. 16% were from transphobic people or perhaps bots. Respondents indicated greater feelings of safety than inclusion. Staff plan to release information about other responses.
- A progress report on the Plan will go to Council in Q1 2027.

Sex Worker Safety

- Based on the Council motion from May 21, 2026, staff are creating a framework and action plan for 1 or 2 years.
- This work will be woven into the work on the Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy.
- It was noted that this work cannot be accomplished by the City alone and will require efforts and funding from all levels of government—municipal, provincial, and federal. Law reform at the federal level may also be necessary.

Vancouver Public Library Liaison Update

- The liaison, Samantha Mills, was away, but provided the written update below.
- The library is working with consultants from Cascadia Partners to develop the next Strategic Plan.
- Some common themes from staff and stakeholders gathered so far include:
    - Rising affordability pressures and growing social vulnerability are significant community challenges.
    - Digital literacy, technology navigation, and information literacy are viewed as foundational services that are important for VPL to address in an increasingly digital world.
    - The growing demand for social support presents a challenge for VPL in balancing its library mission with available resources.
    - VPL's role in fostering connection and belonging is important in addressing social isolation.
    - Sentiment towards VPL is extremely positive, with respondents emphasizing VPL's value to the community, our services, and role as a trusted partner.
    - VPL's services, spaces, staff, and community role are seen as our greatest strengths.
    - VPL is seen as a trusted institution that provides reliable information and supports lifelong learning and literacy.
- This fall, we will be seeking public input through an online survey and in-branch activations after the October municipal election. More information on these activations will be coming shortly.

Vancouver Police Department Liaison Update

- Detective Constable Kat Dauncey was pleased to announce that the Diversity Section and Women's Personal Safety Team will be hosting a 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Safety Workshop on Friday, October 2, 4–6 p.m., at The Landing Youth Centre. This is open to those aged 12–18. A support dog and members of the Victim Services Unit will be present for support. Committee members are asked to publicize the event in their networks (poster at end of these notes).
- Kat is working to create a gender diversity course that will be mandatory for every officer, civilian, and special constable. Kat is happy to hear any suggestions relating to development of the course content.
- Kat recently met with hate crime Crown Counsel regarding the Combatting Hate Ac (Bill C-9). The bill received Royal Assent on June 18, 2026. Among various new protections, Kat noted the Act makes it a crime to intimidate or obstruct people from accessing places where communities gather, including places of worship, schools, and community centres.

Chris Morrissey: Update on Finding a Permanent Commemoration

- Members continued brainstorming ideas.
- Eddy said he followed up once again with staff and the Mayor's office to explore naming a City grant, bursary, award, or program after Chris.
- A bursary supporting 2SLGBTQ+ journalism students is an option.
- Eddy also followed up with Vancouver Public Library about the possibility of creating a "Chris Morrissey Reading Room" at the Britannia branch (where Chris was very active) or the Central branch. The room would feature 2SLGBTQ+ materials and meeting space for members of our community. In response, VPL referred the committee to the interim naming policy which guides the VPL Board's approach to naming of library spaces. VPL said that naming spaces is typically addressed when new spaces are identified and that there are currently no spaces at Britannia or other existing branches that are being considered for commemorative naming. If that changes, VPL would undertake a community consultation process which would provide an avenue to recognize Chris. The Committee agreed to continue pursuing the idea.
- Rick offered additional ideas:
    - Working with QMUNITY to explore naming. He cited the example of the housing co-op that will be on top of QMUNITY's new offices at Davie and Burrard. The co-op was named the Fuller-findlay Housing Co-Op, in honour of community leaders Janine Fuller and the late barbara findlay [sic].
    - Explore naming ideas in consultation with Rainbow Refugee or Rainbow Railroad, in honour of Chris's ground-breaking work with 2SLGBTQ+ refugees.
- Hana said she also reached out to Quirk-e—a writing collective that Chris was closely involved with—and the Rainbow Bridge Circle of Hope, an initiative of Rainbow Refugee.
- Eddy thanked Council and committee members for attending the second annual reading of the City of Vancouver proclamation recognizing July 22 as "Chris Morrissey Day." It is hoped that members will continue to recognize this day publicly.