



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 28, 2013

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 28, 2013, at 5:15 pm, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Jill Weiss, Chair
Justine Aaron
Tasia Alexis*
Jeanette Andersen* (by conference phone)
Cathy Browne
Paul Caune, Vice-Chair
Paul Gauthier
Craig Langston
Laura Mackenrot

ABSENT: Greg Pyc

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Geoff Meggs, Vancouver City Council
Mukhtar Latif, Chief Housing Officer

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk
Wendy Stewart, Deputy City Clerk
Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Paul Caune
SECONDED by Cathy Brown

THAT the minutes of the October 24, 2013, Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Tasia Alexis and Jeanette Andersen absent for the vote)

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MOVED by Cathy Browne
SECONDED by Paul Caune

THAT the agenda be varied as follows:

THAT "A Blessing and Centering" by the Co-Chair of the Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Advisory Committee be conducted prior to Item 1;

FURTHER THAT Item 2 be subdivided as follows:

- a. Presentation on the joint proposal for the Pearson Lands redevelopment from the Pearson Residents Redevelopment Group, Members of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, and the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities.*
- b. Presentation by and discussion with Vancouver Coastal Health on the Pearson Lands redevelopment.*
- c. Discussion and recommendations from the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee on the Pearson Lands Redevelopment.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
AND BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY
(Tasia Alexis and Jeanette Andersen absent for the vote)

Note: Since the Co-Chair of the Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Advisory Committee was not present, the Committee proceeded with the business as set out on the agenda, with the changes to Item 2 as noted above.

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1. Planning Process Overview

Staff from Planning and Development Services reviewed the memo dated November 22, 2013, from the General Manager of Planning and Development, entitled, "Pearson Dogwood: Policy Statement and Planning Process" and responded to questions

In discussion it was generally agreed that supports for seniors and people with disabilities need to be considered in the proposed housing at the Pearson-Dogwood redevelopment.

2. Pearson-Dogwood Policy Statement

a. A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Redevelopment

Paul Gauthier, representatives from the Pearson Residents Redevelopment Group, and the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities provided an overview of the document entitled, "A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Redevelopment", and responded to questions.

The City Clerk clarified the process for advisory committees to make recommendations to Council.

b. Presentation from Vancouver Coastal Health

Staff from Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) provided a brief overview and distributed responses to questions sent to them by the Committee earlier in the week (*on file*). VCH staff acknowledged the need for more consultation and suggested a facilitated discussion to help fill in gaps and define guiding principles and best practices. They also noted there are many systemic limitations which constrain the changes that can be made.

VCH staff responded to additional questions and explained the annual operating cost of Pearson is approximately \$12 million, and noted that those funds are be used to provide support for the current Pearson residents, that people are still being admitted to Pearson, and that the Pearson residents have rejected the current VCH redevelopment proposal.

During discussion, concerns were expressed regarding with the current VCH proposal, that people are still being admitted to Pearson, and that VCH had not acted in good faith during the consultation process.

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The Committee recessed at 7:06 pm and reconvened at 7:20 pm.

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c. Committee Discussion and Recommendations

i. Request for Financial Information from Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

MOVED by Tasia Alexis

SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

- A. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee request Vancouver Coastal Health provide a detailed cost breakdown of the current funding for Pearson Centre.
- B. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee request Vancouver Coastal Health provide information on the funding from the closure of Pearson Centre, specifically:
 - What is the funding commitment to Pearson residents from the current approximate \$12 million available for Pearson Centre?
 - How long will the funding to residents last?
 - Is the funding attached to individuals or attached to housing?
 - Will the funding envelope increase if the number of people needing it increases?
 - What will happen to the funding when a recipient passes away?

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ii. Global Best Practices: Housing and Support for People with Disabilities

MOVED by Paul Caune

SECONDED by Craig Langston

WHEREAS:

1. The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee has gathered over 500 research papers and policy documents on global best practices for housing and support for people with disabilities.
2. The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee has prepared a document dated November 27, 2013, entitled, "Summary of Global best Practices: Housing and Support for Persons with Disabilities," which is based on global research, international agreements and recent policy based on global research.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approves the document dated November 27, 2013, entitled, "Summary of Global Best Practices: Housing and Support for Persons with Disabilities", as presented at the November 28, 2013, Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee meeting.
- B. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee advises Vancouver City Council that it should ensure the global best practices described in the document dated November 27, 2013, entitled, "Summary of Global Best Practices: Housing and Support for Persons with Disabilities" are adhered to in the Pearson Centre redevelopment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*ii. A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Lands
Redevelopment*

MOVED by Paul Gauthier
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

WHEREAS

1. The mandate of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee states that the Committee suggest “solutions to identified gaps and barriers that impede persons with disabilities from fully participating in all aspects of city life.”
2. The terms of reference of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee state that the Committee provide input to City Council and staff about issues of concern, including matters that require action by the City.
3. The current Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH)/Lower Mainland Facilities Management (LMFM) proposal for the Pearson Centre redevelopment does not reflect global best practices and is in direct violation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights on Persons with Disabilities.
4. The current VCH/LMFM proposal for housing and support is a barrier that prevents persons with disabilities from fully participating in city life.
5. The housing and support model endorsed by the Pearson Residents Redevelopment Group and BC Coalition of People with Disabilities, described in the document entitled, “A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Redevelopment”, is an excellent and effective solution to this barrier.
6. The housing and support proposal noted in 5, above:
 - Includes:
 - i. Two excellent independent individual living options that reflect global best practices and which are taken from Vancouver Coastal Health’s original housing continuum.

- ii. A proven group living option, the Greenhouse, which is documented to provide higher quality of life, better health outcomes, and higher resident, staff and family satisfaction than institutions.
- Reflects the expertise and was developed collaboratively by the Pearson Residents Redevelopment Group, members of the City of Vancouver Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, and the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities; and is endorsed by other disability groups including Spinal Cord Injury BC, the Cerebral Palsy Association, Neil Squire Society, the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Ataxia Society.
 - Incorporates global best practices, is consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, meets the needs of current Pearson residents and provides current and future persons with disabilities with the essential support to fully participate in city life.
 - Provides essential support for persons with disabilities while at the same time preserving their autonomy and rights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee endorses the proposal for Housing and support described in the document entitled “A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Redevelopment”, and recommends that Vancouver Coastal Health adopt it as their sole model for housing and support for persons with disabilities on the Pearson Centre redevelopment.
- B. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee will develop and add a fourth housing and support option for small group living to the ones already described in the document “A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Redevelopment”.

FURTHER THAT the Persons with Disability Advisory Committee requests the team that prepared the original proposal described in the above-noted document, to develop the details of a fourth

option for small group living, to be presented to the Committee for approval.

CARRIED

(Paul Caune opposed)

*iii. Vancouver Coastal Health Proposal for the Pearson Lands
Redevelopment Does Not Reflect Global Best Practices in Housing and
Support for People with Disabilities*

MOVED by Paul Caune

SECONDED by Justine Aaron

WHEREAS

1. On April 23, 2013, Vancouver City Council unanimously approved a motion requiring assurances that the mix of health care services, facilities and residential options for people with disabilities resulting from the Pearson Lands redevelopment reflects global best practices and full consultation.
2. The confinement of persons with disabilities in institutions has been shown to result in poorer quality of life and deterioration of a person's skills.
3. The confinement of persons with disabilities in institutions is a violation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
4. There is consistent international evidence that independent community living is best practice and that institutionalization is worst practice.
5. There is substantial documentation of abuse in institutions in British Columbia, Canada and the rest of the world.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee advises Vancouver City Council that the current Vancouver Coastal Health/Lower Mainland Facilities Management proposal for the Pearson Centre redevelopment does not meet global best practices, is a barrier to the participation of persons with disabilities in city life, and has been shown by research to result in poorer quality of life.

FURTHER THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends Council not approve the current Vancouver Coastal Health/Lower Mainland Facilities Management proposal for the Pearson Centre redevelopment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iv. Pearson Lands Policy Statement

MOVED by Paul Gauthier

SECONDED by Craig Langston

WHEREAS the excerpts from the preliminary draft policy statement for the Pearson Lands, included in the memo dated November 22, 2013, from the General Manager of Planning and Development, describe institutions and facility housing and supports which:

- Violate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by confining persons with disabilities to institutions;
- Do not meet the global best practice of independent community living to persons with disabilities;
- Uses an institutional model that has been shown internationally and provincially to cause harm and abuse to residents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends Vancouver City Council approve a policy document for the Pearson Lands redevelopment only if it includes commitment by Vancouver Coastal Health to implement the housing and support options described in the document entitled "A Proposal for Housing and Support for the Pearson Redevelopment" and not to

construct or utilize any institution or facility for persons with disabilities on the Pearson/Dogwood site.

CARRIED

(Paul Caune opposed)

v. *Need for Detailed Plans in the Pearson Lands Policy Statement*

MOVED by Paul Gauthier

SECONDED by Craig Langston

WHEREAS

1. On April 23, 2013, Vancouver City Council unanimously passed a motion requiring assurances that the mix of health care services, facilities and residential options for people with disabilities resulting from the redevelopment reflects global best practices and full consultation.
2. Thorough detailed planning is an essential best practice emphasized in all of the recent global guidance on successful transition from institutions to independent community living.
3. The terms of reference of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee states that the Committee provide input to City Council and staff about issues of concern, including matters that require action by the City.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends Council ensure that any policy statement for the Pearson Lands redevelopment includes a binding, detailed plan for best practices for housing and support for Persons with Disabilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

vi. Full Consultation on the Pearson Lands Redevelopment

MOVED by Paul Caune
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

WHEREAS

1. On April 23, 2013, Vancouver City Council unanimously approved a motion requiring assurances that the mix of health care services, facilities and residential options for people with disabilities resulting from the Pearson Lands redevelopment reflects global best practices and full consultation.
2. Vancouver Coastal Health has not conducted their consultation in good faith and has provided misinformation and inaccurate information to people and groups participating in the consultation for the Pearson Lands redevelopment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee advises Council that the Vancouver Coastal Health consultation regarding the Pearson Lands redevelopment with the Committee, other disability groups and with the general public has not been in good faith and has not been a full consultation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Following discussion and decision on the motions above, Councillor Meggs provided clarification on the type of advice Council expects from advisory committees, and reminded members they are the ones chosen by Council to provide advice to the City. He also described other ways how external groups and experts can best provide information to the Committee. The Committee agreed to discuss meeting practices at a future meeting.

3. New Business

“IN CAMERA” Meeting

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Craig Langston

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee will go into a meeting later this day, which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2(1) of the Vancouver Charter, to discuss matters related to paragraph:

(a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the city or another position appointed by the city.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Tasia Alexis
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: February 27, 2014
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 8:10 pm.

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