



**PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**February 27, 2014**

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, February 27, 2014, at 5:18 pm, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

**PRESENT:** Sheryl Burns, Acting Chair  
Tasia Alexis\*  
Jeanette Andersen\*  
Cathy Browne  
Guillaume Dufresne  
Craig Langston  
Laura Mackenrot  
Tom Patch\*  
Greg Pyc  
Jill Weiss

**ABSENT:** Paul Gauthier  
Leonor Vlug

**ALSO PRESENT:** Commissioner Melissa De Genova, Vancouver Park Board  
Anne Nickerson, EEO

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

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*Due to the Chair's illness, the Committee appointed Sheryl Burns as Acting Chair for this meeting.*

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**Leave of Absence Requests**

None.

**Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Jill Weiss  
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

- A. THAT the minutes of the Regular Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee meeting of November 28, 2013, be approved as circulated.
- B. THAT the minutes of the Special Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee meeting of December 9, 2013, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Tasia Alexis and Tom Patch absent for the vote)

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**VARY AGENDA**

MOVED by Jill Weiss  
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

- A. *THAT item 1 "Pearson Redevelopment: Debriefing and Discussion" be postponed to a future meeting.*
- B. *THAT "Discussion of the loss of accessible housing units at Montage" be added as new business;*

*FURTHER THAT the agenda be varied to deal with this item first.*

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

*Note from Meeting Coordinator: for ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.*

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**1. Pearson Redevelopment: Debriefing and Discussion**

Postponed to a future meeting.

**2. Disabled Sailing Association of BC: Accessible Sailing and Boat Dock**

Duane Geddes, Executive Director, Disabled Sailing Association of BC, provided an overview of accessible sailing and need for an accessible floating boat dock, and responded to questions. He noted there was full support from the Jericho Sailing Centre association and requested the Committee's support for an accessible floating dock.

MOVED by Greg Pyc  
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee endorse the proposal by the Disabled Sailing Association of British Columbia for a new multi-use, accessible floating dock to serve the entire community, as presented at the February 27, 2014, meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Jeanette Andersen absent for the vote)

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*The Committee recessed at 6:38 pm and reconvened at 6:50 pm.*

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**3. TransLink: Compass Card for Persons with Disabilities**

TransLink staff provided an overview of the Compass Card program and impacts on people with disabilities, and responded to questions. In response to concerns raised by the Committee, TransLink staff agreed to send a letter to the Chair with detailed answers.

**4. Election of Vice-Chair**

Following due process, Cathy Browne was elected Vice-Chair of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, by acclamation until December 7, 2014.

**5. New Business**

**a. Loss of Accessible Housing Units at Montage**

BC Coalition of People with Disabilities and Vancouver Resource Society staff provided an overview of this matter, noting six fully wheelchair modified units at the Montage

development are at risk of reverting to market status due to cancellation of provincial subsidies.

MOVED by Jill Weiss  
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

WHEREAS:

1. There is a crucial shortage of accessible fully wheelchair modified suites in Vancouver.
2. The shortage of accessible fully wheelchair modified suites that are specifically modified for persons with severe disabilities is even greater and is at crisis proportions.
3. It is time consuming and expensive to construct accessible housing for persons with severe disabilities because of the need for larger space and specific modifications, such as wider passageways, doors, turning circles, power door openers, accessible elevators, ceiling lifts, etc., that are difficult if not impossible to add after a suite is constructed.
4. The housing stock of fully wheelchair modified suites is at crisis proportions and many people cannot move out of institutions because there is literally nowhere to move into.
5. Persons with disabilities have the highest poverty levels of any group in Vancouver and cannot afford market rent and persons with severe disabilities have the highest poverty levels.
6. Fully modified wheelchair suites are a rare and much needed resource to provide housing for persons with severe disabilities and it will take years and significant expense to replace them.
7. Some fully modified wheelchair suites such as those at the Montage development are about to revert to market rent status due to the lack of adequate housing subsidy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee:

- A. Asks that BC Housing and the Provincial government take all necessary steps to protect the housing stock of fully wheelchair modified suites by:
  - Allocating appropriate resources to ensure that adequate housing subsidies are available for all fully wheelchair modified rental suites so that the rental rate is no more than the BC Persons with

Disabilities Income Assistance shelter allowance, currently \$375 per month, and

- Ensuring that these suites are occupied only by persons with wheelchairs, and that suites modified for persons with severe disabilities with power wheelchairs are only occupied by persons with severe disabilities using power wheelchairs.

- B. Requests that BC Housing and the Provincial government recognize the urgent lack of affordable accessible housing in Vancouver and British Columbia, and in consultation with the disability community, take appropriate steps to remedy this critical situation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Jeanette Andersen absent for the vote)

**b. White Paper on Housing**

Jill Weiss provided an overview of what will be added to the White Paper on Housing and requested assistance from the Committee. The Vice-Chair agreed to assist with editing and Guillaume Dufresne agreed to assist with research.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Cathy Browne  
SECONDED by Greg Pyc

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Jeanette Andersen absent for the vote)

**Next Regular Meeting:**

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

The Committee adjourned at 8:03 pm.

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