



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MARCH 27, 2014

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, March 27, 2014, at 5:30 pm, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Jill Weiss, Chair
Tasia Alexis*
Jeanette Andersen*
Cathy Browne, Vice-Chair
Sheryl Burns
Guillaume Dufresne
Laura Mackenrot
Tom Patch
Greg Pyc
Leonor Vlug

ABSENT: Paul Gauthier
Craig Langston

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Geoff Meggs, City of Vancouver
Commissioner Melissa De Genova, Park Board

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Leave of Absence Requests

There were no requests for leave of absence.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Cathy Browne
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held February 27, 2014, as circulated.

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

1. Regular Meeting Schedule Changes

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot

SECONDED by Sheryl Burns

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee revise the 2014 meeting schedule as follows:

- April 24, 2014, working session to become a regular meeting; and
- November 27, 2014, regular meeting to become a working session.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Jeanette Andersen absent for the vote)

2. Discussion of Wheelchair Accessible Housing Shortage and City Priorities and Actions on Accessible Housing

Staff from Housing Policy and the BC Coalition of Persons with Disabilities provided an update on the shortage of affordable, wheelchair accessible housing in Vancouver (*materials on file*).

Key issues included the following:

- critical shortage of wheelchair accessible housing;
- crisis is getting worse because some accessible units are losing their subsidy, and unsubsidized units can't be used by people with disabilities who can't afford market rent;
- as co-ops lose their subsidies, the situation will get even worse;
- urgent need for inventory to determine how many units are available and how many more are needed;
- many units identified as "accessible" are not fully accessible;
- the City of Vancouver's approach includes:
 - ensuring accessible housing is included in new developments (i.e. Oakridge and Heather Place, 5% of the affordable units will be wheelchair accessible);
 - key challenge is how much of the stock can be made affordable without senior government subsidies.

In response to questions staff agreed to:

- obtain percentage of disabled people who live in poverty in the city;
- look into any vacant buildings (eg, hotels) that could be renovated for wheelchair accessible housing;
- look into tracking accessible market housing in the city; and
- forward the City's standards for wheelchair accessible housing for the Committee's review and feedback.

During discussion, priority recommendations were identified as follows:

- establish standard for wheelchair accessible housing;
- develop inventory of wheelchair accessible housing; identify parameters and need;
- save existing wheelchair accessible units in the city;
- ensure enough new wheelchair accessible units are included in new developments;
- ask provincial government to provide targeted subsidies for all wheelchair accessible units in the province (possibly align with You Hold the Key Campaign);
- form coalition of groups working on housing issues; and
- consider liaising with Metro Vancouver Alliance

The Committee agreed to invite the CEO and the Chair of BC Housing, as well as a representative from the Co-operative Housing Federation of BC to the next meeting to provide an update.

3. New Business

a) Pearson Update

The Chair provided an update on Pearson.

b) Point Grey Corridor - accessibility consultations

The Chair provided an update on a meeting with City staff and sought the Committee's feedback on a staff request to form a joint sub-committee including various civic agencies to review the City's existing street restoration manual and seek feedback on what would be optimal. These joint sub-committee meetings would be held in May and June.

In discussion, the Committee agreed that Tom Patch and Rob Sleath, CNIB, participate on behalf of the Committee.

The Staff Liaison will forward additional information.

c) LGBTQ re accessibility

The Chair advised that the LGBTQ Advisory Committee has asked for a volunteer from this Committee to work with them on Park Board facility accessibility for transgendered people and for people with disabilities. Guillaume Dufresne agreed to participate.

d) Downtown Bus Service Review

The Chair advised that staff have requested a special meeting with the Committee to review Downtown local bus service and obtain feedback. The Vice-Chair agreed to consult and report back.

e) Communications Now

The Vice-Chair provided a brief update on a campaign by Communication Disabilities Access Canada called "Communications Now" to raise awareness of challenges that exist for people with communication disabilities. She reported that they would like to make a presentation to the Committee. The Chair noted that agendas are likely too full.

f) Status of the White Paper Report

The Chair provided a brief progress report on the Disability White Paper and noted the deadline for submission was March 11th, but the Committee has been given an extension to April 2, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Leonor Vlug
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, April 24, 2014*
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Committee Room No. 1
Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

** Note change in meeting date.*

The Committee adjourned at 8:36 pm.

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