

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JUNE 26, 2014

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 26, 2014, at 5:19 pm, in Committee Room No. 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Cathy Browne, Vice-Chair
Tasia Alexis
Jeanette Andersen
Sheryl Burns
Guillaume Dufresne
Paul Gauthier*
Craig Langston
Laura Mackenrot
Tom Patch
Jill Weiss, Chair

ABSENT: Greg Pyc
Leonor Vlug

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Geoff Meggs
Anne Nickerson, Director, Equal
Employment Opportunity Program
Stephanie Kripps, Branch Head,
Outreach Services, Central Library

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Jill Weiss

SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the agenda as amended to deal with Item 3 prior to Item 2 and to combine Items 1a and 1b.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Paul Gauthier absent for the vote)

Note: for clarity, the minutes are recorded in chronological order.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot

SECONDED by Craig Langston

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meeting held April 24, 2014, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Paul Gauthier absent for the vote)

1. Discussion on critical shortage of wheelchair-accessible housing

The following guests were in attendance to discuss the critical shortage of wheelchair-accessible housing in Vancouver:

- a) Tony Roy, Executive Director, Non-profit Housing Association of BC (BCNPHA), and Patrick Buchannon, Executive Director, New Chelsea Society;

b) Don Littleford, Manager, Metro Vancouver Housing (MVHC).

The discussion focused on:

- housing provided by BCNPHA and MVHC;
- high poverty rate of people with disabilities and the need for subsidized units;
- extreme difficulty finding affordable wheelchair-accessible housing;
- difficulty filling accessible units when they are available; and
- many units labeled accessible are not really accessible - need inventory based on specific features.

Next steps:

- definition of wheelchair-accessible housing;
- inventory of existing stock based on specific features;
- user friendly registry; and
- strategic planning session with housing providers.

The Subcommittee on Wheelchair-accessible Housing will coordinate the above.

3. Committee's Function

The Committee discussed responsibilities moving forward given the Chair's health issues and need to significantly reduce her workload. There was general agreement that wheelchair-accessible housing continues to be the main priority and that the Committee will only work on additional issues when members are available to coordinate.

2. Discussion on housing priorities and actions

Priorities and responsibilities were identified as follows:

- a) Affordable, wheelchair accessible Housing - Tom Patch
- b) TransLink, including HandyDART - Laura Mackenrot and Jill Weiss
- c) Pearson Hospital - Tasia Alexis and Paul Gauthier
- d) City Streets Manual and Accessibility - Tom Patch
- e) Event Check List - Cathy Browne

To be considered in future:

- Guidelines for accessible community gardens; and
- Improvements to Adaptable Housing by-law (exterior access/visitability).

The following ideas and responsibilities were identified:

- i) research on the definition of affordable wheelchair accessible housing:

Sheryl Burns agreed to draft an outline in consultation with Ben Ostrander, Planner, Urban Development

- ii) schedule a subcommittee meeting to plan the strategic planning session and invite Abi Bond, Assistant Director of Housing Policy:

Tom Patch agreed to coordinate; Wheelchair-accessible Housing Subcommittee members are: Tasia Alexis, Jeanette Andersen, Cathy Browne, Sheryl Burns, Guillaume Dufresne, Paul Gauthier and Jill Weiss.

- iii) identify features for the Inventory on wheelchair accessible housing

Tom Patch agreed to coordinate

- iv) administrative support leading up to the strategic planning session

The Staff Liaison agreed to consider matching funds with Housing Policy for a facilitator and to provide administrative support such as scheduling meetings.

4. Accessibility concerns re COV events

The Committee discussed accessibility issues at recent civic events and it was agreed a recommendation to Council be drafted to request accessibility training be provided to City staff.

The Chair suggested the event accessibility guidelines be finalized at the next working session prior to drafting a recommendation.

5. New Business

None

Adjournment

MOVED by Craig Langston
SECONDED by Jeanette Andersen

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Paul Gauthier absent for the vote)

The Committee adjourned at 8:41 pm.

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Next Clerked Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, September 25, 2014
TIME: TBA
PLACE: Town Hall
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

Next Working Session:

DATE: Thursday, July 31, 2014
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Town Hall
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall