



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 17, 2015, at 5:02 pm, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Tom Patch, Co-Chair
Tasia Alexis
Peter Brown
Jacques Courteau
Mary-Jo Fetterly
Brian Gibney
Greg Pyc
Leonor Vlug
Daniel Ward
Sandy Yee

ABSENT: Cathy Browne, Co-Chair (Leave of Absence)
Paul Gauthier (Leave of Absence)
Darcie Kerr (Sick Leave)
Jocelyn Maffin (Leave of Absence)
Laura Mackenrot (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor George Affleck, Council Liaison
Tim McMillan, Vancouver Public Library Liaison
Branca Verde, Planning and Development Services, Staff Liaison
Jill Weiss, Past Chair

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

Introductions

The meeting began with roundtable introductions.

ADMINISTRATION

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Jacques Courteau
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Cathy Brown, Paul Gauthier, Jocelyn Maffin, and Laura Mackenrot for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adoption of Agenda

MOVED by Tasia Alexis

SECONDED by Mary Jo Fetterly

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee add a presentation from the Justice Institute as New Business Item 1a.

FURTHER THAT New Business Item 1a be the first Item of business after Approval of Minutes and Leave of Absence Requests.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Peter Brown

SECONDED by Sandy Yee

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meeting held June 25, 2015, with the following change:

Page 3, Item 1a, "accessible and audible signals", changed to "accessible pedestrian signals".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS

1. City of Vancouver - Requests for Input

a) Seaside Greenway

David Rawsthorne, Civil Engineer, Active Transportation, provided a presentation on the Seaside Greenway Completion - Point Grey Road project, including a brief on phase 1 of the project that was completed in 2014, options to improve walking and public realm connections, public consultation to date, and lighting. Mr. Rawsthorne also responded to questions on parking, street paving, lighting, and rest areas.

The Committee agreed to refer discussion on this item to the Accessible City Subcommittee.

b) 10th Avenue Corridor

Dylan Passmore, Civil Engineer, Active Transportation, provided a presentation on the 10th Avenue Corridor Project, to be launched in October 2015. He noted the most difficult portion of the project will be the section around VGH. Mr. Passmore also responded to questions regarding potential changes to the corridor, sidewalk heaving, and smoother sidewalks.

The Committee agreed to refer discussion on this item to the Accessible City Subcommittee.

c) Naming of PWDAC Contacts

The Committee discussed choosing members to be direct contacts for different departments in the City.

MOVED by Greg Pyc

SECONDED by Jacques Courteau

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee appoints the following members as staff contact representatives for the Committee:

- Jacques Courteau - Parks and Recreation
- Jill Weiss - Engineering Services, including the Transportation Division
- Peter Brown - Facilities Management
- Tom Patch - Housing Policy and Projects

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Liaison Reports

Tim McMillan, Vancouver Public Library (VPL) Liaison, provided an update on current initiatives of the VPL including Sensory Storytime and an integrated Storytime Program with interpreters for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Mr. McMillan responded to questions regarding notification of the programs.

Branca Verde, Staff Liaison, provided an update on the Guidelines for Accessible Events. She also discussed the new version of the Wheelchair Accessibility Symbol and noted the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC) is encouraging use of the new symbol.

3. Sub-Committee Reports

a) Accessible City

Jacque Courteau provided an update on the Accessible City Subcommittee including work on the Guidelines for Accessible Events, accessible City buildings, the Burrard bridge, the Davie Street Plaza, and locating a contact for Parks and Recreation and the School Board regarding accessible upgrades. He noted staff from Facilities Planning have created a working document regarding the accessibility of City buildings and feedback on the document can be directed to Peter Brown. He also noted concerns with accessible washrooms near the planned Davie Street Plaza.

It was agreed the Davie Street Plaza matter would be referred back to the Accessible City Subcommittee and brought back to the October Working Session.

b) Transportation

Daniel Ward provided an update on the list of actions, created by himself and Laura Mackenrot, for the 2014 Transportation Plan.

Jill Weiss, Past Chair, noted that she and Tom Patch had provided a submission to the Passenger Transportation Board to reconsider the granting of only 20 of the 78 wheelchair-accessible taxis that were requested. Ms. Weiss also noted future work with HandyDART.

c) Communication/Education

Leonor Vlug provided an update and noted the Subcommittee needs to select a Chair and will be looking at communication policies. Discussion ensued around the accessibility of websites and Tom Patch agreed to work with Greg Pyc and Branca Verde, Staff Liaison, to organize a future presentation on this matter.

d) Housing

Tom Patch provided an update and noted the Subcommittee had met with City staff regarding identifying and creating wheelchair accessible housing. Mr. Patch also discussed the Pearson Dogwood lands redevelopment and noted a working group is being created to discuss the Stan Strong Pool and two volunteers from the Committee were needed. It was agreed one volunteer position would be shared between Mr. Patch and Paul Gauthier, and Mary-Jo Fetterly would hold the second position.

Jill Weiss, Past Chair, noted the Housing By-law needs to be revisited and she will be forming a Task Team for this issue. Members who want to take part were asked to e-mail Ms. Weiss.

4. Sub-Committee Process/Authority

The Chair noted concern regarding process and authority around subcommittees. It was agreed protocol for subcommittees would be an item on the agenda at the November meeting.

5. Other Business

a) December 3rd Event

Jacques Courteau noted December 3rd is International Day for Persons with Disabilities. It was agreed at the October Working Session that the Committee would discuss the event taking place at the Roundhouse.

b) Parks Policy Regarding Sign Language Interpretation

Leonor Vlug noted she emailed Parks and Recreation regarding policy for persons deaf and hard of hearing who want to take a course or workshop.

6. New Business

a) Presentation from the Justice Institute

Harry Randhawa, Coordinator/Instructor, Justice Institute, and Heather McCain, Citizens for Accessible Neighbourhoods, provided a presentation regarding training for taxi drivers in the Greater Vancouver Regional District, to enhance customer service for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Jill Weiss, Past Chair, noted a training program was created and implemented by the former Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, in partnership with the Seniors Advisory Committee and various organizations, and it is currently used in Vancouver for Driver Training.

The Committee agreed to refer discussion on this item to the Transportation Subcommittee.

b) Front Entrance of City Hall

The Committee agreed to refer this matter to the Accessible City subcommittee.

c) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Tom Patch noted the election of Chair and Vice-Chair will take place at the November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Jacques Courteau
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, November 19, 2015
TIME: 5 pm
PLACE: Town Hall
Main Floor, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:10 pm.

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