



## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

**JANUARY 21, 2016**

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, January 21, 2016, at 5:07 pm, in Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Tom Patch, Co-Chair Cathy Browne, Vice-Chair Peter Brown Jacques Courteau Mary-Jo Fetterly Paul Gauthier, Co-Chair ( <i>via teleconference</i> ) Laura Mackenrot Leonor Vlug Daniel Ward Sandy Yee
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Tacia Alexis (Leave of Absence) Brian Gibney (Sick Leave) Darcie Kerr (Leave of Absence) Jocelyn Maffin (Leave of Absence) Greg Pyc (Leave of Absence)
<b>ALSO PRESENT:</b>	Councillor George Affleck, Council Liaison Councillor Melissa De Genova, Council Liaison Trustee Christopher Richardson, School Board Chris Higgins, Staff Liaison Stephanie Kripps, Vancouver Public Library Jill Weiss, Past Chair
<b>CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:</b>	Donald Kinloch, Meeting Coordinator Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

### **Leave of Absence Requests**

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Sandy Yee

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Tasia Alexis, Darcie Kerr, Jocelyn Maffin and Greg Pyc for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Adoption of Agenda**

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee adopt the agenda as amended by adding two items under New Business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meeting held November 19, 2015, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **BUSINESS**

### **1. Liaison Reports**

#### **Library**

- Stephanie Kripps, Accessible Services, Vancouver Public Library, asked the Committee to forward any recommendations on software, hardware, or other such devices or services (services other than those relating to physical accessibility) that could support people with disabilities to better use library services.
- Ms. Kripps agreed to forward her request via Email to the Committee for further distribution.

#### **Schoolboard**

- Trustee Christopher Richardson, Vancouver School Board, reported on the Long-term Facilities Plan, which will be finalized and ready for submission by the end of June 2016.
- Trustee Richardson offered to bring information regarding the strategic plan to the next meeting for comment and offered to provide a point of contact for the Committee regarding accessibility issues and seismic upgrades.

#### **Council**

- Councillor George Affleck, noted that the Oakridge development would be coming back to Council as a public hearing.
- Councillor Affleck, along with Councillor Melissa De Genova, Council Liaison, spoke of bike lanes, their impact on sidewalks and resulting mobility issues for all citizens, some of which require more discussion.
- Council Liaisons also commented on Norquay Village Street Design, development style, density, accessible parking and long-range plans were discussed.
- Based on the growing popularity of Uber and Rideshare services, Councillor Affleck suggested that the Committee may wish to send a letter to the Province outlining concerns.

## **Staff**

- Chris Higgins, Staff Liaison, reported changes to signage at the rotunda to include a Communication Access Symbol.
- Changes to the entrance of an accessible washroom at Nordstrom that would allow correct opening and closing were discussed and Mr. Higgins indicated that there would be follow-up with the building branch to ensure against this type of oversight in future.

## **2. BC Disabilities Act**

Cathy Browne, Vice-Chair, provided an update on “Barrier Free BC”, a grassroots movement trying to raise awareness for a disability act for the province of British Columbia and has requested support from the Committee.

Following discussion, it was agreed to wait six months to see how the movement grows before the Committee provides support.

## **3. Sub-Committees**

### **a) Protocol Sub-Committee Report**

- The Chair lead a discussion regarding Committee and Member protocol, and clarified when it was appropriate for making comment on disability issues on behalf of the Committee versus making comments based on personal opinion.
- The Co-Chairs and the Vice-Chair will develop a protocol document to clarifying roles, responsibilities and responses of Committee Members and Sub-committees.

**b) Accessible City Sub-Committee Report**

- Peter Brown reported on event guidelines and suggested a response to address shortcomings the City had proposed.

Peter Brown, Mary-Jo Fetterly and Jill Weiss reviewed the Minutes of the Accessible City Sub-Committee dated January 19, 2016 (*on file*).

The Committee also discussed the South False Creek Seawall consultations and accessibility issues, subsequently it was

MOVED by Jacques Corteau  
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

WHEREAS

1. It is important that people in Vancouver have opportunities to get outdoors for exercise, and the planned improvements to the South False Creek Seawall will increase these opportunities for all;
2. The South Seawall is flat and largely accessible, presenting a great opportunity for persons with disabilities to get out, exercise, and socialize;
3. Persons of all ages with disabilities need a surface that is safe to walk on, and flagstones on parts of the pedestrian pathway do not meet this requirement;
4. There are no public toilets on the South Seawall, and persons with disabilities cannot readily find accessible alternatives.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that Council approve the South False Creek Seawall Improvement Project, subject to the following:

- (a) Replacing flagstone surfaces on the pedestrian pathways with a surface that is safe for people of all ages with disabilities, and

- (b) Installing a public accessible toilet to enable the full enjoyment of South False Creek by everyone.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**c) Transportation Report Sub-Committee Report**

Laura Mackenrot reviewed the report of the Transportation Sub-Committee dated January 4, 2016 (*on file*).

Following the discussion on Taxi Driver training, it was

MOVED by Mary-Jo Fetterly  
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee endorses and supports the “*Ask, Listen, Act*” Taxi Driver Training, which was developed collaboratively with disability and seniors groups. We do not support or endorse the development of an additional taxi driver training program, which might be less effective and more expensive.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**d) Housing Sub-Committee Report**

No report.

**4. New Business**

**a) Access to City Services Without Fear**

The Chair indicated that there had been a request for representation on a Community Advisory Committee “Access to City Services without Fear”, and agreed to circulate the information via Email.

**b) Wheelchair Accessible Washrooms**

Postponed until next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Peter Brown  
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 7:16 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Next Meeting:**

DATE: Thursday, March 31, 2016  
TIME: 5 pm  
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room  
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall