



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MARCH 31, 2016

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, March 31, 2016, at 5:13 pm, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT:

Tom Patch, Co-Chair
Tasia Alexis
Peter Brown
Cathy Browne, Vice-Chair
Jacques Courteau
Mary-Jo Fetterly*
Paul Gauthier, Co-Chair (*via teleconference*)
Brian Gibney*
Laura Mackenrot
Jocelyn Maffin (*via teleconference*)
Daniel Ward*

ABSENT:

Darcie Kerr (Leave of Absence)
Leonor Vlug (Leave of Absence)
Sandy Yee (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor George Affleck, Council Liaison
Councillor Melissa De Genova, Council Liaison
Commissioner Michael Wiebe, Park Board Liaison
Stephanie Kripps, VPL Liaison
Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, General Manager,
Community Services
Robyn Newton, Social Planner, Social Policy
Chris Higgins, Sustainability Group Staff Liaison
Jill Weiss, Past Chair

**CITY CLERK'S
OFFICE:**

Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Leave of Absence Requests

The Chair advised that Greg Pyc submitted his resignation.

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Jacques Courteau

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Darcie Kerr, Leonor Vlug and Sandy Yee for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adoption of Agenda

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee adopt the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Mary-Jo Fetterly

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meeting held January 21, 2016, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS

1. Liaison Reports

Councillor Melissa De Genova:

- automated sliding doors in Council Chamber; and
- Uber Information Session – April 18, 2016 (5:30 – 8:30 pm).

Chris Higgins, Sustainability Group:

- Accessibility training for City staff; and
- Update on Staff Liaisons.

MOVED by Mary-Jo Fetterly
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee thank Branca Verde for all her support as Staff Liaison and wish her well in her retirement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Stephanie Kripps, Vancouver Public Library (VPL):

- Update on VPL Liaison - Andrea Brown to cover in the interim; and
- New accessibility feature on Twitter for photos (for visually disabled).

Commissioner Michael Wiebe:

- Update on playground strategy.

2. Appointment of Committee Liaisons to other Advisory Committees

MOVED by Jacques Courteau
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee appoint Tasia Alexis and Laura Mackenrot as liaisons to the Senior's Advisory Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Pearson Dogwood Rezoning Application

Yardley McNeill, Planner, Vancouver – Midtown, along with the following guests, provided an update on a rezoning application for the Pearson Dogwood site and responded to questions:

- Gavin Blackstock, Planner, IBI Group
- Marie Fontaine, Architect, Lower Mainland Facilities Management/ Project Manager for Pearson Dogwood Redevelopment Project
- Joy Parsons, Director, Vancouver Coastal Health

MOVED by Paul Gauthier
SECONDED by Peter Brown

WHEREAS:

1. An application has been submitted to the City of Vancouver for rezoning of the Pearson Dogwood lands; and
2. A public consultation process is underway and some aspects of the redevelopment plan have not been finalized; and
3. The George Pearson Centre (“GPC”) is being closed and the building demolished; and
4. The residents of GPC will be re-housed by Vancouver Coastal Health (“VCH”) on the same site (the “VCH Units”); and
5. The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, Disability Alliance BC and Pearson Residents Redevelopment Group have agreed to the housing options for Pearson residents (the “Consensus Agreement”); and
6. Some of the Pearson residents may choose to live with a friend, caregiver or family member; and
7. The Consensus Agreement includes a group living option referred to as Greenhouses, and the future demand for such housing is uncertain; and
8. There is a severe shortage of affordable and wheelchair accessible housing in Vancouver and the shortage is especially acute for users of power wheelchairs; and
9. There is a need for wheelchair accessible units in all types of housing, including housing designated for families and seniors; and
10. Full inclusion of persons with disabilities requires that their housing be distributed throughout the community; and
11. The Pearson Dogwood redevelopment is expected to include, in addition to housing, a community health clinic, a therapeutic pool, a park, an urban farm, retail space and access to public transit.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT support of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee for the rezoning application will be conditional on the following:

1. That the VCH Units be developed in accordance with the consensus agreement;
2. That, to accommodate Pearson residents who may choose to live with a friend, caregiver or family member, the City of Vancouver and VCH work toward allocating up to 2000 square feet to supplement the space now allocated for the VCH Units;
3. That the designs for the Greenhouses incorporate plans to efficiently modify them into smaller independent units to efficiently accommodate possible changes in future demand;
4. That 5% of all categories and sizes of housing on the site be wheelchair accessible; this includes market and non-market housing and in sizes from studio to three-bedroom;
5. That 50% of social and affordable wheelchair accessible units (which does not include the VCH Units) be designed for users of power wheelchairs; those designs are to be commensurate with the current designs for the VCH Units;
6. That wheelchair accessible units, including the VCH Units, be distributed throughout the site; and
7. That all public spaces, amenities and facilities on the site, including parks and walkways, the farm, the pool, the community health clinic, public transit and any retail space, be designed to maximize inclusion of persons with disabilities and in accordance with principles of universal design;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee will withhold approval of the rezoning application until after it has received further details of the redevelopment plan and may add to or amend the conditions for approval.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Daniel Ward absent for the vote)

4. Sub-Committee Reports

a) Accessible City

None

b) Housing

None

c) Transportation

i. 10th Avenue Corridor

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Jacques Courteau

WHEREAS:

1. The Transportation Plan 2040 includes a bicycle lane along the corridor of 10th Ave from Cambie to Oak;
2. The Transportation Plan places the highest priority on pedestrians – the hierarchy of priorities is pedestrians, bicycles, transit, shared vehicles and cars;
3. The Transportation Plan indicates that “The hierarchy is intended to help ensure that the needs and safety of each group are sequentially considered when decisions are made” (p16);
4. The Transportation Plan prioritizes accessibility for all ages and abilities: “The City’s streets and public spaces should be usable by everyone, including seniors, families with young children, and those with mobility, vision, hearing and cognitive impairments.” (p 21), and “Enable people of all ages and abilities to get to where they need to go, comfortably and safely.” (p 9);
5. Safety is an important priority in the Transportation Plan 2040;
6. The highest priority is safety of vulnerable people: “A special emphasis will be placed on safety for at-risk groups (for example, children, seniors, and those with mobility challenges)” (p13);

7. Design for bicycle lanes must respect the safety of pedestrians, especially vulnerable pedestrians;

AND WHEREAS:

8. The proposed bicycle lane runs right through a medical corridor;
9. This corridor includes a significant number of important and unique medical services including the Canadian Cancer Society, the Eye Care Centre, the BC Cancer Research Centre, the Arthritis Centre, the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre, the BC Cancer Agency, the Emergency Entrance of Vancouver General Hospital; the Centre for Hip Health Mobility and the Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Centre (on Laurel Street);
10. Many of the persons using these services are ill, injured, elderly and/or disabled, must be picked-up/dropped off very close to their destination, and are pedestrians significantly vulnerable to injury from bicycles and cars;

AND WHEREAS:

11. The proposed bicycle path along this corridor would involve over 3,000 bicycle trips each day along this heavily used medical corridor;
12. The topography in the area makes it difficult to re-route the bicycle lane, and re-routing would not likely lead to bicyclists using an alternative route, therefore the plans must include both pedestrian and cyclist considerations;

AND WHEREAS:

13. Staff are preparing plans for this corridor and have requested input from the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee;
14. The current designs for this corridor do not provide safe pick-up and drop-off locations for persons with disabilities in sufficiently close proximity to the medical services on this corridor;
15. The current designs do not protect vulnerable pedestrians from the significant risk of injury posed by a busy bicycle path along this heavily used medical corridor.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee asks that new designs be developed which provide safety for vulnerable pedestrians, and safe adequate drop-off and pick-up locations close to every medical service.

WE RECOMMEND more specifically that:

1. Drop-off/pick-up locations in this corridor be located next to each medical building in indented areas;
2. These pick-up and drop-off locations be directly connected by ramps to raised crosswalks that will slow bicycle and car traffic and protect vulnerable pedestrians;
3. Specific signage be developed to alert road users that this is a medical corridor with vulnerable pedestrians; and
4. Adequate lighting and signals be designed for the safety of vulnerable pedestrians.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Daniel Ward absent for the vote)

ii. Uber

The Committee agreed to postpone this matter until after the Uber Information Session in April.

iii. Provincial Bus Pass

The Committee agreed to postpone this matter.

iv. Translink Changes to Access

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Peter Brown

WHEREAS Access Transit has implemented many important changes in the last few years that have dramatically improved services for persons with disabilities, including:

- Extensive consultations with senior and disability groups;
- Reinstatement of TaxiSavers;

- Elimination of the proposed invasive HandyDART application process; and
- Re-introduction of taxis into HandyDART, which has reduced the trip denial rate to almost zero;

AND WHEREAS Access Transit has been actively considering further improvements which would make a significant difference to persons with disabilities including an enhanced TaxiSaver program and a continued increase in taxis within HandyDART.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee wishes to compliment TransLink for the excellent progress the Committee has seen in the last few years and trusts this progress will be continued;

Specifically, the Committee wishes to ensure:

1. That the ongoing consultation and good working relationship with the disability and seniors community is continued;
2. That the enhanced TaxiSaver program is developed, allowing people with disabilities and seniors to purchase significantly more TaxiSavers each month and at a reduced rate (25% rather than 50%);
3. That the inclusion of taxis into HandyDART is continued, which will provide significantly more rides within the funding envelope; and
4. That the current low trip denial service provision standard is continued.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mary-Jo Fetterly and Daniel Ward absent for the vote)

Laura Mackenrot will prepare the letter for the Committee's review.

5. New Business

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mary-Jo Fetterly, Brian Gibney and Daniel Ward absent for the vote)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, May 26, 2016
TIME: 5 pm
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:45 pm.

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