



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MAY 26, 2016

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, May 26, 2016, at 5:05 pm, in Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Tom Patch, Co-Chair
Tasia Alexis
Peter Brown
Cathy Browne, Vice-Chair
Mary-Jo Fetterly
Paul Gauthier, Co-Chair
Brian Gibney
Darcie Kerr
Laura Mackenrot
Leonor Vlug*
Daniel Ward
Sandy Yee (*via teleconference*)

ABSENT: Jacques Courteau
Jocelyn Maffin

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Melissa De Genova, Council Liaison
Commissioner Michael Wiebe, Park Board Liaison
Andrea Brown, Acting VPL Liaison, Vancouver Public Library
Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, General Manager, Community Services
Robyn Newton, Staff Liaison, Social Policy & Projects Division
Chris Higgins, Staff Liaison, Sustainability Group
Kevin Lau, Staff Liaison, Building Policy Branch
Jill Weiss, Past Chair

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Jacques Courteau and Jocelyn Maffin for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Leonor Vlug absent for the vote)

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Mary-Jo Fetterly
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting held on March 31, 2016, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Leonor Vlug absent for the vote)

1. Little Mountain Rezoning Application

Michelle McGuire, Senior Planner, Vancouver – South, Planning and Development Services, provided an update on a revised Little Mountain Rezoning Application, and sought the Committee's feedback, noting staff will be reporting to Council in July.

In discussion, points raised included the following:

- social and wheelchair accessible housing should be dispersed throughout the development;
- consider accessibility when selecting a sidewalk surface; and
- the City's requirements for fully accessible units and what the expectation is for this site.

The Committee agreed to provide additional comments on the application to the Chair who will collate them and forward them directly to Ms. McGuire.

2. 'Split-island' Service Stations

Adrien Byrne, PGPA Representative Policy, Government and Public Affairs, Chevron, provided an update on proposed amendments to the City's Zoning and Development By-law to enable 100% self-serve, while ensuring that the rights and accessibility of persons with disabilities are protected.

In discussion, the Committee expressed concerns regarding the rationale for the proposed amendments and agreed that full-service stations must be a mandatory requirement for persons with disabilities.

Following discussion, the Chair recommended Mr. Byrne consider finding solutions to the existing issues related to full-service stations and welcomed a report back. The Chair also suggested that Mr. Byrne consider establishing a stakeholder group to research possible solutions and indicated that members of the Committee would be interested in participating in such a group.

3. Sidewalk Mural

David Lewis, Integrated Graffiti Management Program Coordinator, Street Activities Branch, along with Dr. Cameron Cartiere and Ashely Guindon, both of ChART: Marpole, presented a proposal for an on-street mural on the 1500 block of West 68th Avenue, and sought the Committee's feedback on a number of options.

In discussion, members expressed concerns for the safety of people with visual or cognitive impairments. Of particular concern was the option to expand the same solid colour from the street over the curb cut and up the wall, as it could become very confusing. Members did, however, express support for the Rainbow crosswalk on Davie Street, as it contains bold, bright colours that distinguish the street from the curb cuts.

Members suggested:

- consulting with the senior community, mental health organizations and the CNIB;
- the City establish guidelines that consider the needs of all abilities.

4. Work Plan

The Chair provided a brief update and suggested bringing a draft of the work plan to the next regular meeting for approval.

In discussion, the Chair agreed to include the need for actions related to communications in the work plan and, in response to concerns raised regarding access issues with the City's website, invite Communications staff to an upcoming meeting.

5. Subcommittees

a) Housing

i. Accessibility Criteria

Due to time constraints, this item was postponed.

b) Transportation

i. Uber

Due to time constraints, this item was postponed.

ii. Provincial Bus Pass

Due to time constraints, this item was postponed.

iii. 10th Avenue

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

WHEREAS

- 1. Vancouver is committed to making walking easier and safer;**
- 2. The City of Vancouver prides itself on being an accessible and inclusive City increasing the walkability and accessibility of Vancouver's Street and side walk is a City**

priority. It is important that all residents are able to participate fully in the community, regardless of ability (*Quote from the City of Vancouver Website Walking Accessibility*);

3. The Transportation 2040 Plan prioritizes the needs of pedestrians above all others and further states that "a special emphasis will be placed on safety for at-risk groups to get to where they need to go comfortably and safely";
4. Persons with Disabilities require safe and efficient access to West 10th Avenue so they may attend the numerous medical facilities in the area, including the emergency department at Vancouver General Hospital; the BC Cancer Research Centre; the Eye Care Centre; the Arthritis Centre; The Blusson Spinal Cord Centre; The Centre for Hip Health and Mobility; and the Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Centre;
5. The addition of a dedicated bicycle route would increase traffic along this route and therefore increase the risk for collisions with pedestrians, especially those who are disoriented or mobility-impaired;
6. The addition of the bicycle route would also leave inadequate space for taxis, HandyDart, private cars, or emergency vehicles (especially in cases of vehicle breakdown or catastrophic events);
7. The current plans do not provide safe, dedicated pick-up and drop-off locations for person with disabilities accessing medical facilities;
8. The proposed removal of up to 77 parking spaces would require persons with disabilities and/or their caregiver to park and walk as much greater distance to and from medical facilities;
9. The current designs do not provide for sufficient lighting or other features that improve safety and comfort for vulnerable persons with disabilities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee request Council direct staff to:

1. Investigate more suitable options for the proposed protected bicycle lane, which may include relocating it to the designated bicycle path on West 7th Avenue between Oak and Ash Street;
2. Ensure sufficient sheltered drop-off/pick-up locations in front of entrances to each medical facility along West 10th Avenue, directly connected by gentle ramps and raised crosswalks to slow traffic;
3. Ensure clear signage to caution motorist and cyclist about vulnerable pedestrians and to give priority to emergency vehicles;
4. Ensure adequate lighting, crossing signals, and benches for the safety and comfort of vulnerable pedestrians.
5. Bicycle paths are not on the same level as crosswalks
6. "Audible signals are also used to make crosswalks accessible, by allowing people with vision impairments to hear when to cross the street" (*Quote from the City of Vancouver website - Accessible Cross Walks*)

LOST

(Peter Brown, Cathy Browne, Mary-Jo Fetterly, Paul Gauthier, Darcie Kerr, Tom Patch, Leanore Vlug, Daniel Ward and Sandy Yee opposed)

Committee members expressed concern that due to the lack of notice and distribution of the motion there was not sufficient time to consider the substance of the resolution or its merits.

Councillor De Genova advised that members can meet with the Committee's Council Liaisons anytime regarding any issues in relation to this matter.

6. Greater Vancouver Association of the Deaf

Leanore Vlug provided an update on the GVAD's Deaf-Blind Planning Committee and the upcoming Deaf-Blind Awareness Month and Fair on June 13, 2016, and sought the Committee's support to invite a representative from City Council.

Councillor De Genova suggested sending an invitation to the Mayor's office.

7. New Business

a) Park Board: Motion on Notice – Barrier-Free BC

The Chair requested members provide feedback on the above-noted motion before Monday.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, July 28, 2016
TIME: 5 pm
PLACE: Town Hall
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:06 pm.

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