



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JULY 28, 2016

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, July 28, 2016, at 5:19 pm, in Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Tom Patch, Co-Chair
Tasia Alexis
Cathy Browne, Vice-Chair
Jacques Courteau
Brian Gibney
Laura Mackenrot
Jocelyn Maffin
Daniel Ward

ABSENT: Peter Brown (Leave of Absence)
Mary-Jo Fetterly (Leave of Absence)
Paul Gauthier, Co-Chair (Sick Leave)
Darcie Kerr (Sick Leave)
Leonor Vlug (Leave of Absence)
Sandy Yee (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Wiebe, Park Board Liaison
Robyn Newton, Staff Liaison, Social Policy and Projects
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 Tasia Alexis

SECONDED by Jacques Courteau

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Peter Brown, Mary-Jo Fetterly, Leonor Vlug and Sandy Yee for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes – May 26, 2016

MOVED by Jacques Courteau
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting held on May 26, 2016, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Southeast Marine Drive and Knight Street

Carol Yee, Transportation Planning Engineer, provided an overview on the Southeast Marine Drive and Knight Street project and sought the Committee's feedback on the recommended designs.

Following discussion, the Chair requested an opportunity for the Committee to review the more detailed designs when they are available.

VARY AGENDA

MOVED by Daniel Ward
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee vary the agenda in order to consider Items 5 c i and 5 c ii, immediately following item 3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

2. Development Application – 33 West Cordova Street

John Turecki, Development Review Engineer, provided an update on a Development Application for 33 West Cordova Street and sought the Committee's advice on how to mitigate some challenges regarding parking requirements.

In discussion members felt the need to review the parking matters further, in particular safe loading zones. The Chair suggested this be referred to either the Accessible City or Transportation Sub-committee for further review and that the Sub-committee Chairs meet with staff.

3. Andersen Accessible Beach

Commissioner Wiebe provided an overview on a project to create a wheelchair accessible shoreline access along Point Grey Road, as a tribute to Jeanette Andersen, former member of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee who passed away on June 7, 2016. Commissioner Wiebe also responded to questions.

MOVED by Jocelyn Maffin
SECONDED by Jacques Courteau

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee supports the proposal for *“Wilderness in the City” Accessible Beach – Tribute to Jeanette Andersen*, as presented at its meeting on July 28, 2016, and recommends the Vancouver Park Board proceed with the feasibility study.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Subcommittee Reports

c) Transportation

i. Uber

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

WHEREAS

1. Persons with disabilities have twice the rate of poverty as other citizens;
2. Many persons with disabilities are not able to operate a private vehicle due to the nature of their disability or due to their insufficient income;
3. Persons with disabilities are therefore much less likely to own or operate private vehicles;

4. Many persons with disabilities must therefore rely on publicly available transit options;
5. Transportation is an important part of a person's ability to function equally in a society;
6. Section 8 of the BC Human Rights Code specifies that a service provider must not discriminate against persons with disabilities in the provision of a service or deny them service without a bona fide and reasonable justification; and
7. The City of Vancouver is committed to a goal of "equal transit outcomes for people of all incomes, ages and abilities".

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee asks that the City of Vancouver, the Province, and the Passenger Transportation Board ensure that all publicly-licensed transportation systems are designed, organized and monitored to ensure that persons with disabilities have mobility outcomes that are equal to other citizens using these services.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Jacques Courteau

WHEREAS

1. Taxi and other vehicle for hire systems are an important part of transportation for persons with disabilities, who are especially reliant on public transportation systems;
2. Ride sourcing systems, such as Uber or equivalent services, are currently being considered in Vancouver and British Columbia, and public input has been requested;
3. It is important that these systems provide equal transportation options to persons with disabilities;
4. Drivers who transport passengers with disabilities without appropriate training can pose a significant risk to the safety of passengers with disabilities;

5. Persons with disabilities are much less likely to have credit cards and smartphones, and many must pay in cash or TaxiSavers to use taxis and other vehicles for hire;
6. Adequate insurance is important to ensure that any person who is injured can receive appropriate coverage for medical, rehabilitation and support costs;
7. Independent inspection of vehicles is important to ensure the safety of passengers with disabilities, who are vulnerable to injury and who already face significant challenges; and
8. An independent method of overseeing proper taxi operation is crucial to ensure that a transportation system is actually operating safely and fairly without discrimination.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee asks that the City of Vancouver, the Province, and the Passenger Transportation Board ensure that existing taxi services and any ride sourcing systems being considered, such as Uber or equivalent services, provide the following for persons with disabilities:

- Sufficient numbers of wheelchair- accessible vehicles and appropriate booking processes to ensure equal response and transit times for passengers with disabilities;
- Appropriate booking and payment options to ensure that persons with disabilities are equally able to access transportation services, this specifically includes at least the option of a telephone booking/dispatch system;
- Appropriate driver training, vehicle inspections, insurance and oversight to ensure transportation is safe for persons with disabilities; and
- Coverage by the Taxi Bill of Rights, including right to pay with cash and/or Taxi Savers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee expresses its strong concern that the Province and the City of Vancouver should not approve any changes to the taxi industry, including sourced ride systems such as Uber or equivalent services, that would undermine accessibility, safety, inclusion and affordability for persons with disabilities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee urges the Province and the City of Vancouver to require that all vehicle for hire systems, including sourced ride systems such as Uber or equivalent services, should have a sufficient amount of accessible vehicles, booking processes that can be used without expensive equipment or computer use, adequate insurance, adequate oversight, proper driver training for transporting persons with disabilities, and be covered by the Taxi Bill of Rights, including the acceptance of cash and TaxiSavers as payment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee authorize the Co-Chairs and Vice-Chair to prepare a letter to Mayor and Council, the Passenger Transportation Board, Premier Christy Clark, and Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation, for approval by the Committee via email, expressing these concerns.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ii. Provincial Bus Pass

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot

SECONDED by Cathy Browne

WHEREAS

1. Currently, an estimated 100,000 people in British Columbia receive up to \$906.42 per month on the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Provincial Disability Assistance program. Approximately 50,000 of those receiving Disability Assistance payments also receive a subsidized annual bus pass;
2. The Province has recently announced the cancellation of the subsidized annual bus pass and has also announced a monthly increase of \$77 in the persons with disabilities assistance payments beginning September 1, 2016; and
3. Persons who previously received the annual subsidized bus pass and who want to continue having a bus pass will pay \$52 per month for a monthly bus pass – almost eliminating any increase to their already meager monthly income.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee expresses its strong opposition to the elimination of subsidized annual bus passes currently provided under British Columbia's Disability Assistance program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Work Plan

The Committee reviewed the Draft Work plan and suggested amendments which the Chair noted.

MOVED by Cathy Browne
SECONDED by Jacques Courteau

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee adopt the 2016 Work Plan, as amended at its meeting on July 28, 2016, and distribute it to Council and staff for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Subcommittee Reports *(continued)*

a) Accessible City

i. Event Guidelines

Jill Weiss provided an update and expressed support for staff's revised event guidelines. She will compare the revised guidelines to the Committee's initial draft. Ms. Weiss also suggested sending an email of thanks along with additional comments to staff.

LOSS OF QUORUM

At 7:04 pm, the Committee lost quorum and the Meeting Coordinator declared the meeting adjourned.

The following items were not dealt with due to lack of quorum.

b) Housing

- i. Stakeholder Meeting
- ii. Level Access Update

c) Transportation

- iii. W. 10th Medical Corridor

6. New Business

- a) Rick Hansen Foundation C150 Access4All Initiative
- b) Fencing at Maple Community Gardens

ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, September 29, 2016
TIME: 5 pm
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:04 pm.

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