



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 17, 2016

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 17, 2016, at 5:10 pm, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT:

Tom Patch, Co-Chair
Tasia Alexis (*via teleconference*)
Peter Brown
Jacques Courteau
Mary-Jo Fetterly
Brian Gibney
Darcie Kerr*
Laura Mackenrot
Jocelyn Maffin*
Leonor Vlug
Daniel Ward*

ABSENT:

Cathy Browne, Vice-Chair (Leave of Absence)
Paul Gauthier, Co-Chair (Sick Leave)

ALSO PRESENT:

Robyn Newton, Social Policy and Projects,
Staff Liaison
Christopher Kevlahan, Vancouver Public
Library, VPL Liaison

**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 Mary-Jo Fetterly

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Cathy Browne for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Jocelyn Maffin absent for the vote)

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Mary-Jo Fetterly

SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting held on September 29, 2016, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Jocelyn Maffin absent for the vote)

1. Liaison Reports

The following Liaisons provided verbal updates and responded to questions:

Robyn Newton, Staff Liaison:

- applications for next term have been received for review.

Christopher Kevlahan, VPL Liaison:

- City Dementia Initiative;
- accessible services; Canadian National Institute for the Blind;
- redesign of VPL website, including visual accessibility; and
- National Seniors Day programs, including Jim Deva Place.

The Chair sought input on ways to bring an aboriginal voice to the Committee. Members suggested the following:

- liaise with the Urban Aboriginal People's Advisory Committee; and
- reach out to the BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society.

2 “Moving Towards Zero Action Plan”

Staff from Traffic and Data Management provided an overview of the draft safety strategy “Moving Towards Zero”, and sought the Committee's feedback in advance of submitting the report to Council in December.

Points raised during discussion included:

- strike a safety advisory group and consider different disabilities, i.e. visually, hearing, physically;
- consult with “Preventable – Community on Preventable Injuries”;
- need more detail on the education component; and
- keep the increasing conflict between pedestrians and cyclists in mind.

VARY ORDER

MOVED by Mary-Jo Fetterly
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee vary the agenda to deal with the first New Business item next.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY
(Darcy Kerr and Daniel Ward absent for the vote)

For clarity, the minutes are recorded in chronological order.

7. New Business

a) Downtown Bus Service Review

Staff provided an update on changes to the downtown bus service, including the No. 5 permanent reroute and the No. 6 changes taking effect on December 19, 2016. Staff also explained the rationale for the changes and sought the Committee's feedback on ways to improve the new routes.

Following discussion, the Chair requested staff forward a copy of the presentation.

3. Blood Alley Square Re-Design

This item was withdrawn at the request of staff.

4. Accessible City Strategy

Jacques Courteau presented a recommendation proposing the development of an accessibility and inclusion strategy for the City and sought the Committee's endorsement.

MOVED by Jacques Courteau
SECONDED by Jocelyn Maffin

WHEREAS the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Canadian Human Rights Act, and the British Columbia Human Rights Code recognize the rights of persons with disabilities to be free from discrimination and to participate fully in society;

WHEREAS under "Accessibility 2024", the Province of British Columbia aims to be the most progressive province in Canada for people with disabilities by 2024;

WHEREAS the City of Vancouver "... is committed to removing barriers that might keep you, or someone you care about, from fully enjoying Vancouver" and "Improving city-wide accessibility is an ongoing priority that benefits everyone in the community";

WHEREAS the City of Vancouver currently does not have a comprehensive Strategy to commit to the rights of persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS such a comprehensive Strategy is necessary to ensure that the City takes into account the rights of persons with disabilities when planning and delivering services to the citizens, and to provide a road map to achieve the full respect of these rights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that:

- 1) the City appoint a person responsible for overseeing the development, implementation and application of this Strategy and allocate a sufficient budget;
- 2) the City develop a Persons with Disabilities Strategy by 2018 that will guide Vancouver towards being a City where, to the fullest extent possible, persons with disabilities have the same opportunity to participate in the economic, social and cultural life as persons without disabilities;
- 3) the Strategy be developed in conjunction with the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and other relevant advisory committees, and in consultation with relevant groups and associations in the City;

- 4) the Strategy contain specific measures towards:
 - a. the reduction and elimination of barriers in the physical environment;
 - b. accessible and inclusive housing;
 - c. accessible and inclusive transportation;
 - d. access and inclusion to all City services, programs and facilities;
 - e. accessible and inclusive City communications and information services, including digital services, and the provision of interpretive services;
 - f. encouraging disability access and inclusion in programs and activities funded by City community grants; and
 - g. the employment and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

- 5) Business Units should establish performance measures to evaluate their progress in achieving these measures; and

- 6) Executive and senior management should incorporate measurable objectives in their performance plans towards achieving the objectives of the Strategy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Darcy Kerr and Daniel Ward absent for the vote)

5. Subcommittee Reports

a. Accessible City

Mr. Courteau, Sub-committee Chair, provided a brief verbal update on a recent meeting with Capital Planning staff at the Vancouver School Board on access and inclusion in schools. He also noted that there have been no updates from City staff on accessible features at civic facilities and related projects.

In response, the Staff Liaison advised she would follow-up on status.

Peter Brown noted he has not met with the City Solicitor yet regarding the application of the accessible event guidelines to contractors.

b. Housing

The Chair provided a brief verbal update which included the Pearson Redevelopment and Vancouver Coastal Health's Care Plan.

c. Transportation

Laura Mackenrot, Sub-committee Chair, provided a brief verbal update which included the West 10th Avenue Project, noting staff will provide an update at the Special Meeting scheduled for December 1, 2016, the Transportation Plan 2040 and bus stops.

6. 2017 Meeting Dates

MOVED by Peter Brown
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the 2017 Meeting Schedule as proposed at its meeting on November 17, 2016.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. New Business

There was no further new business.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Brian Gibney

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, January 12, 2017
TIME: 5 pm
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:01 pm.

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