



## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

**September 7, 2017**

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 7, 2017, at 5:31 pm, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

**PRESENT:** Cathy Browne, Co-Chair  
Jacques Courteau, Co-Chair  
Tasia Alexis  
Kristina Baerg  
Varun Banthia  
Zvonimir Basic  
Peter Brown  
Mary-Jo Fetterly (*via teleconference*)  
Paul Gauthier  
Chelsea Hitchen  
Laura Mackenrot, Vice-Chair (*via teleconference*)  
Jocelyn Maffin  
Anita Rudolph (*via teleconference*)  
Leonor Vlug

**ALSO PRESENT:** Commissioner Michael Wiebe, Board of Parks  
and Recreation  
Robyn Newton, Social Policy and Projects, Staff  
Liaison  
Lisa Grant, Vancouver Public Library, Liaison

**CITY CLERK'S  
OFFICE:** Denise Swanston, Committee Clerk

## **Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territory**

Cathy Browne, Co-Chair, acknowledged that we are on the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

## **Leave of Absence Requests**

None.

## **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Peter Brown  
SECONDED by Varun Banthia

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the meeting held July 6, 2017.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **1. Accessibility Review of Brewers and Clinton Park**

Alexandre Man-Bourdon, Board of Parks and Recreation, presented an overview of the Parks Renewals Program and the draft concept plan for Clinton and Brewers parks. The following was discussed:

Clinton Park:

- Replacing wading pool with plaza and cluster-style picnic tables
- Accessible water play at park
- Wider walkways and accessible benches
- Playground
- All slopes to be under 5%
- Drop off zones and on-street parking (will speak to engineering about accessible parking)

Brewers Park:

- Slope of park; increased path widths; accessible benches; cluster-style picnic tables

- Staircase will abide by universal design standards and have adequate warnings/wayfinding to accessible path
- Crime prevention through design and lighting
- Playground
- Replacement of wading pool with plaza
- Availability of shade
- Tennis courts should be accessible

For both parks, the committee noted they hoped the playground would be accessible to all children, as well as the availability of accessible washrooms.

## **2. Single Use Items**

Anita Rudolph (via teleconference) provided a summary via email (copy on file) of the new Single Use Items Policy the City is working on and requested feedback from the group; the following was discussed:

- Reusable CoV cup branding
- Barriers for some to purchasing personal/reusable mugs: cost, ability to hold, cognitive disabilities, phobias, obsessive compulsive disorders.
- How to encourage business owner buy-in.
- Fact that not everyone always carries re-usable items with them.
- Deposits versus discounts
- Perhaps compostable items as an intermediate step
- Need to educate public; social change happens when everyone participates
- Committee felt policy was a worthwhile priority
- Concern expressed over potential “shaming” of people using disposable items
- Delivery systems need to be taken into consideration.

## **3. Transportation Motions**

Two transportation motions were circulated in advance of the meeting via email for the Committee’s consideration. Laura Mackenrot, Chair,

Transportation subcommittee (via teleconference), summarized the history and reasoning behind the motions.

**(a) Millennium Broadway Extension**

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Zvonimir Basic

WHEREAS

1. TransLink recognizes the reliance of persons with disabilities and seniors on conventional public transit;
2. The area to be serviced by the Millennium Line Broadway Extension is of great importance to persons with disabilities as:
  - It is currently the busiest bus corridor in North America and the second largest business and innovation center in BC and growing (KPMG report to CoV and UBC *"The UBC-Broadway Corridor - Unlocking the Economic Potential"* - February 28, 2013); and
  - It provides access to Vancouver General Hospital and a number of agencies that serve persons with disabilities including the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre, the Mary Pack Arthritis Centre, the Eye Care Centre and others.
3. The City of Vancouver Transportation Plan 2040 (pg. 8) states:  
  
*"In the next 30 years, the number of Vancouver residents aged 60 and over will more than double. An aging population means changes in travel patterns and more people with physical challenges getting around our city. By building streets and public spaces with accessibility in mind, and providing transportation options that work for all people, we can ensure a future that allows everyone to meet their daily needs and participate in public life."*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommend the following:

1. That the Millennium Line Broadway Extension trains, and both the interior and exterior of all stations, be designed according to Universal Design principles;
2. That an ongoing dialogue and consultation process be established between the Millennium Line Broadway Extension Design Team and the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) to ensure the final project design meets Universal Design principles and the needs of persons with disabilities;
3. That particular attention be given to the design of all stations to include the following:
  - i. HandyDART and taxi drop-off zones with covered benches for waiting passengers;
  - ii. Access between buses and stations that is safe, easy and protected from the elements;
  - iii. Adequate benches on train platforms for waiting passengers;
  - iv. Accessible gender neutral public washrooms which accommodate the needs of power wheelchair users;
  - v. Audible announcement systems and appropriate level buttons and tactile signage for visually impaired passengers;
  - vi. Digital signage with text in white or yellow on black and in a sufficient size font that vision-impaired passengers can more easily read it;
  - vii. Extra-wide RFID equipped fare-gates;
  - viii. Accessible electric plugs and air pump facilities for emergency use;
  - ix. Signage reminding passengers that the priority for seating and elevator use should be given to seniors, persons with

- disabilities, pregnant women and families with small children;
  - x. Each station should have dual escalators (up and down) for each platform to ensure easy flow of movement for transit-riders, the aging population, and those with mobility impairments who find it difficult to use the stairs;
  - xi. All platforms serve both tracks and are accessible via more than one elevator, and that all elevators are built with transparent walls for the safety of riders and have an area to accommodate larger power wheelchairs and other mobility devices;
  - xii. Consideration should be given to allowing bikes on elevators only in non-rush-hour periods.
4. That particular attention in the design of all trains include:
- i. A sufficient number of cars to comfortably accommodate all passengers including those with mobility devices, and additional custom cars on every train that are specifically designed to hold commuters and their bicycles;
  - ii. Sufficient seating and space for persons using a range of mobility devices;
  - iii. Signage reminding passengers that the priority for seating should be given to seniors, persons with disabilities, pregnant women and families with small children.
  - iv. Digital signage with text in white or yellow on black and in a sufficient size font that vision-impaired passengers can more easily read it;
5. Adequate accommodations for access are put into place during the construction period including:
- i. One week notification of changes or closures communicated in both PDF and Word formats, to be shared on social media and through the email listservs of

organizations working with the disabled and other communities; and

- ii. Physical assists for passengers walking, wheeling, and bicycling.
6. That an underground tunnel connecting the station at Cambie or Oak with the hospital zone be incorporated in the design to provide a safe, sheltered, direct passage for hospital users and staff.

FURTHER THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends the City of Vancouver forward the recommendations as set out above to their partners at TransLink.

AND FURTHER THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends the City of Vancouver involve this Committee and other relevant Committees, including the Seniors Advisory Committee, the Women's Advisory Committee, the Children, Youth and Families Committee, the LGBTQ2+ Committee and the Active Transportation Policy Council, in advising TransLink on the design and implementation of all upcoming transit stations with particular attention to items in this motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **(b) Washrooms in Transit Stations**

It was made known to the Committee that TransLink has indicated they will install the *pipng* for washrooms, but will not actually install working washrooms. Laura asked the Committee to forward any relevant information on this pursuit to the Transportation subcommittee.

MOVED by Tasia Alexis  
SECONDED by Zvonimir Basic

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver Transportation Plan 2040 (Section W1.3.5) calls to:

*“Provide accessible public restrooms in high-demand locations, through measures including... encouraging TransLink to provide public restrooms at all transit stations.”*

2. Vancouver City Council passed a motion in November 2016 to establish appropriate design specifications and placements for accessible public washrooms in street design and future planning projects;
3. All persons have a basic human need to use washroom, and many people must access toilet facilities on a frequent and urgent basis due to health challenges. ("Canada has the highest rate of inflammatory bowel disease in the world." (GI Society));
4. Not having access to public washrooms in our transit system is not only a serious deficiency in the network, but also presents a danger to many transit users' health and safety;
5. Not having access to public washrooms in our transit system may discourage people from using transit, increasing the risk of social isolation for vulnerable people including persons with disabilities, seniors, people with small children and others; and
6. The proposed Millennium Line Broadway Extension will service the largest health precinct in Western Canada, and provide a necessary link for vulnerable people to critical care and access to their families and friends.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee strongly recommends that the City of Vancouver, working with TransLink, ensure:

1. Universally accessible gender neutral public washroom facilities be installed at ALL stations along the Millennium Line Broadway Extension and be considered for ALL TransLink stations; and
2. All washrooms conform to Universal Design principles, including automatic door opener buttons and a turning radius large enough to accommodate power wheelchairs.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends the City of Vancouver involve this Committee and other relevant Committees, including the Seniors Advisory Committee, the Women's Advisory Committee, the Children, Youth and Families Committee, the LGBTQ2+ Committee and the Active Transportation Policy Council, in advising TransLink in the design and implementation of public washrooms.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **4. Update – Accessible APT at Davie and Bute**

Jacques Courteau, Co-Chair, provided an update that the accessible washroom at Jim Deva Plaza is still not complete, nor has an estimated date of completion been provided.

#### **5. Liaison Reports**

##### **(a) Council Liaison**

None.

##### **(b) Park Board Liaison**

Commissioner Wiebe provided an update on the following:

- MobiMats at English Bay and accessibility wayfinding
- Parks adding nine more water wheelchairs (one at each location)
- Disabled Sailing Association, adaptive paddling and adaptive dragon boating had good summer seasons
- Accessible playground at Creekside is open and has generated positive feedback.
- Lifts at pools
- VanPlay
- Review being conducted of all facilities to improve accessibility
  - Washrooms will be a larger task, but are seeking ways to improve availability and will be working with Mary-Jo in future.

- Digital accessibility map – will inform patrons of accessibility features at each facility.
- Seeking to increase beach accessibility, noting that the large variation of tides in Vancouver pose a challenge to this.

Committee members commended the Park Board for their work.

**(c) Vancouver Public Library (VPL) Liaison**

None.

**(d) Staff Liaison**

Robyn Newton, Staff Liaison updated the Committee on the Healthy City Strategy and its guiding principles, noting it will be for ages 0-24.

Ms. Newton also noted that the Provincial government has reached out for suggestions on strategic initiatives ideas on the following: poverty reduction, housing, childcare, food security, mental health, and addictions.

**6. Subcommittee Updates**

**(a) Accessible City**

Mary-Jo Fetterly, Chair, Accessible City Subcommittee provided an update on accessible washrooms, talk Vancouver projects, upcoming presentations, and the hopes to coordinate schedules with other subcommittees.

**(b) Housing**

Paul Gauthier, Chair, Accessible City Subcommittee, provided an update on the Pearson Dogwood re-zoning and ongoing development. Mr. Gauthier also noted that The Right Fit Pilot Project is underway and will provide updates as it progresses.

**(c) Social Inclusion**

Chelsea Hitchen, Chair, Social Inclusion Subcommittee, circulated a summary (copy on file) from an Election Outreach presentation noting there was a lively discussion at the presentation, and the subcommittee provided a number of suggestions to improve outreach to persons with disabilities.

**(d) Transportation**

Laura Mackenrot (via teleconference), Chair, Transportation Subcommittee, noted there will be another motion coming forward regarding the HandyDart contract. Ms. Mackenrot noted that she will be stepping down from her liaison role in the Transportation 2040, Zvonimir Basic to step in. It was also noted that Varun Banthia will be rep for the committee at the Grandview-Woodlands consultation

**7. New Business**

Jacques Courteau, Co-Chair, summarized the July 10 Advisory Committee Chairs Meeting noting the following:

- There was a common desire to coordinate work amongst all committees
- Potential for an Accessibility and Inclusion Strategy and staff member to handle accessibility-specific issues
- Support for committee work
- Food type
- Email addresses - committee members not able to utilize Vancouver.ca email addresses

In regards to the invitation that was circulated for the Cambie Corridor Phase 3, it was suggested that Accessible City subcommittee members attend.

Anita Rudolph requested to be added to Social Inclusion Subcommittee.

Jocelyn Maffin to look into possible online platforms the Committee can utilize.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Jocelyn Maffin  
SECONDED by Chelsea Hitchen

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Next Meeting:**

DATE: November 23, 2017  
TIME: 5:30 pm  
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room  
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:34 pm.

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