



## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

July 26, 2018

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, July 26, 2018, at 5:07 pm, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, City Hall.

**PRESENT:**

Cathy Browne, Co-Chair  
Jacques Courteau, Co-Chair  
Tasia Alexis  
Caitlin Anderson  
Varun Banthia  
Peter Brown  
Mary-Jo Fetterly  
Paul Gauthier  
Laura Mackenrot, Vice-Chair  
Anita Rudolph  
Leonor Vlug\*  
Jane Vorbrodt  
Colleen McGuinness, Seniors Advisory Committee  
Scott Ricker, Seniors Advisory Committee  
Dellie Lidyard, Seniors Advisory Committee

**ABSENT:**

Chelsea Hitchen (Leave of Absence)

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Robyn Newton, Social Policy and Projects, Staff  
Liaison  
Commissioner Michael Wiebe, Vancouver Board  
of Parks and Recreation Liaison  
Paul Storer, Senior Branch Head, Engineering  
Services

**CITY CLERK'S  
OFFICE:**

Denise Swanston, Meeting Coordinator

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

## **Leave of Absence Requests**

MOVED by Varun Banthia  
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Chelsea Hitchen, for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Leonor Vlug absent for the vote.)

## **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Cathy Browne  
SECONDED by Anita Rudolph

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of May 10, 2018, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Leonor Vlug absent for the vote.)

### **1. Motion – Oakridge Redevelopment**

Laura Mackenrot, Vice-Chair, Transportation subcommittee, noted that Varun Banthia, will now be acting as Chair of the Transportation subcommittee; the two provided an introduction to the motion.

The Committee felt frustrated that they had not been consulted with in advance of, or during the park design phase. It was suggested that the Committee consider having a Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) representative on the Urban Design Panel.

Following discussion, it was,

MOVED by Varun Banthia  
SECONDED by Mary-Jo Fetterly

WHEREAS:

1. The City of Vancouver has designated the area around 41st Avenue at Cambie Street (henceforth referred to as “Oakridge”) as a Municipal Town Centre – one of 17 regionally-significant urban centres<sup>1</sup>.
2. The City of Vancouver has designated Oakridge a Frequent Transit Development Area – an area of concentrated growth and higher density<sup>1</sup>.
3. The redevelopment at Oakridge will feature a nine-acre public park to be operated by the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation<sup>2</sup>.
4. Oakridge will be one of the larger redevelopments in the history of the City of Vancouver<sup>3</sup> and upon completion is expected to attract 42 million visitors per year<sup>4</sup>.
5. A vast number of persons with disabilities will frequent the park, community centre, public library, and other critical social services slated to open within the Oakridge redevelopment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) recommends the following:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation install a ramp leading to the park and amenities on the second floor of the redeveloped Oakridge Municipal Town Centre in order to accommodate the expected high volume of persons with mobility challenges, including seniors and persons with strollers.
- B. THAT the City of Vancouver, along with its associated entities of relevance, conduct meaningful consultations with persons with

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<sup>1</sup> Cambie Corridor Phase 3 Open House Boards, City of Vancouver

<sup>2</sup> Oakridge Park Open House Boards, City of Vancouver

<sup>3</sup> Oakridge Centre Redevelopers Say They’re Building a Mini-City”, Vancouver Courier

<sup>4</sup> Massive Oakridge Project Means More Bikes, Drivers, Transit”, Vancouver Courier

disabilities, seniors and persons with strollers, (i.e. PDAC, the Seniors Advisory Committee and the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee), to ensure that this strategically important development is accessible to persons of all ages and abilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Leonor Vlug absent for the vote.)

## **2. Motion – Greater Collaboration between Metro Vancouver Municipalities**

Mr. Banthia, provided a summary of the origin of the motion, noting that having consistency in streetscapes when traveling between local municipalities would be of great help to persons with disabilities, and the public in general, in terms of navigating and wayfinding.

Following discussion, it was,

MOVED by Peter Brown  
SECONDED by Anita Rudolph

WHEREAS an entity charged with the coordination of studies on, and implementation of, accessible street design across all Greater Vancouver municipalities could maximize the efficiency of research and consultation, and accelerate and streamline the delivery of safe streets and pedestrian pathways for persons with disabilities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that Vancouver City Council, through its role on the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, urge TransLink's Regional Transportation Advisory Committee to create a subcommittee charged with the coordination of research and consultation on the implementation of accessible streets and pedestrian pathways design across all Greater Vancouver municipalities in order to accelerate the delivery of safe streets and pedestrian pathways for persons with disabilities in a consistent manner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **3. Accessible Path of Travel Policy Review**

The Co-Chairs provided a summary from the discussion of the Accessible Path of Travel Policy Review report that went to the July 18, Public Hearing, which was then referred to the [Regular Council meeting on July 24, 2018](#), as Unfinished Business. Council unanimously voted in opposition to the recommendations, which was in line with the Committee submissions.

The Committee is hoping to work with City staff as soon as possible towards an improved Accessible Path of Travel Policy.

### **4. Reports from Liaison Members**

Commissioner Wiebe, Park Board liaison, provided brief updates and comments on the following:

- Music in Park Board spaces - the Park Board will stop playing music in public spaces run by the Parks Board (i.e. Community Centres, Aquatic Centres, etc.)
  - The Committee generally agreed with the decision.
- 360° Videos – development still underway; Park Board and Engineering Services staff have been working well together and the process has been helpful, in finding gaps in accessibility around the city.
- Oakridge motion (Item 1 on this agenda) – will be helpful in ensuring the accessibility of the Oakridge redevelopment.
- Park Board Capital Budget – largest budget ever, with good funding for accessibility.

Park Board Committee minutes are available at: <http://vancouver.ca/your-government/regular-park-board-meetings.aspx>

## **5. Subcommittee Reports**

### **a) Accessible City subcommittee**

Mary-Jo Fetterly, Chair, Accessible City subcommittee, noted that the subcommittee has had two preliminary meetings to discuss the Accessible City Strategy.

Ms. Fetterly also provided an update on the Pearson Therapeutic Pool, noting that current plans include a HandyDART drop-off zone that is over 200m from the reception area, (note: HandyDART staff will only accompany passengers up to 50m.) Leonor Vlug agreed to connect with Mary-Jo in terms of wayfinding for the hearing impaired in relation to the pool.

### **b) Housing subcommittee**

Paul Gauthier, Co-Chair Housing subcommittee, noted that Jane Vorbrodt is now a Co-Chair of the Housing subcommittee.

Mr. Gauthier summarized a half-day workshop he attended on the Pearson Dogwood accessible housing, noting it was well attended; Mr. Gauthier agreed to distribute the minutes when available.

### **c) Social Inclusion subcommittee**

Tasia Alexis, Acting Chair, Social Inclusion subcommittee, received a second presentation regarding the Creative City Strategy and noted presenters may be in attendance at a September meeting as well.

Jacques Courteau met with Elections BC to film a demonstration of how the accessible voting machines work; however, elections staff present for the video were unsure how to operate the machine, and Mr. Courteau found the video's proposed narrative a bit confusing. This was worrisome for the Committee as the municipal election is less than three months and the promotional material would likely need be finalized very soon.

#### **d) Transportation subcommittee**

Mr. Banthia, Chair, Transportation subcommittee, summarized a meeting between himself, Mr. Courteau, Ms. Brown and Ms Mackenrot and representatives from TransLink to discuss concerns raised by PDAC in their letter to TransLink in June, regarding a new service provider for HandyDART. The four were encouraged by TransLink's willingness to engage, and are keeping an eye on the overall process.

Ms. Mackenrot, summarized comments made to Council, on behalf of PDAC, at the July 25 Council meeting, in relation to the Parking By-law Update. It was noted that Council approved the motion, with an amendment to consult further with PDAC.

### **6. Accessibility Strategy**

Paul Storer, Branch Manager, Transportation Design Branch, summarized work currently underway in relation to the Accessible City Strategy, which included an overview of current efforts across the city, noting there are a lot of pieces underway, but no go-to staff person. This overview will assist in providing a scope of what needs to happen, and how to move the strategy forward. Mr. Storer proposed two potential dates to bring a report to Council, both with pros and cons. The Committee agreed September (as opposed to December), would be best to provide a broad scope and overview to Council, as well as preliminary asks for resources in order to get the strategy underway.

The Committee agreed to utilize the August Working Session to collaborate with groups Council included in the approved [motion](#): PDAC, Seniors Advisory Committee and the Persons with Lived Experience. The Committee agreed to hold additional meetings after the August Working Session, with a few point people for the strategy (Mary-Jo Fetterly, Anita Rudolph and Peter Brown), to collaborate with staff developing content for the September report to Council.

## **7. New Business**

Ms. Browne acknowledged the passing of Craig Langston, a former PDAC member, and spoke to his passion, dedication and his many years of advocacy in working towards a more accessible city for all.

Prior to adjournment, the Co-Chairs acknowledged that we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and we give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands.

## **Adjournment**

MOVED by Peter Brown  
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **Next Meeting:**

DATE: Thursday, September 13, 2018  
TIME: 5:00 pm  
PLACE: Committee Room 1  
Third Floor, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 6:54 pm.

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