



## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

**September 19, 2019**

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at 5:11 pm, in the Cascadia Meeting Room, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

**PRESENT:** Peter Brown, Co-Chair  
Tasia Alexis  
Caitlin Anderson  
Alfiya Battalova  
Leslie Benisz  
Cathy Browne, Co-Chair  
Michelle Chakraborti  
Bernadine Fox  
Paul Gauthier  
Jane Vorbrod  
Jill Weiss (via teleconference)

**ABSENT:** Sarah Baumgart (Leave of Absence)  
Sarah Cheung (Leave of Absence)  
Laura Mackenrot (Leave of Absence)  
Anita Rudolph (Leave of Absence)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Michael Weibe, Council Liaison  
Amy Do, Civil Engineer, Transportation Design Branch  
Michael Marousek, Recreation Services Coordinator, Vancouver Park Board  
Karen Liebel, Coordinator, Accessible Services, VPL

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Kathy Bengston, Committee Clerk

## **WELCOME**

The Co-Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

## **Leave of Absence Requests**

MOVED by Cathy Browne  
SECONDED by Caitlin Anderson

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Sarah Baumgart, Sarah Cheung, Laura Mackenrot and Anita Rudolph, for today's meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Paul Gauthier  
SECONDED by Michelle Chakraborti

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of July 13, 2019, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **1. Ride Hailing**

Joanna Clark, Transportation Planner, provided an overview on the new Ride Hailing Services in BC, which included the Council approved principles, key findings, and street management. Questions from committee members followed.

MOVED by Peter Brown  
SECONDED by Caitlin Anderson

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) create and finalize a motion on the subject of Ride Hailing Services for submission to the Vancouver City Council to communicate the Committee's ongoing desire for accessibility needs for all persons with disabilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **2. Right Fit Project Update**

Christine Gordon and Jessica Robert-Farina, Disability Alliance BC, provided a Right Fit project update, followed by questions.

MOVED by Cathy Browne  
SECONDED by Alfiya Battalova

WHEREAS the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) supports the continuation of the Right Fit Pilot Project.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Co-Chairs of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC), send a letter on behalf of PDAC to the City of Vancouver Renter's Office in support of continual funding.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **3. Single Use Strategy**

The Chair read out the proposed motion to endorse the bendable plastic straw requirement.

MOVED by Bernadine Fox  
SECONDED by Peter Brown

WHEREAS

1. City Council adopted the Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy on June 5, 2018.
2. City staff will present Council with a proposed by-law before November 30, 2019, on the application, phasing, and enforcement of a ban on unnecessary plastic straws, subject to the proposal including a requirement for bendable plastic straws to be available on request for accessibility needs, beginning April 30, 2020.
3. On June 13, 2019, City staff presented the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, with the proposed by-law requirements for accessible straws, which included a comprehensive and acceptable definition of an “Accessible Straw” and identified an appropriate exemption in response to identified accessibility concerns.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disability Advisory Committee (PDAC) moves to formally support City staff’s forthcoming proposal for a ban on unnecessary plastic straws as presented at the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee meeting on June 13, 2019.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **4. Accessible Strategy Task Force**

Peter Brown provided an overview on the Accessible Strategy Task Force, including letter to be sent by September 30, 2019.

Amy Do, Civil Engineer, Transportation Design Branch, provided an update on the task force, followed by discussion.

MOVED by Cathy Browne  
SECONDED by Leslie Benisz

#### WHEREAS

1. The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) had for many years advocated for a comprehensive and over-arching City strategy to provide and promote accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities;
2. The previous Mayor and Council unanimously passed a motion on May 2, 2018 directing staff to review current City policies and initiatives with respect to persons with disabilities, universal design and access, as well as options to advance implementation of accessibility throughout the City, including a Vancouver-specific Accessibility Strategy;
3. City staff prepared an Administrative Report to Council for September 18, 2018, with recommendations on moving forward with Phase I of an Accessibility Strategy, including a comprehensive timeline (see below) and a budget for implementation;
4. An Accessible City Task Force consisting of City staff and members of the current PDAC, Seniors Advisory Committee and Persons with Lived Experience Committees was established to assist and guide the City in the development and implementation of said Accessibility Strategy, including the hiring of an Accessibility Advisor to oversee this critical phase; and
5. It has been more than a year since the Administrative Report was voted upon, and the newly-elected Mayor and Council have not endorsed this Accessibility Strategy in any way, nor Accessibility Advisor been hired;

6. The Accessibility Strategy Task Force has only met sporadically, and City staff missed its deadline of June 2019 to present its Report on Phase I of the Accessibility Strategy, and there appears to be little incentive among City Staff and Council to move this critical and long-overdue strategy forward.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) direct its Co-Chairs to draft a letter recommending reaffirmation of Council's previous commitment and unanimous support of an Accessibility Strategy for the City of Vancouver including recommendations that:

- A. Expedite the hiring of an Accessibility Advisor.
- B. Adding key City staff and Council members to the Accessibility Strategy Task Force to reinforce the City's commitment to this initiative.
- C. Adjusting the previous timeline and budget to reflect a clear and comprehensive Phase I timeline and budget of no less than \$200,000, to report back to Mayor and Council no later than December 30, 2019;

FURTHER THAT this letter should be drafted, circulated for approval and delivered no later than September 30, 2019.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Procedural Note: Member attended the October 2, 2019, City Finance & Services Standing Committee Meeting to express the interests of the advisory committee, as per motion identified above.

## **5. Meeting Start Time Change**

MOVED by Leslie Benisz  
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee change the meeting times for the remainder of the 2019 meeting schedule (Regular meetings and Working sessions) from 5 – 7 pm, to 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **6. Subcommittee Reports**

No reports.

## **7. Reports from Liaison Members**

No reports.

## **8. New Business**

Cathy Browne, will be taking a leave of absence for the months of October and November 2019.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Tasia Alexis  
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Next Regular Meeting:**

DATE: Thursday, November 21, 2019  
TIME: 5:30 pm  
PLACE: Cascadia Meeting Room  
Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:14 pm.

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