



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 21, 2019

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 5:36 pm in Cascadia Meeting Room, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Peter Brown, Co-Chair
Tasia Alexis
Caitlin Anderson
Alfiya Battalova
Michelle Chakraborti
Sarah Cheung
Paul Gauthier
Laura Mackenrot, Vice-Chair
Anita Rudolph (*via tele-conference*)
Jane Vorbrodt
Jill Weiss

ABSENT: Leslie Benisz (Leave of Absence)
Sarah Baumgart (Leave of Absence)
Cathy Browne, Co-Chair (Leave of Absence)
Bernadine Fox (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Michael Weibe, Council Liaison
Paul Storer, Engineering Services, Staff Liaison
Amy Do, Civil Engineer, Transportation Design Branch
Michael Marousek, Recreation Services Coordinator, Vancouver Park Board
Karen Liebel, Coordinator, Accessible Services, Vancouver Public Library

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Kathy Bengston, Committee Clerk

WELCOME

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

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Peter Brown
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Leslie Benisz, Sarah Baumgart, Cathy Browne, and Bernadine Fox, for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Michelle Chakraborti
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of September 20, 2019, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Broadway Subway Project Fall 2019

Louise Harley, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Province of BC, presented the Broadway Subway Project, and along with staff from the Province, Translink, and the Rapid Transit Office, responded to questions.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Alignment Overview
- Project Schedule Overview
- Stations, which include accessible washrooms in each of the six stations

The Project website can be found at link here:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/broadwaysubway/>

2. Provincial Accessibility Act

Guillaume Dufresne, Director, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Province of BC, provided a brief overview via teleconference, on the framework under consideration for the BC Accessibility Act, and sought feedback from the Committee.

3. Accessibility Strategy Task Force Update

Paul Storer, Staff Liaison, provided a brief update on the Accessibility Strategy Task Force.

The Co-Chair provided feedback on the Accessible City Advisor position and its description. Discussion followed, which included input from the Chair of Accessibility Task Force, Mary Jo Fetterly, via tele-conference, and committee members. Staff will follow-up with the Human Resources Department on the position and report back to the committee.

MOVED by Jill Weiss

SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

WHEREAS

1. City Council committed to an accessibility strategy to remove barriers and ensure the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in Vancouver;

2. That this over-arching accessibility strategy will provide a framework for the City to always use an accessibility lens in all of its work;
3. That the City has already allocated \$200,000 for the Accessibility City Strategy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT with regards to the Accessible City Advisor position, that Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) recommends:

- A. THAT sufficient funds are allocated to ensure that this position is full-time equivalent.
- B. THAT the job description for this position confirms the responsibility of this position to be solely committed to the planning and implementation of an accessibility city wide strategy.
- C. THAT the job description for this position is developed in consultation with the PDAC and the Accessible Strategy Task Force.
- D. THAT the job description for this position already drafted by the Accessible City Task Force, should be used as the template for the official job description for this position.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Co-Chair provided an update on the proposed Accessible Strategy Task Force letter to Council, which is no longer necessary, as a motion was created in its place.

4. Ride Hailing Motion

The Transportation Subcommittee Chair, Caitlin Anderson, presented a motion for the Committee's consideration.

MOVED by Caitlin Anderson
SECONDED by Jill Weiss

WHEREAS

1. People with disabilities have a greater need for publicly available transportation systems due to limited incomes and limited car ownership and use;
2. The *BC Human Rights Code* states that (1) "A person must not, without a bona fide and reasonable justification, (a) deny to a person or class of persons any ...service ... customarily available to the public, or (b) discriminate against a person or class of persons regarding any ... service ... customarily available to the public because of the ...physical or mental disability...of that person or class of persons." (Section 8);
3. Ride hailing services are customarily available to the public;
4. Ride hailing services include significant barriers which prevent many persons with disabilities from using these services. These barriers include:

1. Lack of or limited availability of wheelchair accessible vehicles;

All publicly-licensed transportation systems should have significant numbers of accessible vehicles to ensure that persons who use wheelchairs have the same mobility options as other citizens.

2. Payment method is not usable by many people with disabilities because people with disabilities are twice as likely to have low incomes than other citizens.
 - a. People with disabilities are much less likely to have credit cards, which are the only TNS method of payment.
 - b. Many people with disabilities use TaxiSavers to purchase taxi rides at a more affordable cost – 50%. TaxiSavers are accepted by all Vancouver taxi companies, but there is no indication they will be accepted in ride hailing systems.
3. Booking process is not usable by many people with disabilities;

People with disabilities may not have access to smart phones, but smart phones are the only way to book ride hailing systems.
4. Disability driver training is essential to safely transport passengers with disabilities. The risk posed by untrained drivers was brought to light during an inquest in Manitoba after an elderly woman with a disability died following a failure to properly secure her wheelchair by an untrained driver. Manitoba subsequently implemented mandatory disability taxi driver training.
5. The City of Vancouver recognized the need for disability driver training in its transportation 2040 Plan and in its requirement of two disability driver training courses: Justice Institute TaxiHost Pro program and the Vancouver Taxi Association Ask, Listen, Act training program.
6. Under the new legislation, the province has eliminated the city's authority to regulate taxis, limousines and ride hailing, and has thus eliminated the civic requirement for

hands-on driver training to safely transport passengers with disabilities.

Because the provincial government has not implemented any requirement for disability-related driver training to replace the previous civic training requirement, there is currently no required disability-related training for taxi or ride hailing drivers in British Columbia.

7. The province is imposing a 30¢ accessibility fee on each ride hailing trip to address accessibility concerns, but no information has been provided on how these funds will be used or whether these funds will be shared in whole or part with the municipality in which the ride occurred.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that the Vancouver City Council communicate to the Province the urgent need to immediately require appropriate hands-on disability-related driver training for all Passenger Directed Transportation drivers to ensure safe transportation of passengers with disabilities;

FURTHER THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee supports the recommended civic incentives for accessible vehicles within ride hailing fleets, but believe additional measures are needed because the incentives are small compared to the significant costs of accessible vehicles;

FURTHER THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that the Vancouver City Council take any and all measures advocating and promoting the elimination of barriers for persons with disabilities to access Transportation Network Systems, such as the incorporation of accessible vehicles, payment with cash or TaxiSavers, and alternative booking portals;

FURTHER THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that the Vancouver City Council direct staff to collect relevant statistics on how the implementation of the new legislation impacts persons with disabilities in transportation systems;

FURTHER THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that the Vancouver City Council direct staff to research the ways that accessibility fees are currently used to ensure equal transportation options for citizens with disabilities in other municipalities and provinces in Canada;

FURTHER THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory supports the City in advocating that the funding generated by the provincial 30¢ accessibility fee should be used exclusively to provide transportation options for persons with disabilities that are equal to those provided to non-disabled persons in Transportation Network Services, and that this practice should be continued for as long as Transportation Network Services are operating in BC;

FURTHER THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory support the City in advocating that the amount of the provincial accessibility fee should be adjusted to a level sufficient to ensure transportation options for persons with disabilities are equal to those provided to persons who do not have a disability;

AND FURTHER THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that the Vancouver City Council take any and all measures to ensure that citizens with disabilities have equal access to publicly available transportation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Subcommittee Reports

a. Accessible City

No report.

b. Housing

MOVED by Jane Vorbrodt
Seconded by Tasia Alexis

WHEREAS the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee supports the continuation of the Right Fit Pilot Project;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee direct its Co-Chair to send a letter on behalf of Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction in support of continued funding.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Social Inclusion

No report.

d. Transportation

Jill Weiss noted that the Transportation Subcommittee, is working to prevent the implementation of an invasive in-person HandyDart application, which may discourage vulnerable HandyDART users from applying and using the service. PDAC has worked on this issue three times in the last 15 years.

6. Reports from Liaison Members

Michael Marousek, Staff Liaison, provided the following updates on Park Board activities:

- ICORD personal trainers available for people in wheelchairs, Creekside and Champlain community centres
- Sunset Community Centre adaptive skating lessons
- Northeast False Creek Centre, planning accessibility features into design
- 10th Anniversary of Olympic and Paralympic events

7. 2020 Advisory Committee Meetings

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the 2020 meetings schedule below:

Month	Day	Time	Meeting Type	Room
January	16	5:30 pm	Regular Meeting	Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor
February	13	5:30 pm	Working Session	Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor
March	12	5:30 pm	Regular Meeting	Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor
April	9	5:30 pm	Working Session	Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor
May	7	5:30 pm	Regular Meeting	Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor
June	11	5:30 pm	Working Session	Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor
July	9	5:30 pm	Regular Meeting	Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor
AUGUST BREAK				
August	14	5:30 pm	Working Session	Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor
September	10	5:30 pm	Regular Meeting	Cascadia Room, 3 rd Floor
October	15	5:30 pm	Working Session	Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor
November	12	5:30 pm	Regular Meeting	Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor
December	10	5:30 pm	Working Session	Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. New Business

a) Meeting Start Time Continuation for 2020

MOVED by Paul Gauthier
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee continue in 2020, with the meeting start time of 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm for Regular meetings and Working sessions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Jane Vorbrodt
SECONDED by Michelle Chakraborti

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, January 16, 2020
TIME: 5:00 pm
PLACE: Cascadia Meeting Room
Third Floor, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:47 pm.

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