



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on September 10, 2020, at 5:34 pm, by electronic means.

PRESENT: Peter Brown, Co-Chair*
Tasia Alexis
Caitlin Anderson
Alfiya Battalova
Cathy Browne, Co-Chair
Michelle Chakraborti
Sarah Cheung
Michael Frazer
Paul Gauthier*
Laura Mackenrot, Vice-Chair
Anita Rudolph
Jane Vorbrod

ABSENT: Leslie Benisz

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Michael Wiebe, Council Liaison
Paul Storer, Director, Transportation Design
Branch, Staff Liaison
Michael Marousek, Recreation Services
Coordinator, Vancouver Park Board
Colleen McGuinness, Chair, Seniors' Advisory
Committee
Dellie Lidyard, Seniors' Advisory Committee
Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Kathy Bengston, Committee Clerk

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

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

Leave of Absence Requests

None.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Michelle Chakraborti
SECONDED by Alfiya Battalova

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of June 11, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Motions

The Co-Chair introduced the following motions for the Committee's consideration.

a. SPARC BC – Geomapping Project

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee retroactively approve the letter submitted to the Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia (SPARC BC) on April 1, 2020, regarding their Geomapping Project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Note: The Committee's letter of support dated March 31, 2020, entitled "SPARC BC", is on file at the City Clerk's Office.

b. Sunset Community Centre Project – Funding Application

MOVED by Cathy Browne
SECONDED by Paul Gauthier

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee supports the City's funding grant application to the *Canada Infrastructure Program - British Columbia - Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure* for the Sunset Seniors' Centre.

FURTHER THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee provide a letter to City staff in this regard.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Note: The Committee's letter to City Council dated September 10, 2020, entitled "Sunset Seniors' Centre", is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

2. Provincial Accessibility Act – Update

Guillaume Dufresne, Director, and Sam Turcott, Executive Lead, Accessibility Secretariat, Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction, reported on the outcome of the province-wide consultations on accessibility legislation from September to November 2019, and provided an update on the development of accessibility legislation for BC.

3. Bus Stop Rebalancing Program

The Translink Strategy Engagement team presented their bus stop rebalancing program for Line 002 - Macdonald route within the City of Vancouver, and received feedback from the Committees.

4. Stanley Park

MOVED by Michael Frazer

SECONDED by Jane Vorbrott

WHEREAS

1. Stanley Park is an internationally recognized tourist spot and a favorite destination for many residents, including persons with disabilities and seniors, many of whom require access to the park by motor vehicle. The park is the jewel of City of Vancouver and is a popular destination for people of all abilities who benefit physically and mentally from having full access to all areas and aspects of the park by motor vehicle, bus, or HandyDART.
2. On April 8th, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Vancouver Park Board, without public consultation, temporarily closed Park Drive in Stanley Park to vehicles and diverted bicycles off of the seawall and onto Park Drive, to maximize social distancing for park users throughout the park, particularly on the seawall.
3. On June 8th, 2020, the Vancouver Park Board passed a motion, again without public consultation, directing Park Board staff to pursue a study of traffic patterns within the park, with the goal of looking at future alternatives, including but not limited to single lane vehicular traffic throughout the park.
4. On June 22nd, 2020, the Vancouver Park Board reopened the park to vehicles with a temporary traffic management plan that dedicated one travel lane to vehicles and one lane to cyclists on Park Drive. It was intended to maintain the prohibition against cyclists on the seawall, again “to facilitate and maintain safe physical distancing for park users.”
5. The reopening did not return full access to all parts of Stanley Park for people with disabilities, as there was no motor vehicle access to Brockton Point or Third Beach. Further, accessible parking spots throughout the park were either eliminated or relocated elsewhere which diminished their accessibility.

6. The City of Vancouver has committed to the principle of accessibility for persons with disabilities and seniors, through the passage of the motion by the City Council dated September 2018 which emphasized the City's commitment to accessibility.
7. According to figures provided by Statistics Canada, in 2017, 22% of Canadians (6.2 million) who are 15 years and older identify as having one or more disabilities that limited their ability to pursue their daily activities. Many such persons with disabilities cannot access public spaces like Stanley Park without the use of a motor vehicle.
8. In its Transportation Plan 2040 the City of Vancouver 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."
9. The Federal Government, with the implementation of the Accessible Canada Act, and the Provincial Government, with the upcoming introduction of accessible legislation, have recognized the basic human right of accessibility within our society, which the City of Vancouver has committed to through the creation of the Accessible Strategy Task Force.
10. On August 17, 2020, Deputy Provincial Health Officer Dr. Reka Gustafson confirmed at the daily COVID-19 update that the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus in public spaces like parks and beaches was very remote, thus undermining the public health rationale for any further restricted access to the park.

11. The *B.C. Human Rights Code [RSBC 1996] c210*, applies to this situation. Specifically, Section 3 (a) and (b) and 8 (1) reads as follows:

3 The purposes of this Code are as follows:

(a) to foster a society in British Columbia in which there are no impediments to full and free participation in the economic, social, political and cultural life of British Columbia;

(b) to promote a climate of understanding and mutual respect where all are equal in dignity and rights;

8 (1) A person must not, without a bona fide and reasonable justification,

(a) deny to a person or class of persons any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public, or

(b) discriminate against a person or class of persons regarding any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public because of the race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age of that person or class of persons.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee strongly recommends that Stanley Park be fully reopened to its level of accessibility prior to April 8, 2020, including the two travel lanes to vehicles, in order to re-establish full access for persons with disabilities and seniors to all areas, services and facilities of the park.

- B. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee strongly recommends that Vancouver Park Board return all accessible parking stalls within the park to their pre-April 8, 2020 locations in order to comply with the City of Vancouver's commitment to accessibility.

- C. That the Vancouver Park Board engage in a fulsome consultation with the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the Seniors' Advisory Committee, prior to pursuing any changes to the accessibility of Stanley Park for persons with disabilities and seniors, including changes in the number of parking spots.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Tasia Alexis
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT A be amended to insert the words "or better" after "2020", and before "including", so that A reads as follows:

- A. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee strongly recommends that Stanley Park be fully reopened to its level of accessibility prior to April 8th, 2020, or better, including the two travel lanes to vehicles, in order to re-establish full access for persons with disabilities and seniors to all areas, services and facilities of the park;

FURTHER THAT B be amended by striking the word “return” and inserting the word “increase”, and inserting the words “and pursue further consultation with respect to additional accessible parking” after the words “2020 locations”, so that B reads as follows:

- B. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee strongly recommends that the Vancouver Park Board increase all accessible parking stalls within the park to their pre-April 8, 2020 locations, and pursue further consultation with respect to additional accessible parking, in order to comply with the City of Vancouver’s commitment to accessibility.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Paul Gauthier absent for the vote)

With the amendment having carried, the motion, as amended, was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY with Paul Gauthier absent for the vote.

5. Liaison Updates

Councillor Wiebe, Council Liaison, reported that the City’s accessibility strategy is moving forward, with the goal to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

Michael Marousek, Recreation Services Coordinator, reported that the Park Board is reopening community centres to allow front desk service and washroom access. Priority programming has restarted. Outdoor pools are closing and the first four indoor pools are re-opening, along with six fitness centres, followed by the arenas in October and November.

Karen Liebel, Coordinator, Accessible Services, Vancouver Public Library (VPL), reported that all library locations, except for Oakridge, will have limited services, which will include take-away services. Twelve computer labs will be open. The Digital Services department at VPL is now able to offer trouble-shooting for the library’s digital collections over Zoom, in addition to phone and email support for accessing ebooks, eaudiobooks, streaming content, or other digital resources at the library. If interested, contact the main information line at 604-331-3603 to be transferred to the Digital Services department.

Paul Storer, Director, Transportation Design, informed the Committee that he is still having ongoing conversations with planning and the Civic Asset Naming Committee regarding parking at the George Pearson Centre. Paul also shared that the Granville Bridge Connector and Drake Street updates are scheduled for the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

6. Jeanette Anderson Street Naming Proposal Update

No report.

7. Subcommittee Updates

a. Accessible City

The Seniors' Advisory Committee is proposing a motion regarding elevator accessibility for seniors.

b. Housing

None.

c. Social Inclusion

None.

d. Transportation

None.

8. New Business

None.

Adjournment

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis
(Peter Brown and Paul Gauthier absent for the vote)

Next Regular Meeting:

DATE: November 12, 2020
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: WebEx Online

The Committee adjourned at 8:02 pm.

* * * * *