



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

A regular meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 5:33 pm, via electronic means.

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

ABSENT: Anita Rudolph

ALSO PRESENT: Trustee Janet Fraser, School Board Liaison
Paul Storer, Director, Transportation Design
Branch, Staff Liaison
Karen Liebel, Coordinator, Accessible
Services, Vancouver Public Library

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.

The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee acknowledged Cathy Browne's resignation and appreciates her 9 years of service to the Committee.

Leave of Absence Requests

None.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Alfiya Battalova
SECONDED by Laura Mackenrot

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, September 10, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Social Infrastructure Strategy

Joming Lau, and Ada Chan Russell, Social Policy & Projects planning staff, presented the Vancouver Social Infrastructure Strategy, which included an overview, context, growing social challenges, COVID-19 impacts, recovery phases, work and actions to date, draft framework, and six directions, including strategy objectives. Questions and feedback followed from the Committee.

2. Single-Use Item – Plastic Straws

MOVED by Sarah Cheung
SECONDED by Paul Gauthier

WHEREAS

1. The Government of Canada is consulting on a proposed federal plan to reduce plastic waste, including a nation-wide ban on plastic straws, and is seeking comments by December 9, 2020 on a discussion paper titled, *A proposed integrated management approach to plastic products to prevent waste and pollution*;
2. Many people with disabilities rely on plastic straws to safely consume beverages and nutrition;
3. Flexible plastic straws, individually wrapped in paper, meet the widest range of accessibility needs;
4. The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and Seniors' Advisory Committee supported the plastic straw by-law ([By-law 12618](#)) enacted by Vancouver City Council, which came into effect on April 22, 2020, which requires food vendors to provide flexible plastic straws individually wrapped in paper upon request to those who rely on them to consumer beverages and nutrition, while banning other plastic and compostable plastic straws.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) support the City of Vancouver's submission to the Government of Canada, specifically, the parts that advocate for the need to protect and enhance accessibility under a federal plastic straw ban, including detailed descriptions of:

- a. Why flexible plastic straws individually-wrapped in paper meet the widest accessibility needs, and what these needs are.
- b. Why other types of straws are not accessible, and can even pose the risk of injury or death.
- c. Types of disabilities and medical conditions that may require people to rely on flexible plastic straws, individually-wrapped in paper.
- d. How the federal government could reflect the needs of people with disabilities within a plastic straw ban, specifically through regulation, education and outreach, and communicating its commitment to protect accessibility when mentioning a ban on plastic straws.
- e. The sections of the City of Vancouver's by-law that protect accessibility.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the 2021 meeting schedule below.

Month	Day	Time	Meeting Type	Location
January	14	5:30 pm	Regular Meeting	WebEx Event Online
February	11	5:30 pm	Working Session	WebEx Event Online
March	4	5:30 pm	Regular Meeting	WebEx Event Online
April	8	5:30 pm	Working Session	WebEx Event Online

May	6	5:30 pm	Regular Meeting	WebEx Event Online
June	4	5:30 pm	Working Session	WebEx Event Online
July	15	5:30 pm	Regular Meeting	WebEx Event Online
August	12	5:30 pm	Working Session	WebEx Event Online
September	9	5:30 pm	Regular Meeting	WebEx Event Online
October	7	5:30 pm	Working Session	WebEx Event Online
November	18	5:30 pm	Regular Meeting	WebEx Event Online
December	9	5:30 pm	Working Session	WebEx Event Online

All meetings take place on Thursdays at 5:30 pm. The Regular meetings will be clerked by the Committee Clerk for the public record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Beach Avenue

The Committee received and had an opportunity to respond to the update from Brian Gould, Transportation Design staff, regarding Beach Avenue interim changes. Emily Dunlop, Planning, Policy and Environment, Park Board staff, asked for feedback on parking lots, including accessibility stalls. The Co-Chair thanked staff for attending the meeting and providing information to the Committee.

5. Election of Co-Chair

The Co-Chair called for nominations for the position of second Co-Chair for the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee. Following due process, the Committee elected Laura Mackenrot, as second Co-Chair, for the term ending April 30, 2021.

6. Liaison Updates

Trustee, Janet Fraser, School Board Liaison, provided updates on the key school area issues:

- COVID-19 health and safety;
- Working towards approval of a Long Range Facilities Plan in January 2021;
- Preparing for work on a new Five-Year Strategic Plan;
- Developing an Anti-Racism Strategic Plan and approving mandatory anti-racism training;
- Reviewing the role of the Vancouver Police Department and Royal Canadian Mounted Police in schools.

Trustee Fraser also advised that the Vancouver School Board has started work on Standards for Building Accessibility and noted appreciation for the Committee's interest in engaging with the district in this work.

Karen Liebel, Coordinator, Accessible Services, Vancouver Public Library (VPL), provided updates on the following library activities:

- The VPL website received a technical update for streamlining and user-friendly purposes; seeking feedback from the Committee;
- November is financial literacy month;
- Upcoming online courses, "Dealing with Credit and Debt" on November 17, and "Protect Yourself from Frauds and Scams" on November 24;
- Four library locations are open on Sundays; VPL looking to increase hours across the city; all locations are open except Oakridge;
- VPL is working with the City on needed infrastructure to install an adult changing table in the Central branch.

Paul Storer, Director, Transportation Design, provided an update on the Vancouver Plan, and will provide a further update on the George Pearson Centre parking at next regular meeting.

7. Jeanette Anderson Street Naming Proposal

Paul Storer, Director, Transportation Design, informed the Committee that the Civic Asset Naming Committee is in support of the Jeanette Anderson Street naming proposal, and the item will be presented to Council in Q4 2020 or Q1 2021.

8. Subcommittee Updates

a. Accessible City

Alfiya Battalova provided an update on the Accessible City activities.

b. Housing

None.

c. Social Inclusion

None.

d. Transportation

None.

9. New Business

(a) Report of Activities 2020

Co-Chair, Laura Mackenrot, advised the Committee of the January 8, 2021, deadline.

(b) Mobility Pricing

Co-Chair, Laura Mackenrot, informed that the City's Climate Emergency Strategy Plan had just been released and would be voted on next week. There is a portion of it that talks about enacting mobility pricing. Laura informed the Committee that Persons with Disability Advisory Committee (PDAC) had sent a letter in April 2018 about mobility pricing to Translink, and Mayor and Council expressing PDAC's concerns. PDAC agreed that the Co-Chairs could resend a copy of this letter to Mayor and Council.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Michael Frazer
SECONDED by Cathy Browne

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Sarah Cheung and Paul Gauthier absent for the vote)

Next Regular Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, January 14, 2021
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: WebEx Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:45 pm.

* * * * *