



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MARCH 4, 2021

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, March 04, 2021, at 5:34 pm, via electronic means.

PRESENT: Peter Brown, Co-Chair
Laura Mackenrot, Co-Chair
Tasia Alexis
Alfiya Battalova
Leslie Benisz*
Michelle Chakraborti
Sarah Cheung*
Michael Frazer
Paul Gauthier*
Anita Rudolph
Jane Vorbrodt

ABSENT: Caitlin Anderson (Sick Leave)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Michael Wiebe, Council Liaison
Trustee Janet Fraser, Vancouver School Board Liaison
Paul Storer, Director, Transportation Design Branch, Staff Liaison
Karen Liebel, Coordinator, Accessible Services, Vancouver Public Library
Jacques Courteau, PDAC Past Chair, Accessible Strategy Task Force Chair

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Kevin Burris, Committee Clerk

*(*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting)*

WELCOME

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

The Co-Chair welcomed residents Alex Bonnesen and Yat Li to the meeting.

Leave of Absence Requests

None.

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(At this point it was moved by Peter Brown, seconded by Anita Rudolph, and carried unanimously that the agenda be altered to include a discussion of the Park Board's motion regarding Stanley Park after item #5)

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Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Leslie Benisz
SECONDED by Paul Gauthier

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, January 14, 2021, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Burrard Station Upgrades

Ian MacPhee, Planner, Rapid Transit Office, and Steve Brown, Manager, Rapid Transit Office, gave a presentation on proposed upgrades to Burrard Skytrain Station. Staff subsequently responded to questions and comments.

2. Bus Stop Balancing Update

Translink staff Daniel Freeman, Senior Manager of Bus Priority Programs, and Steve Newhouse, Project Manager of Bus Speed and Reliability, gave an update on the agency's ongoing bus stop balancing project. Staff subsequently responded to questions and comments on the following topics:

- Accessibility considerations, including increased distance for persons with disabilities to travel to relocated bus stops; proper lighting; and safety of location.
- Customer impacts, which will require post-pandemic analysis when transit usage increases to confirm if preliminary findings (cost savings, reduced travel times) are accurate. If not, the Committee asked whether the relocated bus stops will be returned to their original locations.
- Public engagement, which should include other advisory committees and groups including women, People of Colour, and 2SLGBTQ+.

3. Elections Consultation Update

MOVED BY Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED BY Leslie Benisz

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver will be holding its Municipal election on October 15, 2022.
2. Voting is an inherent right and duty of all citizens, regardless of race, religion, gender,

sexual preference, age, or ability, and must therefore be accessible and inclusive to all, including for advance polling.

3. Elections BC has committed to improved accessibility of the electoral process for all eligible B.C. voters (<https://elections.bc.ca/voting/what-you-need-to-vote/voting-accessibility/>). Elections B.C. conducted a successful trial of telephone voting in May 2017 and subsequently implemented this initiative in the Provincial election of October 2020.
4. Section 71 of the Vancouver Charter authorizes City Council to make bylaws to create special voting opportunities to assist those who cannot vote.
5. The City of Vancouver positions itself as one of the most accessible and inclusive cities in Canada.
6. The minutes for PDAC held on Feb 1, 2018 state that, City of Vancouver elections staff "... Commented that due to time constraints, resources available, and current by-laws, telephone voting will not be in place for the 2018 election, but is on the list for the 2022 election."
(<https://vancouver.ca/docs/council/pdad20180201min.pdf>)
7. Telephone voting will increase accessibility for people who are blind/visually impaired, homebound, and people who cannot mark the ballot independently.
8. On February 1, 2018, the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee passed a motion on Elections with several recommendations including telephone voting.
9. Provincial legislation states that people may not cast a ballot in a local election via the internet or over the telephone.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee:

1. Requests that the City of Vancouver Election's Office coordinate with the Province to implement telephone and online voting in preparation for the 2022 municipal election.
2. Invites the elections staff team to present to PDAC on the status of telephone voting for the citizens of Vancouver.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Urban Design Panel Discussion

MOVED by Paul Gauthier
SECONDED by Anita Rudolph

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee request that the Nominations Committee add a representative onto the Urban Design Panel with the intent of reviewing incoming proposals through an accessibility lens, and make this addition permanent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Leslie Benisz absent for the vote)

5. EV Cord Cover Licenses – Implementation Update 1

Ian Neville, Planner, Strategic and Long-Range Planning, updated the Committee on the City's implementation of cord cover licenses, to allow extension cords to cross sidewalks to charge electric vehicles. Staff covered the following, and subsequently responded to questions and comments:

- Cord and cover size/placement requirements
- Enforcement
- Liability and Indemnity protections
- Council mandate to explore "under-sidewalk" options

6. Letter to Park Board re: Stanley Park Accessibility

MOVED by Anita Rudolph
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

WHEREAS:

1. On April 8, 2020 and June 21, 2020, the Vancouver Park Board passed motions to prohibit and diminish, respectively, the flow of vehicle traffic on Park Drive in Stanley Park, in favor of increased cycling.
2. These initiatives resulted in prohibited and diminished access and accessible parking for persons with disabilities and seniors who, due to mobility challenges, must rely on motor vehicles to travel to and use all parts and services of the park.
3. The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the Seniors Advisory Committee were not consulted prior to the Park Board implementing these changes, with the result that the accessibility rights of persons with disabilities and seniors, as afforded under Section 8 of the B.C. Human Rights Code, were infringed upon. Municipal entities have no authority to amend or set aside provincial legislation such as the BC Human Rights Code.
4. Park Board Commissioner Dumont will be introducing a motion entitled "Stanley Park Temporary Bike Lane on Park Drive – 2021" on Monday March 8, 2021, which seeks authority to direct Park Board staff "to plan for and implement a temporary bike path on Park Drive in Stanley Park dedicated to cyclists, with an aim to have it in use as soon as is operationally reasonable, and to remain in place until approximately October 31, 2021."
5. The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee wishes to ensure that, in considering the proposed motion on March 8, 2021, the Park Board are aware of all concerns pertaining to the accessibility rights of persons with disabilities and seniors which may arise from the introduction of the Stanley Park temporary bike lane on

Park Drive, which were not properly considered upon introducing traffic changes on Park Drive on April 8, 2020 and June 21, 2020.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. That the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee write a letter to the Park Board prior to the introduction of the motion on March 8, 2021, clearly expressing the position and concerns of persons with disabilities, which must be properly considered and addressed by Park Board staff before the implementation of the proposed temporary bike path.
- B. That consultation on this initiative be pursued by Park Board staff with the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the Seniors Advisory Committee prior to the implementation of the proposed temporary bike lane, particularly as it impacts accessible parking, and with due consideration of the limited opportunity to do so given the term end for the advisory committees is April 30, 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Leslie Benisz and Paul Gauthier absent for the vote)

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(At this point the Committee decided to vary the agenda to allow Liaison Updates to proceed next)

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7. Liaison Updates

- a) Trustee Fraser gave updates on the following, and subsequently responded to questions and comments:
 - VSB 5-year strategic plan
 - Anti-racism plan
 - Next year's budget and reduced income considerations
 - School liaison officer program review
 - Land and assets strategy
 - Renaming of elementary schools: David Lloyd George Elementary and Sir Matthew Begbie Elementary
 - Motion prohibiting the sale of public lands, except to other public land holders or First Nations
 - Long-range facilities plan, seismic upgrading, and accessibility standards in schools
- b) Karen Liebel, VPL Liaison, gave updates on the following, and subsequently responded to questions and comments:
 - Notice that federal government is cutting funding for accessible book formats; Committee members can refer to CELA and NNELS websites if interested in advocating for funding restoration.
 - Assisted hearing devices pilot in approximately 14 library branches

- Storytelling program for adults
 - Indigenous Storyteller in Residence, Kung Jaadee
- c) Councillor Wiebe encouraged members to apply for the Committee again, noting it is very influential and important in making the City accessible for everyone. Councillor Wiebe subsequently responded to questions and comments.

8. Parking Workshop Update

The Co-Chairs and Tasia Alexis gave an update on a Parking Workshop attended virtually on February 25, 2021. Committee members emphasized the need for enough parking for caregivers, seniors, and people with mobility challenges. Tasia Alexis spoke about the complexity of caregivers' work, and will be meeting with staff privately on March 5, 2021. Staff subsequently responded to questions and comments.

9. Subcommittee Updates

- a) Alfiya Battalova gave an update on the Accessible City Subcommittee, which met to discuss the temporary bike path at Kitsilano Beach Park.
- b) Jane Vorbrodt gave an update on the Housing Subcommittee, which discussed the Pearson Dogwood site and the need for accessibility considerations on the Urban Design Panel.

10. New Business

Co-Chair Laura Mackenrot thanked the committee for their participation, and noted there will be one more working session in the term, with a full agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Peter Brown
SECONDED by Anita Rudolph

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Leslie Benisz, Paul Gauthier, and Sarah Cheung absent for vote)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, May 06, 2021
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 8:10 pm.

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