



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 5, 2022

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at 5:39 pm in Joe Wai Room, City Hall and by electronic means.

PRESENT: Peter Brown (Co-Chair)
Laura Mackenrot (Co-Chair)
Jacques Courteau (Vice-Chair)*
Tasia Alexis
Caitlin Anderson*
Alfiya Battalova
Nathan Bragg
Michelle Chakraborti
Salina Dewar
Paul Gauthier
Chris Morrissey

ABSENT: Amelia Cooper (Leave of Absence)
Michael Frazer (Leave of Absence)
Yat Li (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Tricia Barker, Vancouver Park Board
Liaison
Trustee Janet Fraser, Vancouver School Board
Liaison
Jessica Land, Vancouver Park Board Staff Liaison
Karen Liebel, Vancouver Public Library Liaison
Paul Storer, Director, Transportation, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Brian Fukushima, Committee Clerk
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies

*Denotes absence from a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

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

Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the agenda for the May 5, 2022 regular meeting, with the following amendments:

- Item 2. Accessible City Strategy shall follow Item 4. Liaison Updates
- Item 3. Reimbursement Policy for Transportation and Dependent Care Expenses to be removed from the agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Jacques Courteau absent for the vote)

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For clarity, items are recorded chronologically using original agenda numbering.

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Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Salina Dewar

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Amelia Cooper.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Jacques Courteau absent for the vote)

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Chris Morrissey

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Michael Frazer.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Jacques Courteau absent for the vote)

MOVED by Salina Dewar
SECONDED by Michelle Chakraborti

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Yat Li.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Jacques Courteau absent for the vote)

Approval of Minutes – March 10, 2022.

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Michelle Chakraborti

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 10, 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Wheelchair Apartments Design Issues

Staff:

Oswal Fuentes, Project Manager, Facilities Planning Program Management
Daniel Naundorf, Social Planner, Non-Market Housing Development & Operations
Ti Lam, Planner, Housing Policy (PDS)
Venus Vane, Project Manager, Facilities Planning Program Management
Michelle Vernooy, Planner, Housing Policy (PDS)

Guest:

Jane Vorbrodt, Kuno Architecture

This presentation was requested by PDAC after a PDAC member encountered serious accessibility deficits while using his power chair at the recently built Pearson A. Dogwood property. Staff provided a presentation addressing these serious concerns and responded to questions.

The following concerns were discussed by Staff:

- Inadequate space around bed;
- Inadequate space around toilet, including a wall not in the plans;
- An incorrectly installed door, which swung in the wrong direction (which has been corrected);
- 4" door thresholds for patio access (this is due to building code; thresholds have had ramp mats installed);
- Primary building entrance vestibule is very narrow.

Staff outlined the review processes for new designs including the roles of the building review department, Real Estate and Facilities Management and the BC Housing guidelines.

Committee members were alarmed by the serious accessibility deficits which presently exist and made the following recommendations:

- Would like to see a checklist of accessibility items, developed in consultation with the PDAC Housing Subcommittee;
- Would like to see short videos of an accessible unit in the city, to show differences and highlight design aspects;

- An accessibility expert on staff is needed with more oversight on developers;
- The greater impact mistakes have on limited supply of units.

4. Liaison Updates

Trustee Fraser provided updates on the following:

- VSB budget - the Ministry has not provided any major funding for VSB projects and is not moving forward with seismic projects or expansions;
- VSB is working on standards for accessibility and the needs of the diverse student population;
- Support for universal washrooms and change rooms in public schools, new funding will retrofit existing facilities.

Paul Storer provided updates on the following:

- Council had workshops and approved moving ahead engagements on capital planning for the next 4 years.
- Broadway Plan is going to Council later this month.
- Vancouver Plan is in final stages, going to Council in July.
- Jessica Land, Recreation Manager has joined as Vancouver Park Board Staff Liaison.

Tricia Barker invited discussion on Kitsilano Beach bike path accessibility issues from Point Grey Hospital.

Karen Liebel circulated VPL updates in written form prior to the meeting; the update is appended at the end of the minutes

2. Accessible City Strategy

Tasia Alexis, Caitlin Anderson, Co Chair Brown, and Vice-Chair Courteau led discussion on the Accessible City Strategy.

Committee members expressed concern about:

- Increased need for accountability and trust;
- The needs of parents with disabilities;
- No images or mentions of children with disabilities;
- Needs to show intersectionality, commitment to racial justice and Indigenous populations;
- Improving transit services in communities;
- Homelessness needs to be defined;
- Needs to reference accessible recreation;
- Disempowering language present in high-level documents;
- Persons with disabilities' experience with poverty is not addressed.

Co-Chair Brown announced a Special Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2022 to consider passing a motion endorsing the draft Accessible City Strategy (Phase 1).

5. Subcommittee Reports

Co-Chair Brown, liaison to the Stanley Park Mobility Study, announced that Michael Frazer will act as alternate liaison.

6. New Business

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Caitlin Anderson absent for the vote)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, July 14, 2022
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: TBA

The Committee adjourned at 7:53 pm.

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Vancouver Public Library Update

May 5, 2022 Meeting

Thank you for the opportunity to share information about what's happening at Vancouver Public Library this month.

Upcoming [programs](#) may be of interest:

The listings will indicate if the event is online or in-person (please note: all adult programs are currently online only; a limited number of children's programs are in-person).

- [Personal Empowerment: Managing Your Mental Health in Uncertainty](#) – Tuesday, May 10: 3:30-5:00pm – Learn how to manage the rollercoaster of emotions that can impact mental health in challenging and new situations. Presented in partnership with S.U.C.C.E.S.S. In-person at Central Library.
- [Emergency Preparedness Workshop for Seniors](#) – Wednesday, May 11: 2:00-3:30pm – Are you prepared for an emergency? Join us to learn how to prepare for the heat dome, where to access resources in the community, and identifying what to have in your emergency kit. **In-person at Renfrew Branch.**
- [Lam Wong: Tea, Zen, and Contemporary Art](#) – Wednesday, May 11: 6:30-8:30pm – Vancouver-based artist, Lam Wong explores the connection to his visual art and the art of tea. The first part of this presentation features Wong's documentary *Tea Zen*, and ends in a conversation with participants. **In-person at Central branch.**
- [Representation Matters: a Japanese Family Restaurant on Screen](#) – Thursday, May 12: 7:00-8:00pm - How can representations in media such as documentary films be used to push back against discrimination in our communities? [Koto: The Last Service](#) is a moving short documentary that shows the care and appreciation for the Maeda Family's Koto Japanese Restaurant in Campbell River. Online by Zoom.
- [CBC's Booked @VPL: Drew Hayden-Taylor](#) – Saturday, May 14: 11:00am-12:00pm – Be a part of the live recording of a conversation between Ojibway playwright and author Drew Hayden-Taylor and CBC Radio's *North By Northwest* host Sheryl Mackay. Online by Zoom.
- [Parents Time Online: Supporting a Child with Challenging Behaviour](#) – Saturday, May 14: 2:00-3:00pm – Presented in partnership with Learning Disabilities Society, learn about child behaviour and strategies for responding to challenging behaviours through proactive approaches. Online by Zoom.
- [Introduction to Residential Tenancies for British Columbians](#) – Monday, May 16: 11:00am-12:00pm – What rights do tenants have in British Columbia? This program will cover the basics of tenancy. Hosted by Justice Education Society of BC. Online by Zoom.
- [Supercharge Your Learning: Become a Library Power User!](#) – Tuesday, May 17: 11:00am-12:00pm – Join us for a virtual tour of the library's best learning resources. Online by Zoom.
- [Aaron Chan: This City is a Minefield](#) – Tuesday, May 17: 7:00-8:00pm – *This City is a Minefield* is a reflective memoir of personal essays about growing up as a young gay Chinese man in Vancouver. Author Aaron Chan will discuss his book with writer Amber Dawn. **In-person at Central branch.**

Appendix A – VPL Liaison Update

- [Incite: Fiction as a Tempest](#) – Wednesday, May 18: 7:00-8:30pm – Moderated by Eddy Boudel Tan, authors Janice Lynn Mather and Tsering Yangzom Lama discuss their new works and talk about relationships, displacement, and longing. **HYBRID PROGRAM: In-person at Central Branch AND online livestream.**
- [Shyam Selvadurai: Mansions of the Moon](#) – Thursday, May 19: 7:00-8:00pm – Novelist Shyam Selvadurai discusses his new book *Mansions of the Moon* with Indian Summer Arts Society co-founder Sirish Rao. **In-person at Central branch.**
- [Elamin Abdelmehmoud: Son of Elsewhere](#) – Tuesday, May 24: 7:00-8:00pm – *Son of Elsewhere* is a memoir by Sudanese-born, now-Canadian Elamin Abdelmehmoud, of his recollections of popular media on an impressionable 12-year-old. Join author Elamin Abdelmehmoud in conversation with Kamal Al-Solaylee, Director of the School of Journalism, Writing and Media at the University of British Columbia. **In-person at Central branch.**
- [Advance Planning: Powers of Attorney, Joint Bank Accounts, and Representation](#) – Thursday, May 26: 1:00-2:30pm – In partnership with Seniors First BC, this workshop will discuss the importance of planning healthcare and financial decisions through later stages of life. Online by Zoom.

Ongoing Series

- [VPL Chinese Book Club in Mandarin 線下星期五中文讀書會](#) – Friday, May 20: 11:00am-1:00pm – Join this in-person book club held at Renfrew. This session will discuss *Ways of Seeing* by John Berger, and will be conducted in Mandarin with Cantonese support. **In-person at Renfrew Branch.**
- [ESL Conversation Practice Online for Vietnamese Speakers](#) – Tuesday, May 17: 10:30-11:30am – Make new friends and practice your English conversation skills with other English language learners. This is a supportive and casual meet-up using Zoom. Online by Zoom.
- [ESL Conversation Practice](#) – Wednesdays 11:00am-12:00pm – This weekly online conversation allows participants to practice their language skills in a supportive and casual way. Online by Zoom.
- [Connection to Kith and Kin](#) – Tuesday, May 10: 2:30-4:30pm – Weekly on Tuesdays. Experts help Indigenous participants search online records for family documents. These sessions are in partnership with Indian Residential School Survivors Society, Britannia Community Services Society, and Library and Archives Canada. Online by Zoom.

Additional dates:

- [May 17](#)
- [May 24](#)
- [May 31](#)
- [June 7](#)
- [June 14](#)
- [Library Stitch-Up](#) – Tuesday, May 10: 6:30-7:30pm – Connect monthly to other fibre craft enthusiasts and talk about what you're working on! There will also be a discussion about VPL's craft resources. Online by Zoom.
- Cook and Tell series – A monthly online Zoom discussion with other food lovers. There is an upcoming session:
 - [Asian Cooking](#) – Wednesday, May 18: 11:00am-12:00pm – In celebration of Asian Heritage Month, share your favourite recipes or your best dim sum, and

Appendix A – VPL Liaison Update

- learn about VPL resources to learn how to make authentic Asian eats. Online by Zoom.
- [Picnics in the Park](#) – Wednesday, June 15: 11:00am-12:00pm – Discuss the art of the packed lunch and best picnic recipes. Online by Zoom.
 - Screen from Home – Watch movies from the comfort of your home. **Online by registration only**. Links to the movie will be emailed prior to the day of screening.
 - [In the Heights](#) – Friday, May 8: all day
 - [Nomadland](#) – Friday, May 6: all day
 - [My Salinger Year](#) – Friday, May 20: all day
 - [Drop-in Computer Help](#) – Selected Wednesdays: 2:30-3:30pm - In partnership with Marpole Neighbourhood House, library staff can help with computer, email, internet, and library resources for a monthly drop-in session. In-person at Marpole Neighbourhood House.
 - May 11
 - May 25
 - Many past programs are also available on the VPL YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/vancouverlibrary/videos>

Thank you,
Karen Liebel
Coordinator, Accessible Services, Vancouver Public Library