



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

July 14, 2022

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 5:38 in Joe Wai Room, Ground Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

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

ABSENT: Michelle Chakraborti (Leave of Absence)
Yat Li (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Tricia Barker, Park Board Liaison
Trustee Janet Fraser, School Board Liaison
Karen Liebel, VPL Staff Liaison
Paul Storer, Director, Transportation (Staff Liaison)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

Co-Chair Mackenrot acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh People.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Peter Brown
SECONDED by Jacques Courteau

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Michelle Chakraborti.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Michael Frazer absent for the vote.)

MOVED by Jacques Courteau
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Michael Frazer absent for the vote.)

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Jacques Courteau
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, May 05, 2022, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Michael Frazer absent for the vote.)

MOVED by Alfiya Battalova
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the special meeting of Thursday, May 19, 2022, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Michael Frazer absent for the vote.)

1. Liaison Updates

Trustee Fraser circulated updates prior to the meeting, provided a further update on the VSB Accessibility Strategy and responded to a question on accessibility data collection.

Karen Liebel circulated updates prior to the meeting, and provided a further update on summer reading programs and equitable library access. Karen announced that this meeting will be her last as VPL Liaison, and thanked the Committee for sharing knowledge and experience. Co-Chair Mackenrot thanked Karen on behalf of the Committee.

Commissioner Barker provided updates on the following and responded to comments:

- Thanked Committee for sending members to speak on accessible playground design at the July 4, 2022 Park Board meeting;
- Upcoming Park Board meeting on Monday, July 18, will include discussion of the Stanley Park mobility study.

Paul Storer provided updates on the following:

- Broadway Plan passed by Council with amendments;
- Vancouver Plan is currently before Council and hearing speakers;
- Accessibility Strategy going to Council next week.

2. Honoraria for Type A Advisory Committees

MOVED by Jacques Courteau

SECONDED by Salina Dewar

WHEREAS:

1. An increasing number of federal, provincial, and municipal governments are providing their advisory committee members with honoraria;
2. Members of PDAC have been advocating to staff for years about the need to increase membership participation and recruitment;
3. Honoraria will help attract a bigger and more diverse pool of applicants, and would respect the time, lived experiences, and expertise provided by persons with disabilities;
4. In the City of Vancouver, PDAC represents a community group that faces barriers to employment ([25% of persons with disabilities age 25 to 64 years are not in the labour force](#)). Among those age 25 to 64 years, persons with disabilities are less likely to be employed ([59%](#)) than those without disabilities ([80%](#)). This can mean increased financial hardship for some members and potential members of PDAC;
5. Persons with disabilities face extra costs of living related to the nature of their disabilities, such as equipment and healthcare costs;
6. Costs such as transportation, food, daycare, caregiving, stationery supplies, printer ink, and internet/data usage can be incurred by members of advisory committees, which may create barriers to persons with disabilities who may wish to otherwise participate on such a committee;
7. The PDAC Terms of Reference state that the Committee provides input to City Council and staff about issues of concern, including matters that require action

- by the City; exchanges information with persons with disabilities and the general public about relevant programs and issues of interest; engages in outreach to persons with disabilities to disseminate information and encourage participation; works cooperatively with other civic departments, agencies, and boards whose activities affect persons with disabilities; and works with city staff to ensure that civic events are accessible for persons with disabilities. All this work forms an important part in the city's policy and project framework, and members spend on average between 5 and 50+ hours per month on committee and related City work. This work includes clerked meetings, working sessions, subcommittee meetings, consultations with staff and city partners, correspondence, motion writing, research, city events, presentations, reading and reviewing reports, formulating feedback, and more;
8. In a recent report on improving City of Vancouver advisory bodies, the City Clerk wrote that “many Advisory Body members have indicated that automatic honoraria for all members, paid per meeting, would be a preferable means to reduce barriers to participation...and staff have marked this as a clear and consistent request from members”;
 9. Honoraria would help committee members prioritize committee work over other activities.

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

- A. Fully endorses the motion titled [“Exploring Feasibility of Honoraria for ‘Type A’ Advisory Committee Members.”](#) passed by the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee on June 14, 2022;
- B. Fully endorses the motion titled [“Motion to Increase Equity of Participation on CoV Advisory Committees.”](#) passed by the Vancouver Food Policy Council on February 24, 2022;
- C. Recommends that Council adopt a policy to provide honoraria for Advisory Committee Members, and that Council direct staff to:
 - i. Work to make the process of reimbursements and honoraria more accessible, user-friendly, and timely, reducing barriers around the collection of social insurance numbers and other personal information;
 - ii. Increase allowance for food in budgets to support healthier and more appropriate choices for medical and dietary requirements;
 - iii. Provide financial support for transportation and food for those attending in person for both working sessions and clerked meetings;

- iv. Ensure that expenses incurred by committee members due to their Advisory Committee work such as elder care, child care, and transportation costs be treated separately from honoraria;
 - v. Develop an opt-out option for those who do not wish to collect honoraria;
 - vi. Develop a system of providing different options for disbursing honoraria and reimbursements, including a process to ensure that cash payments are possible.
- D. Recommends that Council provide a discretionary budget to each Advisory Committee which may be applied to awareness, outreach, attending conferences/workshops, and other resourcing of members.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Single Use Plastic Federal Ban Update

Monica Kosmak, Senior Project Manager, Engineering Services, provided a presentation on the Federal Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations which conflicts with the City's By-Law.

It was noted that Monica Kosmak had presented to the members of the Social Inclusion Sub-Committee on July 6 about this issue. Members of PDAC expressed their concerns about the new regulations and how this will affect persons with disabilities. The Committee discussed options for individual and organizational advocacy on the issue, and a potential recommendation motion. Jacques Courteau recommended that staff connect with Stephanie Cadieux, Government of Canada Chief Accessibility Officer. Co-Chair Mackenrot noted that she will request a Special Meeting in August to further address this item.

4. Accessibility Strategy Update

Co-Chair Brown informed the Committee that the Accessibility Strategy will go to Council July 19, 2022. Jacques Courteau will speak at the meeting as Accessibility Task Force Chair and Co-Chair Brown will speak as PDAC Co-Chair.

5. End of Term Report Discussion

Co-Chair Brown requested that all Subcommittees submit draft reports by end of August for inclusion in the Annual Report of Activities, which is due September 30, 2022.

6. Subcommittee Reports

a) Accessible City

Jacques Courteau reported that on July 4, 2022, the Park Board passed a motion stating it will take steps to develop and implement accessible playground design in consultation with PDAC and the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee.

b) Housing

None.

c) Social Inclusion

Co-Chair Mackenrot reported that Danielle Johnston, Manager, Democratic Engagement, has been consulting with the Subcommittee on elections accessibility and homebound voting measures. The Subcommittee recommended that the Elections Office work with Paul Gauthier for IFRCS (in addition to Vancouver Coastal Health) and reach out to additional organizations such as Spinal Cord Injury BC and Disability Alliance BC.

d) Transportation

None.

7. Orientation Manual

Co-Chair Mackenrot reported that she and Co-Chair Brown intend to create an orientation manual for future Committee terms, and will reach out to members for topics and suggestions.

8. Sharepoint

Co-Chair Mackenrot noted that the Committee SharePoint pilot is ongoing, and asked Subcommittees to consider uses for the platform, including document storage. The Manager, Civic Agencies stated he will re-circulate login information, and encouraged any members having technical problems to contact him.

9. New Business

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Peter Brown
SECONDED by Jacques Courteau

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, September 15, 2022
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall /
Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:32 pm.

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