



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 15, 2022

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 5:36 in Cascadia Room, 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
- Michelle Chakraborti
- Salina Dewar
- Michael Frazer
- Paul Gauthier
- Yat Li
- Chris Morrissey

ALSO PRESENT:

- Commissioner Tricia Barker, Park Board Liaison
- Trustee Janet Fraser, School Board Liaison
- Katherine Parker, VPL Staff Liaison
- Paul Storer, Director, Transportation, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Brian Fukushima, Committee Clerk

WELCOME

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

Leave of Absence Requests

None.

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, July 14, 2022, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Nathan Bragg
SECONDED by Michael Frazer

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the special meeting of Thursday, August 18, 2022, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Approval of Annual Report

MOVED by Alfiya Battalova
SECONDED by Paul Gauthier

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Annual Report in principle.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Discussion about Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

MOVED by Alfiya Battalova
SECONDED by Jacques Courteau

WHEREAS

1. Canada is building a strategy for the adoption of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV), the vast majority of which are electric vehicles (EV), and this requires the creation of a new infrastructure to support EVs once they are on the road;
2. \$1.4 billion has already been dedicated to this infrastructure with a potential \$10.5 billion over the next 20–25 years, this accelerated build-up means that we will have a totally new transportation infrastructure in that time, and now is the time to ensure that this new infrastructure will be accessible for all;
3. Nearly half of the country's population lives in the six biggest urban centres, namely Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Ottawa, Calgary, and Edmonton, and therefore the successful transition to EVs will be strongly influenced by the decisions of municipal councils;

4. The "[CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#)" targets that 100% of new cars sold in British Columbia be ZEVs by 2035, with progressively higher percentages each year from now until the target of 100% is reached in 2035;
5. British Columbia already leads all of North America in the adoption of ZEVs with 17.1% of new vehicle registrations in Q1 2022, Metro Vancouver itself standing at 21.6%;
6. A target of 100% ZEV adoption by 2035 means that persons with disabilities, including seniors with disabilities, will need to buy and use ZEVs by 2035, so the infrastructure needs to be accessible;
7. The existing EV charging stations have not been accessible, that retrofitting charging stations for accessibility is very difficult, and that we cannot have an inaccessible charging infrastructure for the next decades;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that City Council develop regulations as opposed to guidelines, to ensure that EV charging stations in the City of Vancouver will be accessible;
- B. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends regulations for accessible EV charging stations be developed in consultation with the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the Seniors' Advisory Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Discussion about Stanley Park Mobility Study

MOVED by Peter Brown
SECONDED by Alfiya Battalova

WHEREAS

1. The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) wishes to ensure that the accessibility rights of persons with disabilities to all City facilities and parks are not set aside, but rather enhanced;
2. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board) is currently conducting the Stanley Park Mobility Study, which has a stated objective of examining different objectives for reducing motor vehicle traffic within the park;

3. Many persons with disabilities and seniors, who depend on a motor vehicle to transport them to, from, and within the park, would be adversely impacted by any policy adopted by the Park Board to reduce motor vehicle traffic within the park unless special provisions maintain their access rights;
4. In its meeting of [July 18 & 19, 2022](#), the Park Board approved the Guiding Principles contained in the report "[Stanley Park Mobility Study – Initial Findings & Directions](#)," which were created to "inform future work on developing and evaluating options";
5. The Guiding Principles include Accessibility, which "will prioritise the needs for users who face increased barriers accessing locations in the park and increase universal accessibility by design." This principle will recognize the diverse accessibility needs for persons with disabilities and the need to consider multiple approaches;
6. As part of the current Mobility Study, Park Board staff conducted a Best Practice and Case Study Review of eight urban parks throughout the United States and Europe, which have proceeded with low/no motor vehicle capacity within these parks. This review made no comment as to what steps were implemented by these jurisdictions to respond to the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities who were impacted by the low/no motor vehicle capacity policies adopted;
7. PDAC is very concerned that the commitment of the Park Board to Accessibility, as a Guiding Principle, lacks in substance, given the absence of any consideration to this issue in the aforementioned review;
8. Park Board staff have indicated that their intent is to bring the Stanley Park Mobility Study final report and recommendations to the Park Board for decision in early 2023, when PDAC will likely not yet be re-established by the incoming Council, following the end of the current Council term, eliminating the opportunity for any engagement on the final report or recommendations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) strongly recommends that the Park Board continue consultations with PDAC, as well as other disability groups, with specific attention to how the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities to access Stanley Park will be afforded the priority noted above and remain intact or be enhanced, based upon objective criteria;
- B. THAT in light of the [Accessibility Strategy](#) approved by City Council on [July 19, 2022](#), and as accessibility is a core principle in the Stanley Park Mobility Study, the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC)

strongly recommends that the Park Board delay decisions on mobility in Stanley Park until it has consulted PDAC (as re-established in 2023) and other disability groups on the final report and recommendations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Liaison Updates

Trustee Fraser provided updates on the following topics:

- Commencement of classes;
- Communicable disease regulations;
- VSB Strategic Plan;
- Equity and Reconciliation; and
- Ministry of Education and Childcare.

Jessica Land outlined Park Board recreational programs taking place in the fall.

Katherine Parker submitted a written update on VPL Accessible Services (appended.)

5. Micro Mobility Staff Presentation

Staff:

Matej Mekar, Policy Analyst

Cail Smith, Policy Analyst

Danielle Wiley, Branch Manager - Street Use Management

Staff provided a presentation and responded to questions and comments.

The Committee discussed issues surrounding e-scooter programs in other cities and expressed concern on issues of speed, parking, and user accountability.

6. Election Update

Danielle Johnston, Manager of Democratic Engagement provided an update on elections accessibility and the home bound voting pilot project, and responded to questions and comments.

The Committee emphasized their desire for full enrollment in the pilot and discussed communication and engagement strategies to fill the open spots.

The Elections team had requested over 200 places for special voting opportunities but only 105 responded, about the same number as in 2018.

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At this point in the meeting, the Committee agreed to forgo agenda item 7 and reorder the agenda. For clarity, the minutes are recorded in chronological order.

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9. October 6 working session

After discussion with the members the Co-Chairs cancelled the working session

8. Municipal Advisory Bodies

The committee discussed reaching out to other cities and their committees regarding accessibility, housing, and transportation.

10. New Business

Co-chair Mackenrot stated that she has commenced work on the Orientation manual.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Caitlin Anderson
SECONDED by Jacques Courteau

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting: TBD

The Committee adjourned at 7:45 pm.

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APPENDIX: Update from VPL Accessible Services

Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, September 15, 2022
Katherine Parker, Coordinator

Thank you for the opportunity to share information about what's happening at Vancouver Public Library this month. My name is Katherine Parker, the acting Coordinator of Accessible Services at VPL. I'll be acting until mid-October, when the permanent coordinator arrives.

Some updates from the library: We are again pleased to offer an Assistive Technology Tutorial, this time at our Champlain Heights branch on October 22. These sessions are offered in conjunction with the CNIB. During the session Amit Ram and Julia Bonnett teach patrons one on one about assistive technology devices in order to increase independence and aid in pursuing interests. I am coordinating with Julia to expand these sessions to other branch libraries and our staff.

VPL has also updated our civic election page with the latest information on accessibility features for voters <https://www.vpl.ca/guide/elections/vancouver-elections> . Includes information on priority voting, how to get assistance marking a ballot, which locations have a ballot marking device, and a link to videos in ASL. For more information on accessibility at each voting place, visit vancouver.ca/vote or call 3-1-1.

Database Highlight

Each month I will share a database that VPL provides access to.

Indigenous Film Collection: <https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/indigenous-film-collection> A streaming collection of film and video focused on Indigenous voices, culture, history, and contemporary perspectives. This collection shares a platform with our World Cinema collection.

Programs

Upcoming programs may be of interest. We have several offerings this September to increase understanding of the impacts of the residential school system on Indigenous people.

Indian Residential School Survivor Testimony Check our online event listings for dates and times <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>

Join us for an opportunity to learn about the impacts of Residential Schools and to hear testimony from elders. Presented in partnership with the [Indian Residential School Survivor Society \(IRSSS\)](#). The IRSSS is a provincial organization that strives to provide physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual growth, development, and healing through culturally-based values and guiding principles for Survivors, Families, and Communities.

No registration required for this drop-in event.

The History and Impacts of Residential Schools in Canada

Saturday, September 24, 2022

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Online event

Join us online for an opportunity to learn about the history of impacts of Residential Schools from a survivor.

Presented in Partnership with the [Indian Residential School Survivors Society \(IRSSS\)](#).

The IRSSS is a provincial organization that strives to provide physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual growth, development, and healing through culturally-based values and guiding principles for Survivors, Families, and Communities. This event will be presented online using Zoom Webinar. Please register to receive access to the Zoom Link for the event and to get a reminder email to attend.

Let's Talk: Self-Learning

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Online event

Want to learn something new but don't know where to start? Join us as we discuss what makes for a successful self-learning experience. We will cover various self-learning techniques, and tips to manage your studies. We will also guide you toward an abundance of library resources and other relevant material to help you expand your knowledge on any subject.

To join this Zoom event you will need a computer, tablet or phone with internet access.

Ask a Career Counsellor

Thursday, September 29, 2022

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Kitsilano Branch

Drop by to learn how WorkBC can help you reach your career goals. We help with career planning, writing resumes, preparing for job interviews, funding for training and more! You can find out about Work BC's Assistive Technology Services.

Meditative Drawing Basics

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Online event

Join us for this free mental wellness program where we will explore the art of drawing as a form of mindfulness. We will cover some basic shapes and patterns used in meditative drawing and find the beauty in the process of mark-making. All drawing levels are welcome!

Materials required:

- pen/pencil and paper, or
- graphic/drawing tablet and stylus

To join you will need a computer, tablet or phone. Headphones are recommended. For our Zoom webinar events, your camera and audio will automatically be turned off.