



## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

**September 12, 2024**

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 5:34 pm in the Joe Wai Room, Ground Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

**PRESENT:** Peter Brown, Chair  
Salina Dewar, Vice-Chair  
Tasia Alexis  
John Atoyebi  
Vikram Bubber  
Mikeal Frazer  
Tommy Leung  
Adam Roper

**ABSENT:** Ana Booth (Leave of Absence)  
Avery Shannon (Leave of Absence)  
Sarah van Baarsen (Leave of Absence)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Trustee Christopher Richardson, Vancouver School Board  
Liaison  
Sgt. Jim Prasobsin, Vancouver Police Board Liaison  
Jennifer Streckmann, Vancouver Public Library Liaison  
Paul Storer, Director of Transportation, Staff Liaison  
Laura Mackenrot, Former Co-Chair of the Persons with  
Disabilities Advisory Committee

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Cassia Nasralla, Meeting Coordinator

### WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh Peoples. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

### Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Salina Dewar  
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve leaves of absences for Ana Booth, Avery Shannon, and Sarah van Baarsen for the meeting on September 12,

2024, and a leave of absence for Salina Dewar for the meeting on November 7, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Tommy Leung  
SECONDED by Salina Dewar

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, July 04, 2024, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **1. Healthy City Strategy Refresh**

Staff from Arts, Culture, and Community Services provided a presentation and responded to questions.

### **2. Dunsmuir/Melville Street Upgrades: Downtown Bike Network Expansion**

Staff from Engineering Services provided a presentation and responded to questions.

### **3. Motion: Stanley Park Mobility Study**

\* \* \* \* \*

*At the start of item 3, Peter Brown relinquished the Chair to Salina Dewar in order to present the motion and resumed the role of Chair after the completion of the item.*

\* \* \* \* \*

MOVED by Peter Brown  
SECONDED by John Atoyebi

#### **WHEREAS**

1. In early July, 2024, Commissioners of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (“the Park Board”) were presented with the latest version of the Stanley Park Mobility Study (“the Study”) by Park Board staff;
2. The report proposes six mobility options, which staff refined from feedback received in a stakeholder workshop held on February 27, 2024;
3. Two of the proposed mobility options involve the complete and permanent removal of car access to Stanley Park;

4. The second item under Principles and Indicators on page 16 of the Study update to the Park Board, dated November 27, 2023, is Accessibility, which includes “motorized access for people with disabilities...”;
5. Options E and F outlined in the latest version of the study allow for the use of buses/shuttle transport and cyclists on Park Drive, while acknowledging that these Options would only support the accessibility of persons with disabilities that are not mobility-related. It is precisely persons with disabilities who have a mobility deficit that are the group most impacted by the elimination of motor vehicle transport throughout the park;
6. There is no indication how the current level of accessibility of persons with disabilities to access the park would be maintained, let alone enhanced, by the use of transit/shuttle transport;
7. The Study has utilized comparable projects in parks throughout the world with no indication whatsoever as to how persons with disabilities were impacted, and what, if any, accommodations were made to maintain, or enhance, previous levels of accessibility for this particular group;
8. Any consideration whatsoever to the elimination of the current accessibility levels for persons with disabilities wishing to go to Stanley Park is completely inconsistent with the City’s adoption of the Accessible City Strategy in July 2022, the City’s obligation to comply with the provisions of the Accessible BC Act and the accessibility rights afforded persons with disabilities under section 8 of the British Columbia Human Rights Code;
9. There is currently no option within the Study that would provide, with any certainty, a proposal that would fully and properly replace the transportation needs of persons with disabilities who currently benefit both physically and/or mentally from being able to access Stanley Park by motor vehicle;
10. The current ability of persons with disabilities to fully access all areas of Stanley Park by motor vehicle should not be an afterthought to the objectives of the Study, particularly given the lack of any evidence within the Study that the specific needs of persons with disabilities who require car access to Stanley Park have been fully understood and addressed;
11. The inclusion of Options E and F within the study reflect a glaring failure by the Park Board to adhere to their own mission statement, which commits “to provide preserve and advocate for parks and recreation services to benefit all people, communities, and the environment”;
12. The principle of accessibility for persons with disability is inherently based upon the removal of barriers limiting or prohibiting such access, which Options E and F unequivocally create.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee advise Mayor and Council, and the Park Board, of their strong objection to the inclusion, and any consideration of, Mobility Options E and F in the Stanley Park Mobility Study.

- B. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee request that Park Board staff remove Mobility Options E and F from the Stanley Park Mobility Study and cease any further consideration of removing car access to Stanley Park.
- C. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee request that a copy of this motion be conveyed by City Clerk's Office staff to Park Board Commissioners and relevant Park Board staff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **4. Liaison Updates**

The Staff Liaison, Vancouver Public Library Liaison, Vancouver School Board Liaison, and Vancouver Police Department Liaison provided updates and responded to questions.

#### **5. Sub-Committee Updates**

Subcommittees Chairs provided updates and informed the Committee of upcoming subcommittee meeting dates.

#### **6. New Business**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Mikeal Frazer  
SECONDED by Salina Dewar

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **Next Meeting:**

DATE: Thursday, November 07, 2024  
TIME: 5:30 pm  
PLACE: Joe Wai Room, Ground Floor, City Hall  
/ WebEx Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:37 pm.

\* \* \* \* \*