

DETAIL OF THE WORK OF THE VARIOUS SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEES

Community of Support Subcommittee (COS) – Chair: Donna Clarke

Work to Date

COS Subcommittee was established as a working group to focus on Aging in Place and reports to the Seniors Advisory Committee.

Using the Housing Committee Mission Statement as a guide, COS was tasked with doing an environmental scan of policies and documents that exist in the City of Vancouver and to tie them to CoV responsibilities and values as set out in policies. Part of the mandate was to identify gaps and issues in reports and policies. It became apparent that one of the main issues was getting information on the status of recommendations from Council approved strategies, reports, and plans.

The first recommendation by COS to SAC was the need for a consistent staff/social planner to be assigned to work with Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) so the access to information was flowing more freely.

After consulting with SAC members and incorporating suggestions, a letter was sent by the chair to our SAC Council Liaisons, councillors Swanson and Boyle, asking they support our request by bringing it to Council for approval and subsequently directing Social Planning to reassign a planner to work with SAC during the pandemic.

In preparation for a positive outcome, COS reviewed the Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Seniors Report (SILAS: prepared by an earlier SAC committee) recommendations and identified five top priority recommendations congruent with City of Vancouver areas of responsibility. The recommended top priority was to implement recommendation #23 – “Assign oversight of to the Seniors’ Advisory Committee to monitor the City’s ongoing implementation of strategies based on this report”. Recommendations will be brought forward to SAC in early 2021 for their consideration and input.

COS also undertook to provide educational opportunities for stakeholders in housing and aging in place. Our first speakers’ forum was via Zoom and Dr. Zayna Khayat, a future strategist presented in October 2020 to an audience of more than fifty people. The January presenter booked is Dr. Amaya Arcelus who is leading the development of a new 7-year program at the National Research Council of Canada around Aging in Place.

Elevator study – Callie Wong

A report on the lack of timely elevator repair and replacement in Vancouver was completed on September 23, 2020 and it was circulated to SAC members, as well as to the City of Vancouver Chief Licence Inspector, Development, Buildings and Licensing and Manager of Property Use Development, Buildings & Licensing.

At the SAC meeting on November 6, 2020, the Chief License Inspector participated in and provided her feedback about the elevator repair and replacement issues in Vancouver and clarified the role of her department vs Technical Safety BC's role in the regulation and standards related to elevating devices in BC.

At the SAC meeting on November 6, 2020, SAC committee members approved the motion regarding the lack of timely elevator repairs and asked our Council Liaisons to ask Council to support a staff review of the Vancouver Building By-law and Standards of Maintenance.

Our Council Liaisons edited the motion and were to submit it at the appropriate City Council meeting.

An email was also sent to Technical Safety BC (cc George Heyman's office), to ask them for assistance and information in regards to lack of timely elevator repair and replacement in Vancouver.

Engagement sub committee

Community Engagement Report: 2019 – 2020, Beatrice Ho, Chair

The highlight achievement for Engagement team in 2019 - to participate in Community Conversation, organized by the Ministry of Health - a one-day event bringing together patients, families, caregivers, health-care providers, Ministry of Health representatives, health authority staff, community organizations, and health sector partners to provide opportunities for meaningful engagement, ensure purposeful engagement on topics that matter to participants, and provide information to participants based on input from the previous year's session.

The Engagement team is partnering with iCON, UBC Department of Emergency Medicine to share their collective work in engaging Chinese communities in health and healthcare discussions.

- Received an invitation from iCON (Intercultural Online Network), a community engagement initiative that brings together health practitioners and community members to learn and share about chronic disease prevention and management, including diabetes, heart disease, and mental wellness to do a co-presentation panel at the Ministry of Health Patients as Partners annual dialogue event to stimulate conversations and highlight it as a case example of how health system transformation is taking place with meaningful community engagement.

- The presentation focus on the increasing cultural diversity of Vancouver's population, the knowledge about ethnic family caregivers and the barriers they face when accessing community-based health and social services can help to create more inclusive policies that are culturally sensitive.
- We also discussed the SILAS report (social isolation and loneliness among seniors) which was an initiative of the City of Vancouver Seniors Advisory Committee in partnership with the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Coastal Health. The purpose of the project was to create a series of recommendations to help prevent or reduce social isolation and loneliness among seniors in Vancouver.

2020 - This year proved to be completely different for the community engagement team - starting the year out with intention to work more closely with other committees, such as the Women's Advisory Committee and hoping to increase collaboration with other committees, the world suddenly changed in mid March with the Provincial Government shutting down all non essential services to address COVID-19. There being no precedent for this, senior serving agencies and programs shut down and had to work very diligently to continue to provide services with doors shut and staff working from home.

The challenges were obvious - how to keep seniors and staff safe while trying to meet immediate needs. Many agencies and services in different areas combined forces to try to address the needs of seniors in the community with staff working from home and in the some cases fewer staff. There have been positives from this new experience. Phone calls checking in with seniors and isolated people begun almost immediately. Food shopping and delivery services were ramped up and in some cases free food delivery programs began and continue.

Technology assistance programs to seniors connecting them to programs such as Zoom allowed for much needed communication with family, friends, community and wellness programs.

Engagement team member also works as community advisors in partnership with UBC Digital Emergency Medicine to launch a program to train peer leaders on how to improve digital health literacy in their communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted many challenges faced by patients, caregivers, and seniors in accessing timely care and culturally appropriate health resources to keep them healthy. Since the pandemic, there has been increasing use of virtual health in BC to deliver care to patients and more patients and families are turning to online sources of information to help them manage their health.

The engagement team has participated in a session with City's communication department to do a "walk-through" of the City website to improve its accessibility for older adults, to co-create viable solutions, together with People with Disabilities Committee members.

Housing Subcommittee Annual Report – Marc White, chair

SAC members interested in Seniors Housing met on September 17, 2019 the draft sub committee's Terms of Reference.

Purpose: To provide realistic and evidence-based advice to Council and staff and support City of Vancouver's initiatives around the provision of safe, healthy, food secure, and sustainable livable communities for all seniors living in Vancouver.

Scope: Social policy development pertaining to seniors with a focus on city owned properties, zoning, bylaws, transportation and social issues within the domain of City of Vancouver programs and services.

Out-of-scope: Any medical related issues for seniors

Authority: The Housing Subcommittee is established by Seniors Advisory Committee resolution and its primary role is to make achievable recommendations

to Council and staff. The Housing Subcommittee makes recommendations to the Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) for further input and discussion and decision-making purposes.

Geo-Mapping Project

A key objective of SAC is to provide data-driven information to engage the community in discussions about creating and sustaining safe, healthy and sustainable housing in the context of having access to robust community programs and services. Senior-led households are overrepresented among households with the greatest housing need in Vancouver. While seniors who rent account for only 12% of renter households, they make up 22% of renter households in core need according to the Census, while a full 46% of seniors who rent are in core housing need. Furthermore, 58% of all seniors living in Vancouver reported having health and activity limitations. Working with the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. (SPARC BC) we supported an application to CMHC Housing Solutions Lab. The initiative was to promote and support community discussion and dialogue around the array of policy tools and approaches to support the generation of a diverse range of housing options to meet the full diversity of housing needs for seniors living in Vancouver, including a specific focus on accessible housing. Current status: Unfortunately this funding was not received and other sources of funding have been sought.

Oral and written presentations to the Mayor and Council on Council Motions addressing Housing Issues

November 26, 2019 – [“Rental Incentives Review, Phase II Report Back”](#) ([SAC Presentation To Council](#))

In this report we added important key demographic data outlined below:

- noted that the survey report only captured input from 16 seniors, representing 5% of the 331 responses compared to demographic data that notes that at the household level, 22% of all households in the City of Vancouver are seniors.
- the median income of Seniors is \$28,182 which falls below the current city MIRHPP program thresholds beginning at \$30,000
- SAC concurred with other feedback on the report that noted the need for more accessible and affordable units for people with disabilities and seniors

SAC made the following recommendations:

- Given that seniors represent a major age group in the City of Vancouver, currently and in the future, and the high priority issue housing is to this constituency, we are recommending that City Council consider creating a Seniors Housing Strategy with dedicated staff resources.
- Given the proposal for upzoning on arterial roads and transit stations and the need to address accessibility and transport needs of seniors there is a need to plan both market and non-market housing needs for seniors and persons with disabilities in these areas.

- Of greatest concern is the need to protect current affordable housing and to recognize that the Rental Protection program and payment for demoviction does not provide or replace housing for precarious seniors.
- We recommend that city reports when providing information on new market rental housing units developed, also report the number of affordable housing units lost as a result of demoviction.
- Given the city has several advisory committees that are concerned about housing, we request that staff presentations be made to advisory committees for further input on this report. We also recommend that future Housing reports are presented to relevant Advisory Committees well in advance to ensure that input is considered and reflected in staff reports to Council.

Decision by Council:

That Council direct staff to engage with the Seniors' Advisory Committee and the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee to explore accessible housing needs and housing models that could best meet their needs in relation to rental incentives, including staff consideration of the potential of a seniors housing strategy and any implications of policies such as the Secured Rental Policy that could directly affect seniors and people with disabilities.

(source: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20191126/documents/regu20191126min.pdf>)

Outcome: SAC Housing has noted an increase in presentations from Social Planning potentially as a result of this motion, and also recognize that an accessibility social planner has been created that liaises with the PWDAC. However still after 12 months there has not been formal meetings to specifically explore accessible housing needs and housing models that could best meet their needs in relation to rental incentives, including staff consideration of the potential of a seniors housing strategy and any implications of policies such as the Secured Rental Policy that could directly affect seniors and people with disabilities.

May 12, 2020: Council Motions

B4- [Motion to Rescind Motion to Include C-2 Zones in Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan](#) – **Withdrawn [SAC Written Presentation for B4 and B7](#)**

Following the SAC submission and other stakeholder submissions we were pleased this motion was withdrawn. In a prior Council Meeting in November 2019 a motion was passed to remove the exemption from C-2 zoning from the City of Vancouver's rental replacement requirements that mandates a one-for-one replacement of existing rental units, assistance with relocation and right of first refusal on the new units at subsidized rate for affected tenants.

As per our submission we believed that rescinding the requirement for all developers to replace affordable housing sent the wrong message to the public and is counter to the stated goal of recalibration of the housing strategy to create a more equitable and resilient city for all of its residents including a focus on creating the "right supply" of housing matched to local incomes.

B-7 [Motion Recalibrating the Housing Vancouver Strategy post COVID-19](#)

The original motion was to re-align the Housing Strategy to population growth, which would not address other key concerns including core housing need, demoviction, or other

economic pressures that impact the need for affordable housing. Following the SAC submission, Councillor Colleen Hardwick reached out leading to a 40 minutes discussion which led to significant amendments. We thank our SAC representative Councillors Swanson and Boyle that added the need to capture data on affordability, as well as accessibility.

Final B-7 Motion Approved by Council ([Council Minutes May 27, 2020 and June 2, 2020](#))

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

A. THAT Council direct staff to provide transparent data to serve as the basis of subsequent analysis, and then policy recalibration as part of the Vancouver Plan process and the associated Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) update.

B. THAT Council direct staff to provide the following for the City of Vancouver as a whole and broken down by neighbourhood or district:

Annual historical data since 2010 to present for:

- rezoning and development permit applications for new housing development, listed by project, including data on the actual or estimated number and type of housing units, and the status of each project (approved; modified; rejected; in progress; construction started; occupancy permit);
- summary of census data for annual population and unit growth;
- estimated or actual (where available) on the number of units lost through rezoning or redevelopment and net changes in affordability;

Additional current data and information:

- list of rezoning and development projects, the project status with estimated timelines, proposed form of development, unit numbers and types of housing, and ballpark breakdown of household incomes required to afford each unit, as well as accessibility data for each project;
- estimated zoned capacity, broken down by each zone and by neighbourhood, numbers and types of units, with estimated total and annual build-out;
- existing data (where available) on the city's secondary rental market (non-purpose-built rentals such as condos, secondary conversions or unauthorized suites) the number and type of rental units, monthly rent, and vacancy rate;

C. THAT Council direct staff to confirm that the Housing Vancouver targets are aspirational to achieve the right supply of housing and provide only a rough estimate for growth, and not a strict requirement - i.e. targets do not need to be met every year;

D. THAT Council direct staff to clarify whether the Vancouver Housing Strategy targets refer to net housing completions or gross housing completions; and

E. THAT Council direct staff to report back via memo with the requested data and information as listed above for Council consideration in July 2020, and to provide a timeline for when the data will be posted through the Open Data Portal.

Outcome: [Staff Response to Council Motion Recalibrating the Housing Vancouver Strategy Post-Covid 19, RTS 013971](#)

May 26, 2020: [Motion Defining Social Housing Consistently and Transparently in the City of Vancouver](#)
[SAC Written Presentation](#)

Following SAC's cumulative submissions and presentation the original motion was amended in several important ways. Councillor Swanson / Fry added the phrase we used in our submission "core housing need" to ensure that "social housing inventory" numbers accurately reflect the number of affordable social housing units.

Final Motion Amendments as per SAC Input ([Council Minutes – June 2, 2020](#))

THAT the following be added as D:

THAT Council direct staff to consult with B.C. Housing, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and non-profit organizations and stakeholders involved in the development, funding and operations of social housing in the City of Vancouver to consider definitions for different types of housing.

FURTHER THAT staff explore ways to work with the Provincial Government and Federal Government, including: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA).

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the phrase "in consideration for updating the definition of social housing" be added to the end of the second clause of D.

July 21, 2020: [Motion regarding CD-1 Rezoning: 1425 and 1451 East 12th Avenue](#)
(Brightside Housing)

([SAC Letter of Support](#))

SAC support for the following redevelopment proposals by Brightside

Outcome: Approved by Council ([July 23, 2020 Council Minutes](#))

October 4th, 2020 Circulated draft Motion: [Facilitating a Viable Framework for Co-operative Housing on City Lease Land](#) to Mayor and Councillors to seek their input.

Follow up will occur in early 2021 following City Staff report on Co-op Housing Lease Framework.

December 2, 2020 and December 10, 2020

SAC supports two Brightside projects and related amendment to Vancouver Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan ([#5, 6 and 7 Public Hearing December 2nd](#))

Outcome: Approved by Council ([Council Minutes of December 2nd and 10th, 2020](#))

The Housing Subcommittee monthly minutes and reports to SAC.

Housing Subcommittee Meeting Dates and Minutes

September 17, 2019 [Minutes](#)

October 15, 2019 [Minutes](#)

January 14, 2020 [Minutes](#)

March 10, 2020 [Minutes](#)

July 14, 2020 [Minutes](#) [Guest Presentations: Marika Albert – Update on BC Non-Profit Housing Association; Simon O’Neill – No Place Like Home \(False Creek South Neighbourhood Association Proposed Intergenerational Hub\)](#)

August 11, 2020 [Minutes](#)

September 15, 2020 [Minutes](#) [Guest Presentations: Thom Armstrong, Co-operative Housing Update; Sarah Ellis, Social Planner CoV - Creating and Renewing Non-Profit Social and Co-op Housing; Zak Bennett, Social Planner CoV - Oakridge Transit Centre \(OTC\) rezoning application](#)

1October 13, 2020 [Minutes](#)

November 10, 2020 [Minutes](#)

Transportation and Mobility Sub Committee – Dellie Lidyard, Chair

The Transportation Subcommittee of SAC has had a very challenging term. At the beginning of the Term we had five members but two of the members dropped out. The three remaining members, thankfully, were “old hands” from the previous terms and I am very grateful to their commitment.

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend PDAC Transportation Subcommittee meetings and piggyback with some of the work they did. However, when the pandemic and lockdown started it became very difficult to hold meetings. TAMS (SAC’s Transportation Subcommittee) were not able to hold online meetings but continued to communicate by email. I was lucky enough to be invited to participate in PDAC Transportation Subcommittee online meetings.

Some of the notable things we worked on were:

1. Returning Stanley Park traffic pattern to pre-Covid status and increasing the number of parking for disabled people.
2. Continue advocating for publicly-accessible toilets in skytrain stations as well as other public venues. We especially want to ensure that an accessible toilet be available at the Millenium Line station close to the Medical precinct on West 10th Ave.
3. Dual elevators in skytrain stations is another matter that we are advocating for.

On our own, TAMS continues to follow the progress of the work on the Granville Bridge. Dale has been keeping an eye on what happens on his side of the bridge and I do the same on my end of the bridge.

In the middle of the pandemic Translink decided to “balance” the number of bus stops. This meant increasing the distances between bus stops resulting in the elimination of some. Apparently this allows the buses to complete their route more quickly and it will also save them \$400,000. Unfortunately, this also meant a longer walk to the bus stop for some people. Bus 22, the Macdonald bus, was the first experiment and is now permanently changed. This happened during the pandemic within a few months. I tried with the help of the city to put forward the objections I received from some people in the

area without success. I am currently trying to get the City to put shelters and/or benches at the bus stops now that people have farther to walk.

The rerouting of some buses to West 12th also resulted in more difficulties for the people taking those buses. There are no benches or shelters along the alternate route. I have asked the City to look into finding space for benches, at the very least, for people who have health problems or disabilities that take these buses. I will continue to follow this up.

One of the TAMS members, Monica, had to resign from SAC. But I am pleased to announce that she has offered to continue to work with TAMS, keeping an eye on transportation issues in her neighbourhood. Monica has been following the progress of the Commercial/Broadway station improvement project. I am very grateful that she offered to continue keeping tabs on that.

Report on Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Seniors in Vancouver: Strategies for Reduction and Prevention was published in May, 2018

Informal research and enquiries at several community organizations revealed that many of these organizations have been helping seniors in many different ways and capacities. There is a need for someone at CoV, like a Social Planner for Seniors, who can provide the leadership and coordinate all these activities in order to maximize the benefits for all seniors in Vancouver.

A SILAS committee can then be created to offer advice and guidance to further improve the efforts to reduce and prevent SILAS Among Seniors in Vancouver.

Callie Wong