



SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 23, 2016

A meeting of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on Friday, September 23, 2016, at 9:37 am, in the Business Centre Meeting Room, Second Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Colleen McGuinness, Chair
Eva Beda
Tom Crean
Eddy Elmer
Beatrice Ho
Anthony Kupferschmidt
Gudrun Langolf
Dellie Lidyard
Dale Lutes
Jim McCully
Scott Ricker, Vice-Chair*
Brian Tucker
Eva Wadolna
Jackie Weiler

ABSENT: Bob Worcester (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Vancouver City Council
Trustee Fraser Ballantyne, Vancouver School Board
Ken Brown, Director, Streets, Staff Liaison
Christopher Kevlahan, Vancouver Public Library

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Eva Wadolna
SECONDED by Scott Ricker

THAT Bob Worcester be granted leave of absence for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Gudrun Langolf
SECONDED by Beatrice Ho

THAT the Minutes of the Seniors' Advisory Committee meeting of July 8, 2016, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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The Committee agreed to hear item 5 as the first item of business. For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.

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1. Barrier Free BC

The Committee requested that Councillor Ball raise the matter of Barrier Free BC with Council. The Meeting Coordinator agreed to send the relevant motion approved at the Seniors' Advisory Committee meeting on May 20, 2016, to Council Liaisons.

2. Social Isolation and Loneliness Amongst Seniors (SILAS)

Following discussion, the Committee agreed a motion on this matter was not necessary.

3. An Age-Friendly Arbutus Corridor

Mike Anderson, Engineering Services, provided an overview of the Arbutus Corridor project and responded to questions. He also noted there are public workshops taking place regarding corridor planning and members should register through <http://vancouver.ca/arbutus-greenway>. The committee members brought attention to the confusion surrounding the workshops (limited attendees) and the open houses and that this has created concerns about the openness of the consultation process.

MOVED by Eva Wadolna

SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard

WHEREAS

1. In 1995, Council approved the Vancouver Greenways Plan, which stated that the purpose of greenways is to “expand the opportunities for urban recreation and to enhance the experience of nature and city life;”
2. In 2000, Council approved the Arbutus Corridor Official Development Plan, designating the Corridor as a public thoroughfare for transportation and greenways, including pedestrian paths, heritage walks, nature trails, and cyclist paths;
3. In 2012, Council approved the Transportation 2040 Plan, which prioritizes the needs of pedestrians, including at-risk groups such as seniors;
4. In 2013, Council approved the Age-friendly Action Plan and the City’s plan to seek recognition from the World Health Organization as a “Global Age-friendly City;”
5. Key features of an age-friendly city are adequate, safe, and accessible green spaces and walkways;
6. The Arbutus Corridor is an excellent location for these vital amenities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee ask Council to direct staff to:

1. Ensure that the new Arbutus Corridor Development Plan is consistent with the goals of an age-friendly city.
2. Incorporate the Committee's recommendations on design, conflict reduction between users, and additional matters, set out below:

Design Recommendations

The following should be taken into consideration when planning the Arbutus Greenway.

- i. Priority access should be given to residents living along the greenway, including older adults and those with mobility issues.
- ii. The corridor should provide convenient access to public transit.
- iii. Existing parking adjacent to the corridor should be retained, and new parking should be added to allow older drivers or families to access the corridor.
- iv. Special attention should be paid to sections of the greenway that intersect with streets, which may increase the risk of collision between pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles.
- v. The entire greenway should be accessible to emergency vehicles.
- vi. Cycling and pedestrian routes should be clearly marked by painted lines or different surface textures.
- vii. The surface of shared-used paths should be safe and comfortable in all weather conditions and for all users, including those using assistive devices

- (e.g., canes, crutches, wheelchairs, scooters) as well as cyclists. This applies to both surface materials and surface grades which should not exceed 5%.
- viii. Rest areas should be provided, especially at the top of surface inclines where pedestrians may need to sit. They should be sheltered and equipped with comfortable seating, drinking fountains, washrooms, and garbage containers.
 - ix. Where appropriate, existing community gardens and vegetation should be retained, and new landscaping should be added to create a pleasing and enjoyable park-like environment.
 - x. Adequate lighting should be installed to improve visibility and safety in all weather conditions, especially for those who are visually impaired.
 - xi. Public art should be installed along the greenway and it should reflect the characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhoods and the CPR's historic connection with Vancouver.
 - xii. The greenway should connect with existing bikeways, such as those along West 10th and West 7th Avenues. Consideration should be given to installing bike rental stations, safe bike racks, and access to electrical charging stations for mobility assisted devices (e.g. electric bicycles, tricycles, motorised wheelchairs, and cars).

Suggestions to Reduce Potential Conflicts Between Users of the Greenway

- i. Signage in multiple formats should clearly communicate designated uses and the rules of conduct for different users.

- ii. Easily-visible way-finding signage (preferably illuminated at night) should be provided.
- iii. Shared-use paths should be of sufficient width to accommodate all users.
- iv. Where appropriate, paths for users travelling at different speeds (e.g., cyclists, pedestrians) should be separated.

Additional Considerations

- i. Regular maintenance should be provided, including garbage removal, leaf clean up, sanding/salting surfaces, and repairing street furniture.
 - ii. Environmental design features (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) should be used to deter criminal behaviours like vandalism, drug use, overnight camping, and physical assault.
 - iii. Presence of pets should be regulated (e.g., designate special areas for pets, require dogs to be on leash).
 - iv. Urban wildlife such as raccoons, skunks, coyotes, birds, and bees are a natural part of the corridor and should therefore be protected.
3. Include the Seniors' Advisory Committee and other relevant Advisory Committees in all stages of the planning process.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Scott Ricker absent for the vote)

4. Public Washrooms

MOVED by: Gudrun Langolf

SECONDED by: Dellie Lidyard

WHEREAS

1. Access to public toilets is a basic human need and is a critical feature of any age-friendly city;
2. Older adults and people with medical problems are especially likely to require access to public toilets; and
3. Such facilities allow older adults to feel comfortable going out to run errands, exercise, and socialize, thus encouraging healthy, active aging.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Seniors Advisory Committee ask Council to instruct staff to:

1. Establish appropriate design specifications and placements for public toilets, in consultation with the Seniors' Advisory Committee and other relevant Advisory Committees and community organizations.
2. Include public toilets in all current and future planning projects as well as include provisions for proper maintenance to ensure well-functioning, safe and accessible public toilets.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Fair Haven United Church Homes Society

Carol Mothersill, Fair Haven United Homes Society, presented on the proposed redevelopment of the "C" building at 49th Avenue and Vivian Street, and, along with Virginia Bird, also from Fair Haven United Homes Society, and Jaraad Mirani, Colliers International, responded to questions.

6. Committee Liaison Updates

a. *Council Liaison*

Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Council Liaison, provided an update on recent Council decisions, including the living wage policy, the empty homes tax, and the proposed Sunset Seniors Centre.

b. *School Board Liaison*

Trustee Fraser Ballantyne, Vancouver School Board, provided an update on potential school closures and consolidation, and noted the School Board is looking towards entertaining different ways of using the spaces so that students and staff can work in a safe environment.

c. *Park Board Liaison*

No report.

d. *Vancouver Public Library Liaison*

Christopher Kevlahan, Vancouver Public Library, provided an update on the flood at the Main Branch of the library, and noted that all seniors programs are going on, but they will be in different rooms. He also reviewed some events that will be taking place for Seniors' Day October 5 to 7, 2016.

e. *Staff Liaison*

Ken Brown, Acting Director, Streets, Engineering Services, noted the foliage has been cut back at 6th Avenue and Arbutus Street so that signs are more visible, and the timing of the signal at 4th Avenue and Vine street has been increased.

7. Subcommittee and Working Group Updates

a. Communication

b. Community Engagement

Beatrice Ho provided an update on the "Aging Well for Cities" conference and noted she would be participating in it. She agreed to circulate information.

c. Housing

No report

d. Social Isolation and Loneliness

The Vice-Chair noted he and other members of the Committee had received a proclamation for National Senior's Day from Vancouver City Council on September 21, 2016. In discussion, it was noted that the Proclamation is missing the community involvement aspect, and it may be worthwhile to seek out a new proclamation so that community organizations will be recognized when the proclamation is read publicly. Councillor Ball agreed to assist in reworking the wording of the proclamation.

Brian Tucker noted staff had circulated an email regarding Social Isolation and Loneliness Amongst Seniors (SILAS) update, which explained that the project scope is expanding, and discussions will take place the week of October 1, 2016, to talk about the scope.

e. Transportation and Mobility

Dellie Lidyard provided an update, noting current issues are pedestrian safety as a primary goal of every development project in the city, and the TransLink Fare Review.

Eva Wadolna reported on the Transportation 2040 Stakeholders meeting which took place on September 22, 2016. She noted that bike share had been addressed, with a request to accommodate ebikes and etrikes in the

next phase. Construction at Robson Square was also discussed and a request for safety for seniors moving through the area during construction was put forward.

Ken Brown, Staff Liaison, agreed to talk to the Robson Square project team regarding this matter and invite them to a meeting to present. He also agreed to ascertain whether there is an update on the West 10th Avenue Bike Lane.

Anthony Kupferschmidt noted the West End Seniors' Network (WESN) had recently approached him about access to medical buildings for appointments when taxis and HandyDart are not able to stop in front of them. In discussion, Councillor Ball noted that she had put forward a motion regarding loading zones in front of medical buildings and staff had been very supportive of it, and may just need a reminder.

8. New Business

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Scott Ricker
SECONDED by Eva Wadolna

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meetings:

Date	Meeting Type
October 21, 2016	Working Session
November 18, 2016	Regular Meeting
December 16, 2016	Working Session

The Committee adjourned at 11:45 am.

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