



SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 6, 2020

A meeting of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on Friday, November 06, 2020, at 10:02 am, via electronic means.

PRESENT:

Colleen McGuinness, Chair
Monica Camporese*
Donna Clarke*
Beatrice Ho
Dellie Lidyard
Dale Lutes
Romy Senghera
Kala Singh
Vernon Wang
Jacqueline Weiler
Marc White
Callie Wong

ABSENT:

Scott Ricker, Vice-Chair (Leave of Absence)
Eric Szeto

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Christine Boyle, Council Liaison
Councillor Jean Swanson, Council Liaison
Commissioner Tricia Barker, Park Board Liaison
Trustee Janet Fraser, School Board Liaison
Winston Chou, Manager, Traffic and Data Management,
Staff Liaison
Susan Mele, Acting Recreation Manager, West Region,
Park Board
Karen Liebel, Coordinator, Accessible Services, Vancouver
Public Library
Laura Mackenrot, Persons with Disabilities Advisory
Committee Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Kathy Bengston, Committee Clerk

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh Nations.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Beatrice Ho
SECONDED by Dale Lutes

THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Scott Ricker for today's meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Beatrice Ho
SECONDED by Dale Lutes

THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of September 4, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Monica Camporese absent for the vote)

MOVED by Vernon Wang
SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard

THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the special meeting of October 2, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Monica Camporese absent for the vote)

1. Approval of Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Dellie Lidyard
SECONDED by Kala Singh

THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee approve the 2021 meetings schedule below.

Month	Day	Time	Meeting Type	Location
January	22	10 am	Regular Meeting	WebEx Event Online
February	19	10 am	Working Session	Online
March	19	10 am	Regular Meeting	WebEx Event Online
April	16	10 am	Working Session	Online
May	21	10 am	Regular Meeting	WebEx Event Online
June	18	10 am	Working Session	Online
July	16	10 am	Regular Meeting	WebEx Event Online

August	20	10 am	Working Session	Online
September	17	10 am	Regular Meeting	WebEx Event Online
October	15	10 am	Working Session	Online
November	19	10 am	Regular Meeting	WebEx Event Online
December	17	10 am	Working Session	Online

All meetings take place on Fridays at 10:00 am. The Regular meetings will be clerked by the Committee Clerk for the public record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Monica Camporese absent for the vote)

2. Elevator Update

The Committee received and had an opportunity to respond to the update from Licensing and Community Standards staff regarding the lack of timely elevator repairs and replacements in the City of Vancouver. The Chair thanked staff for attending the meeting and providing information to the Committee.

3. Liaison Updates

Councillor Jean Swanson, Council Liaison, provided brief updates on the following:

- Letter received from TransLink regarding the Bus Stop Rebalancing Program;
- The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy - Council vote is scheduled for Tuesday, November, 17, 2020;
- The 2020 Budget is scheduled for December 1 and 8, 2020, which will be an opportunity for the public to speak;

Councillor Christine Boyle, Council Liaison, provided brief updates on the following:

- The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Council date will have staff address equity concerns regarding advisory bodies;
- The 2020 Budget challenges include how to keep essential services for seniors;

Commissioner Tricia Barker, Park Board Liaison, provided brief updates on the following:

- The Park Board received an updated bathroom plan;
- The 2020 Budget is upcoming;
- Motion entitled, "Vancouver's Transportation Hierarchy – Prioritizing Seniors and People with Disabilities", not approved.

Trustee Janet Fraser, School Board Liaison, provided updates on the following:

At the October board meeting the Vancouver School Board (VSB) passed motions in support of:

- Expediting the building of an elementary school in the Olympic Village;
- ſxʷwəqʷəθət Crosstown Elementary Parent Advisory Council (PAC) requests to the City about traffic safety;
- Improvement of school grounds as concerns have been raised by the Strathcona PAC.

The VSB continues to work on updating the Long Range Facilities Plan with an approval timeline of January 2021. The Board approved a full day of anti-racism training for all employees and trustees and is moving forward the review of the role of the Vancouver Police Department and Royal Canadian Mounted Police in schools with a focus on feedback from students, families, employee groups, local First Nations, Black and Indigenous community members/groups.

Winston Chou, Manager, Traffic and Data Management, Staff Liaison, provided updates, including a rationalization for the Bus Stop Rebalancing Program, and will follow-up with staff at the Rapid Transit Office regarding the Broadway Subway Extension.

Susan Mele, Acting Recreation Manager, West Region, Park Board, advised that all community centres are opened, and have been carefully opening in phases, and may extend hours in the future. All community centres are operating at capacity currently.

Karen Liebel, Coordinator, Accessible Services, Vancouver Public Library (VPL), provided updates on the following library activities:

- Four library locations are open on Sundays, looking to increase hours across the city. All locations are open except Oakridge;
- Online programming is available for children and adults, and can be found on the VPL website;
- November is financial literacy month;
- Upcoming online course, "Protect Yourself from Frauds and Scams" on November 24;
- VPL will be ordering limited copies of the book, "The Future of Aging".

The Chair requested a VPL event list for circulation to members via email.

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The Committee agreed to hear item 4(d), prior to item 4(a) of the Subcommittee Updates.

For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in chronological order.

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4. Subcommittee Updates

a) Persons with Disabilities

MOVED by Marc White

SECONDED by Jackie Weiler

WHEREAS

1. Many people with disabilities rely on plastic straws to safely consume beverages and nutrition;
2. Flexible plastic straws, individually wrapped in paper, meet the widest range of accessibility needs;
3. The Seniors' Advisory Committee and Persons with Disability Advisory Committee supported the plastic straw by-law ([By-law 12618](#)) enacted by Vancouver City Council, which came into effect on April 22, 2020;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee (SAC) support the City of Vancouver's submission to the Government of Canada's discussion paper on plastics, released October 7, 2020, titled, *A proposed integrated management approach to plastic products to prevent waste and pollution*. Specifically, SAC supports the parts of the City's submission that speak to the need to ensure that a federal regulation to ban plastic straws includes a requirement to provide flexible plastic straws, individually wrapped in paper, upon request to people with accessibility needs:

- a. Why flexible plastic straws individually wrapped in paper meet the widest accessibility needs, and what these needs are.
- b. Why other types of straws are not accessible, and can even pose the risk of injury or death.
- c. Types of disabilities and medical conditions that may require people to rely on flexible plastic straws, individually-wrapped in paper.
- d. How the federal government could reflect the needs of people with disabilities within a plastic straw ban, specifically through regulation, education and outreach, and communicating its commitment to protect accessibility when mentioning a ban on plastic straws.
- e. The sections of the City of Vancouver's by-law that protect accessibility.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Callie Wong abstained from the vote)

b) Engagement

Beatrice Ho informed the Committee that Digital Emergency Medicine UBC is launching an initiative for digital health literacy for seniors at home, and looking for volunteers. Beatrice will also be meeting with City staff on Tuesday, November 10, regarding accessibility issues with the City's website.

Jackie informed the Committee on the correct flu shot for seniors.

c) Housing

MOVED by Marc White

SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard

WHEREAS

1. Over 40% of members of housing co-operatives are seniors, the Seniors' Advisory Committee (SAC) is deeply concerned about the current state of negotiations with the Co-op Housing Sector.
2. Since the release of the City of Vancouver's Co-op Housing Discussion Paper on January 28, 2020, not one single housing co-op has signed a lease based on the proposed options.
3. The Co-operative Housing Federation of British Columbia (CHFBC) after reviewing Options 1 and 2 using real data from 18 housing co-ops has found that the financial model and its underlying assumptions to be so flawed that after extensive attempts to modify the model or assumptions under the model, they informed staff that they are no longer working with the City model and have been working on a different lease renewal framework in communication and collaboration with housing co-ops on city land leases.

The Committee understands that the CHFBC framework being proposed will:

- a. address City interests in receiving significant funding to support Vancouver Affordable Housing Endowment Fund (VAHEF) goals to expand affordable housing upfront through pre-paid lease options;
 - b. provide acceptable performance measures that ensures co-ops are providing sustainable affordable housing within broader and deeper income levels than the City has managed to provide in its own programs;
 - c. be congruent with the self-governing, democratic principles underpinning all co-operatives.
4. The Committee is also greatly concerned that at least two housing co-operatives who, under the proposed discussion paper, would have no other option except Option 3 for the reason that they are providing much needed deeper affordability for lower income households (many are seniors), than is allowed under the proposed financial model, as the proposed model does not allow a negative lease credit. In one of these co-ops the lack of security is dramatically increasing mental distress and has already resulted in 5% of their members to leave the housing

co-op. This will continue to increase stress and financial hardship on a co-op where its members paid market value for their land, and also paid full cost of their buildings. The Committee believes Option 3 is a devastating option for seniors who have voluntarily created and sustained some of the most affordable housing in the city.

THEFEFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee ask that Council guarantee "security of tenure" for short term co-ops by extending their current lease for a minimum of one year, without penalty or charge, as a gesture of goodwill to reduce mental distress. This will provide a greater opportunity both for both the Co-operative Housing Federation of British Columbia (CHFBC) and City staff to co-create an appropriate lease framework together based on the following viability measures; or, for CHFBC to be given the opportunity to append their proposal to the City staff lease proposal.
- B. THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct City staff to consider the following guidelines for viability testing:
- i. That staff work with CHFBC to test any new proposed lease framework with real co-op housing data which has been provided to CHFBC by housing co-ops for this purpose, and that the results of this review be shared with Council prior to Council making a decision on co-op leases;
 - ii. That the results of this modeling and testing be shared with financial institution(s) who concludes following their review, that the lease framework meets a level of acceptability and sustainability that the lender would consider making loans to housing co-ops to support pre-paid leases, and address remediation needs;
 - iii. That the lease framework preserves and sustains at a minimum the range and depth of affordability across current income bands currently being served; and
 - iv. That the lease framework is flexible recognizing that housing co-ops are based on different Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC) programs and therefore, have different operational needs (e.g. some co-ops are self-subsidy, some co-ops receive subsidy which is time-limited to 2028, some of the co-ops who currently receive subsidy are investigating self-subsidy options to address the potential loss of future subsidy).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Donna Clarke
SECONDED by Dale Lutes

THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee approve a letter be sent to the Council Liaisons to ask for a temporary, dedicated staff planner for seniors be assigned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Callie Wong
SECONDED by Kala Singh

WHEREAS

1. As stated in the City's Seniors' Advisory Committee 'Lack of Timely Elevator Repair/Replacement in Vancouver report, seniors and persons with disabilities in Vancouver have experienced lengthy delays due to malfunctioning elevator repair or replacement in their buildings. This poses an immediate danger to their health and safety.
2. Despite existing City bylaws, many residents have not been able to access timely recourse in such circumstances.
3. Accessibility is a human right issue for all vulnerable seniors and persons with disabilities.
4. Proactive measures that would maintain accessibility, in the event of elevator repair or replacement, would ensure residents can maintain their health, safety and quality of life through disruptions in elevator operations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee request that their Council Liaisons, Jean Swanson and Christine Boyle, ask Council to support a staff review of the Vancouver Building By-law and Standards of Maintenance. The express purpose of this review would be to ensure that housing operators; including but not limited to landlords, owners, strata councils, and co-ops, have realistic plans in place and the necessary tools to provide assistance to residents. Additionally, alternative means of access to all floors, including the basement of the building, must be provided in the cases of malfunctioning elevators and/or lengthy repairs or replacement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d) Transportation and Mobility

Dellie Lidyard provided an update on the Granville Island Castings parking lot and the Granville Bridge Connector and the Drake St. Improvements.

5. New Business

The Chair informed the Committee of the January 8, 2021 deadline of the Report of Activities 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Jackie Weiler
SECONDED by Beatrice Ho

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Donna Clarke absent for the vote)

Next Regular Meeting:

DATE: Friday, January 22, 2021
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: WebEx Online

Next Working Session:

DATE: December 4, 2020
TIME: 10:00 am
PLACE: Online

The Committee adjourned at 12:50 pm.

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