



**SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 19, 2021**

A meeting of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on Friday, November 19, 2021, at 10:01 am, via electronic means.

**PRESENT:**

Linda Johnston (Co-Chair)  
Marc White (Co-Chair)  
Stuart Alcock  
Sana Aziz  
Conrad Guelke  
Varouj Gumuchian  
Jenny Konkin  
Anthony Kupferschmidt\*  
Dale Lutes  
Andrea Sara  
Tricia Sirrs  
Jacqueline Weiler  
Margaret Young

**ABSENT:**

Susan Scott Gabe (Co-Vice Chair) (Leave of  
Absence)  
Donna Clarke (Co-Vice Chair) (Leave of Absence)

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Councillor Christine Boyle, Council Liaison  
Councillor Jean Swanson, Council Liaison  
Winston Chou, Manager, Traffic and Data  
Management, (Staff Liaison)  
Ian Broadbent, Supervisor, Recreation Services, Park  
Board

**CITY CLERK'S  
OFFICE:**

Ana Denissenko, Committee Clerk

\*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting

**WELCOME**

Co-Chair Linda Johnston called the meeting to order and acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

## 1. Matters Adopted on Consent

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VARY AGENDA

*Members agreed to hold the following items for separate discussion: Motions for SAC Internal Business; Motions for Council. Members agreed to consider these as new agenda items, following Councillors' Updates.*

\* \* \* \* \*

MOVED by Linda Johnston  
SECONDED by Dale Lutes

THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee approve the Consent Agenda for November 19, 2021, meeting as circulated, including Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2021, Leave of Absence Requests, City Staff Liaison Reports, and Committee Reports.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Anthony Kupferschmidt absent for the vote)

## 2. Discussion arising from reports

None.

## 3. Councillors' Updates

Councillor Boyle provided updates on the following items and subsequently responded to questions and comments:

- Housing work
- Accessibility strategy
- Climate emergency action plan
- Next steps for False Creek South Plan

Councillor Boyle also acknowledged the work of Lillian Howard, Co-Chair of the Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee, who recently passed away.

Councillor Swanson reiterated the importance of work in housing accessibility and informed the Committee about a motion on tax increase that Council passed.

#### **4. Motions for Council**

##### *Motion 1: Updating the Language in the Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Seniors' Advisory Committee*

MOVED by Stuart Alcock  
SECONDED by Jacqueline Weiler

WHEREAS:

The City of Vancouver through many of its initiatives has been “working hard to ensure our activities support fairness, equality, and access for all”;

AND

As part of this work on July 21, 2021 the City of Vancouver officially launched the Equity Framework with the important aim “to approach every aspect of our operations with a sharper and more nuanced equity lens”;

AND

The City of Vancouver recognizes the importance of language as part of the tools to enhance social equity and address inequalities;

AND

The World Health Organization in 2021 has released the WHO Global Report on Ageism that outlines a framework for action to reduce ageism including specific recommendations for different agencies including government, civil society organizations, private sector;

AND

Currently the Mandate of the Seniors' Advisory Committee on the City of Vancouver website states “the mandate of the Seniors' Advisory Committee is to advise Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for seniors, the elderly and their families to fully participate in City services and civic life”;

AND

The Terms of Reference published on the City of Vancouver states:

- “Advises Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for seniors’ to fully participate in City services and civic life”; and
- “Monitors City programs to ensure that the needs of the elderly and their families are considered”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee recommends:

- a) To change the wording of the Seniors' Advisory Council Mandate by deleting "seniors" and replacing with "older persons," which is more consistent with language used by the United Nations and the World Health Organization; and to replace the word "the elderly" with "elders" which is more consistent with language used by First Nations.

Therefore the revised mandate would read:

"The mandate of the Seniors' Advisory Committee is to advise Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for older persons, elders, and their families to fully participate in City services and civic life."

And the revised Terms of Reference would read:

- "Advises Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for older persons and elders to fully participate in City services and civic life"; and
  - "Monitors City programs to ensure that the needs and interests of older persons, elders and their families are considered";
- b) To direct City Staff responsible for the development of the Equity Framework to review the WHO Global Report on Ageism and to meet with the Seniors' Advisory Committee to consider opportunities to enhance the Equity Framework to embrace principles and strategies to further reduce ageism in the City of Vancouver operations and activities.

Related Material:

WHO Global Report on Ageism: <https://www.who.int/teams/social-determinants-of-health/demographic-change-and-healthy-ageing/combating-ageism/global-report-on-ageism>

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Anthony Kupferschmidt absent for the vote)

Council Liaison to action: Councillor Boyle

*Motion to advance municipal planning efforts for an age-friendly City of Vancouver*

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that Motions 2 and 3 should be amalgamated into the following motion:

MOVED by Linda Johnston  
SECONDED by Marc White

WHEREAS

According to the 2016 Canadian census, there are more than 95,570 persons aged 65 and older living in Vancouver, accounting for approximately 15.1% of the

city's total population.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, the population of adults over the age of 65 in the province of British Columbia is expected to rise approximately 63% by the year 2041.

AND

Older persons living on their own are at increased risk of experiencing homelessness. A large proportion of older persons in Vancouver are living on their own. Currently, 21% of all households in Vancouver are senior-led and it is estimated that over the course of the next decade, 23-25% of households in the city will be led by persons over the age of 65. According to data from the 2016 census, approximately 16.6% of all senior-led renter households were spending 50% or more of their income on their housing costs, placing them at increased risk of economic eviction. The majority of these individuals are single women.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, the social housing waitlist for older adults has increased by 54% between 2014 to 2019 and individuals over the age of 65 represent 37% of the region's waitlist.<sup>3</sup>

AND

Older persons can face unique barriers to civic participation such as health limitations, mobility challenges, cognitive decline, etc. In fact, 52,700 individuals 65 and older (55%) in Vancouver reported that they have specific health and activity limitations, including 20,660 older persons who reported permanent challenges and 24,045 older adults who sometimes experience challenges. These barriers put older persons at increased risk of experiencing social isolation, loneliness, and economic vulnerability.<sup>4</sup>

AND

Recent health and climate emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the heat dome emergency, have disproportionately impacted older persons. The BC Seniors Advocate indicated that residents of long-term care and assisted living homes were 33 times more likely to die from COVID.<sup>5</sup> Whereas with the recent heat wave, Vancouver Fire Fighters reported waiting 11 hours for a BC Ambulance for an elderly person, and Vancouver Police reported 65 sudden deaths over a 4 day period. These crises have highlighted the seriousness and urgency of addressing existing gaps in policies, systems, housing, community services and programs to prevent further devastating impacts on many people living in the city, but in particular, on older persons.

AND

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<sup>1</sup> Stats Canada Census Data 2016 City of Vancouver

<sup>2</sup> 2020 BC Seniors' Poverty Report Card <https://www.sparc.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BC-Seniors-Poverty-Report-Card.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> 2019 Metro Vancouver Housing Data [http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/PlanningPublications/MV\\_Housing\\_Data\\_Book.pdf](http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/PlanningPublications/MV_Housing_Data_Book.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> SPARC BC Community Data Program

<sup>5</sup> 2021 Review of COVID-19 Outbreaks in Care Homes in British Columbia

<https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/app/uploads/sites/4/2021/10/Outbreak-Review-Report.pdf>

The World Health Organization has declared 2021-2030 as the Decade of Healthy Ageing and has incorporated additional metrics under the Healthy Cities strategy toward improving quality of life specifically for older persons (mitigation of poverty, food security, expand opportunities for civic engagement, opportunities for lifelong learning, age and gender equality, job opportunities, internet access and digital support, housing, etc.).

AND

The City of Vancouver has a long history of working toward age-friendly improvements in municipal planning. In 2013, the City of Vancouver initiated the Age-friendly Action Plan (2013-2015) and identified a series of over 60 actions that the City can take to help make Vancouver a more safe, inclusive, and engaging city for seniors. In the following year, Vancouver joined the World Health Organization (WHO) Healthy Cities initiative 2014 to 2025. Under this initiative, the City of Vancouver completed two reports: Phase 1 A Healthy City for All: Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy (2014) and Phase 2 Healthy City Strategy – Four Year Action Plan (2015-2018). AND To extend work on the Age Friendly Action Plan, the City of Vancouver Planning department held a workshop entitled: Age-Friendly Action Research Lab Co-initiating Workshop at Creekside Community Centre on September 24, 2018 engaging members of the Older Persons and Elders community. This work then led to the two additional workshops on March 8 and April 15, 2019 engaging more members of the Seniors community. The Older Persons and Elders community was very excited by their engagement in 2018 and 2019 workshops which was to lead to the creation of Strategy for Older Persons and Elders. SAC appreciates that COVID interrupted this important work and look forward to working with Council and Staff in restarting this important initiative.

AND

Municipalities such as Richmond, Surrey, Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal have adopted dedicated planning capacity within municipal resources to support the needs of older persons. Their efforts have resulted in comprehensive planning and formal partnerships and MOUs across different levels of government, multi-agencies, and community organizations specifically focused on supporting Healthy Ageing.

AND

Gaps and challenges remain in municipal planning for older persons and elders in the City of Vancouver. On September 28, 2021, City Council convened 2050: An Expert Discussion on Planning and Growth where each consultant noted that the Vancouver Plan was devoid of any strategies to address the impacts of the demographic shift in population. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to expand housing options in all neighbourhoods and community programs and services to best meet the evolving needs of our aging population.

AND

The City of Vancouver, without having a dedicated planner for Older Persons and Elders, has not kept up with a growing body of evidence of best practices in social policy development to address the needs and interests of seniors. As a result, the City of Vancouver has been unable support the actions necessary to ensure that our growing population of older persons and Elders can engage and participate fully in civic and community life.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

(A) THAT City Council instruct the appropriate staff manager to recommend a plan of action to:

1. Redirect selected staff to complete the creation of Phase 3 – Age-Friendly City in consultation with the Seniors' Advisory Committee and community partners as the next step toward the development of a Strategy for Older Persons and Elders.
2. Review the recent Reports by the World Health Organization and the United Nations to embrace the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) inform and refresh the City of Vancouver's Healthy Cities strategy.
3. Update the Equity Framework and the Vancouver Plan to better address the lack of adequate planning for Older Persons and Elders.
4. Develop a Memorandum of Understanding and Planning Committee with the Provincial Health Services Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, BC Ministry of Housing and Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation to participate in a planning process with community partners to better address the needs and interests of older persons and elders.
5. Report back to the City Council at the next meeting with a proposed road map for the accomplishment of these objectives.

(B) THAT the City of Vancouver reassign resources to provide a dedicated full-time planning position to focus on older persons and elders across city departments and liaise with external agencies, and that the Older Persons and Elders' Planner have the following responsibilities to City Council:

- Provide expertise to City Council on issues related to population aging
- Complete the co-development and implementation of the City of Vancouver's strategic plans, policies, and protocols to better reflect the needs and interests of older persons and elders in collaboration and coordination of partners.
- Identify, collect data, and analyze challenges experienced by the City of Vancouver's aging population to provide evidence-informed recommendations for improvements to City Council
- Develop reports and deliver presentations on aging issues for older persons in Vancouver
- Represent the City of Vancouver at community tables, partner meetings, and stakeholder events related to healthy aging, equity, emergency preparedness,



- climate change, transportation, food security, housing, homelessness and other city-related programs and services that impact older persons and elders.
- Act as a resource and staff liaison to guide the work of the City of Vancouver's Seniors' Advisory Committee
  - Provide training and education on issues related to aging to all municipal employees and elected representatives
  - Consult and work with community partners in the design and delivery of senior services to benefit from the experience, skills, knowledge, and resources our growing community of older persons and elders have to offer and would be delighted to contribute.
  - Strengthen relationships with provincial governments and agencies, federal government (CMHC, New Horizons, Employment and Social Development Canada) and other Seniors' Planners in Metro Vancouver (currently Richmond and Surrey) in collaboration with the non-profit sector to secure municipal investment in housing for older persons and elders, infrastructure, programs and services.
  - In collaboration with community partners keep abreast of national and international initiatives that have expanded housing options for seniors (e.g. Co-housing, Lifetime Neighbourhoods, Resident-driven senior homes, Apartments for Life, Homeshare, Dementia Villages, Compassionate Communities, Home Modification)<sup>6</sup>

#### CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### Part A: Background Material and Related Resources:

[Age-Friendly Action Plan 2013 – 2015](#)  
[A Healthy City for All: Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy 2014-2025 \(Phase I\)](#)  
[Healthy City Strategy – Four Year Action Plan 2015-2018 \(Phase II\)](#)  
[Age-Friendly Action Research Lab – Co-Initiating Workshop 2018](#)  
[Age-Friendly Non-Strategy Solution Lab – Co-Sensing Workshop 2019](#)  
[WHO UN Decade of Healthy Ageing](#)  
[Global Report on Ageism](#)

#### Part B: Background Material and Related Resource References / Related Material

1. Stats Canada Census Data 2016 City of Vancouver
2. 2020 BC Statistics [P.E.O.P.L.E. 2020 Population Projections Highlights \(PDF\)](#)
3. 2020 BC Seniors' Poverty Report Card <https://www.sparc.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BC-Seniors-Poverty-Report-Card.pdf>
4. 2019 Metro Vancouver Housing Data [http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/PlanningPublications/MV\\_Housing\\_Data\\_Book.pdf](http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/PlanningPublications/MV_Housing_Data_Book.pdf)
5. SPARC BC Community Data Program

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<sup>6</sup> Employment and Social Development Canada Report on housing needs of seniors  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/seniors/forum/report-seniors-housing-needs.html#h2.3>



6. 2021 Review of COVID-19 Outbreaks in Care Homes in British Columbia  
<https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/app/uploads/sites/4/2021/10/Outbreak-Review-Report.pdf>

7. Employment and Social Development Canada Report on housing needs of seniors  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/seniors/forum/report-seniors-housing-needs.html#h2.3>

8. City of Richmond 55+ Seniors Planning and Strategy Development  
<https://www.richmond.ca/services/communitysocialdev/seniors/seniorsplanning.htm>

Following discussion with Council Liaisons, the Committee decided that a notice of motion would be given at the December 7, 2021 Council meeting, and the motion would be presented at the January 25, 2022 meeting.

*Motion 4: To support the Transportation Advisory Committee's November 10, 2021 Motion for Council to request that the Provincial Government change the Governance Structure of Translink*

The Committee discussed support of a motion passed by the [Transportation Advisory Committee on November 10, 2021](#), which reads:

“THAT the Transportation Advisory Committee requests that Mayor and Council request that the Provincial government reconfigure the Board of Translink to allow for a majority of the Board to be composed of elected officials, and that these positions be allocated proportionally to the populations of member cities.”

MOVED by Linda Johnston  
SECONDED by Marc White

WHEREAS:

The City of Vancouver had elected Councillors appointed to the Translink Board until 2008. As a result of the previous provincial government restructuring currently there are two Metro Vancouver mayors (Township of Langley, New Westminster) and nine unelected members on the Translink board;

AND

Access to affordable high quality public transportation is a critical infrastructure for Older Persons, Elders, and persons with disabilities;

AND

Access is needed to attend health care appointments, to participate in community programs and services, to maintain friendships and to enjoy the many benefits the City of Vancouver offer;

AND

The City of Vancouver represents the municipal population with the highest transit use in the region; with 50% of transit riders, which included many seniors prior to COVID;

AND

The provision of greatly improved public transit is part of one of the COV's major Big Moves to address the climate crisis;

AND

Representation from the City of Vancouver and other cities within Metro Vancouver on the Translink Board would open the door for more local initiatives to increase accessibility and affordability of transit for our communities, which would make it easier to meet our climate goals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee requests that Mayor and Council request that the Provincial government reconfigure the Board of Translink to allow for a majority of the Board to be composed of elected officials, and that these positions be allocated proportionally to the populations of member cities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Liaison to action: Councillor Swanson

## **5. Motions for SAC Internal Business**

MOVED by Linda Johnston  
SECONDED by Marc White

THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee approve the SAC Terms of Reference for Subcommittees and Work Groups, and the SAC Communications Protocol, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Documents referenced in the above motion are appended below.)

## **6. Motion to Approve the Seniors' Advisory Committee 2021-2022 Work Plan**

MOVED by Linda Johnston  
SECONDED by Marc White

THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee approve in principle the 2021-2022 Work Plan, subject to minor amendment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **7. New Business**

Co-Chair Marc White reminded Committee members about an upcoming joint advisory committee meeting on the 2022 Vancouver municipal election, to be held November 24, 2021.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Linda Johnston  
SECONDED by Marc White

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Next Meeting:**

DATE: Friday, January 21, 2022  
TIME: 10 am  
PLACE: TBD

The Committee adjourned at 12:07 pm.

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## **SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SUBCOMMITTEES AND WORK GROUPS**

#### **Purpose of Seniors' Advisory Subcommittees and Work Groups**

To provide timely, community-informed, and evidence-based advice to SAC to prepare recommendations to advise Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for seniors, the elders and their families to fully participate in City services and civic life.

#### **Scope**

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

Out-of-scope: Direct healthcare service delivery for seniors that does not involve co-ordination of city-related programs and services.

#### **Authority**

Subcommittees and Work Groups are established by Seniors Advisory Committee with the primary role to make recommendations of potential achievable motions to Council to improve the quality of life for seniors.

#### **Term of Office**

The Chair(s) of Subcommittees and Leads of Workgroups are selected and approved by SAC with the Term of Office for all SAC Members. The Chair or Lead of each Subcommittee or Workgroup must be an SAC Member.

#### **Conflict of Interest and Standards of Behaviour**

All Committee members and guests/advisors are required to state any conflict of interest or potential perceived conflict of interest, to be recorded in the minutes. Committee members with a conflict of interest at the Subcommittee level may participate in discussion but will abstain from voting on a specific recommendation. (Note at SAC regular meetings individuals with conflict of interest are not able to participate in discussions and must be absent for voting.) Participants are subject to the same requirements of SAC in regards to privacy, confidentiality, conflict of interest, and respectful standards of behaviour.

#### **Membership**

Members: Any interested Seniors' Advisory Committee members

Guests/Advisors: The Chairperson(s) or Lead(s) may invite community stakeholders to participate in discussions related to the Subcommittee or Work Group activities.

#### **Meetings**

Frequency: Monthly or as needed, determined by Subcommittee or Working group

Quorum: There must be a minimum of two SAC members attending a Subcommittee or Work Group. In case of no quorum, an informal meeting can take place and report their deliberations at the next Subcommittee or Work Group meeting.

The Chairperson(s) or Lead(s) will notify committee members of the location of each meeting, prepare and circulate the agenda in consultation with leads of workgroups, and ensure action-based minute taking at each meeting.

### **Task Groups and Adhoc Committees**

Subcommittees or Work Groups may establish additional task groups or *ad hoc* Subcommittees to address specific topics or areas of concerns, and to bring back recommendations or information for discussion within their Subcommittee or Work Group. The establishment of task groups or *ad hoc* Subcommittees must be reported in Subcommittee minutes.

### **Cross-Advisory Committee Communication**

The SAC Chairs are responsible for facilitating and overseeing communication channels across Advisory Committees. Subcommittees and Work Groups may wish to recommend the engagement of other advisory committees in the creation of joint recommendations/ motions to Councillors.

### **Reporting**

Chairperson(s) will report to the Seniors Advisory Committee. Minutes and relevant documents will be circulated to SAC members prior to the SAC meeting.

### **Repository of Documents**

An important need for all Committees is a cloud repository. There are ongoing to discussions with the City Clerk's Office to store all Advisory Committee documents on a secure Cloud site on Canadian Servers.

### **Remuneration**

Subcommittee members shall serve without remuneration.

Relevant City documents regarding Privacy, Confidentiality, Respectful Behaviour, and Conflict of Interest that all Advisory Committees including Subcommittees and Work Groups must abide by:

- Advisory Body guidelines (PDF):  
<https://vancouver.ca/docs/council/Guidelines%20for%20Advisory%20Bodies%20February%202020.pdf>
- Code of Conduct (PDF):  
[https://vancouver.ca/docs/council/12886\\_Code\\_of\\_Conduct\\_Bylaw.pdf](https://vancouver.ca/docs/council/12886_Code_of_Conduct_Bylaw.pdf)
- Process, Conduct and Privacy (video – slides attached):  
<https://youtu.be/SfDyTWpceHg>
- Equity and Indigenous Reconciliation (video – slides attached):  
[https://youtu.be/5IZ\\_HUpquDM](https://youtu.be/5IZ_HUpquDM)

## **SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL**

This protocol is to be read in conjunction with the City of Vancouver [Guidelines for Advisory Bodies](#), especially those sections dealing with communications and media relations.

1. Advisory Committee members must not speak on behalf of the City of Vancouver under any circumstances.
2. The Advisory Committee may not use the City of Vancouver logo on press releases and other documents without prior review and approval by Civic Engagement and Communications (CEC) staff via our City Clerk's Office representative.
3. Correspondence and/or communication with Cross-Advisory Committees must be first vetted by SAC Chairs in order to maintain a consistent point of contact and to keep them informed.
4. Advisory Committee members must not represent the Advisory Committee without prior permission of a majority of the Advisory Committee members or, in urgent circumstances, by the Advisory Committee's appointed executive group.
5. Recognizing that there may be informal contact with Council members, City of Vancouver staff, news reporters, and others, Advisory Committee members will be careful to ensure that their remarks are understood as personal opinions and observations.
6. However, members are encouraged to promote Advisory Committee objectives and key initiatives on an informal basis within their social networks to further our purposes. To this end, the Government Liaison and Communication Task Group will endeavour to provide "talking points" or an "elevator pitch" to Committee members for those issues we are aware of and will assist in developing them as required for Council members.
7. Please report such conversations to an Executive member and follow up if needed. It would also be helpful to have your assessment if material provided to you in this regard was useful.