



VANCOUVER CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 21, 2024

A meeting of the Vancouver City Planning Commission was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 4:03 PM, via electronic means.

PRESENT: Gabrielle Peters, Chair
Noel Allison
Sara Emami
Trisha Halpenny
Ruby Langan
Arno Matis*
Nicole Simpson
Khat Vesal
Richard Wittstock

ABSENT: Alasdair Butcher (Leave of Absence)
Wendy LeBreton (Leave of Absence)
Juan Solorzano (Leave of Absence)
Amina Yasin, Co-Chair (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Tory Montgomery, Staff, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, City of Vancouver

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Adeola Alle, Coordinator, Planning Committees

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-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 Commissioner Allison
SECONDED by Commissioner Langan

THAT the Vancouver City Planning Commission approve leaves of absence for Commissioners Butcher, LeBreton, Solorzano, and Yasin for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Commissioner Vesal
SECONDED by Commissioner Matis

THAT the Vancouver City Planning Commission approve the Minutes from the meeting of Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Liaison Reports

None.

2. Home Based Business Regulations

Staff from Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability presented to the Commission and responded to questions and comments.

3. Commissioner Updates

a. Updates from Subcommittees

None.

b. Updates from Commissioners

Commissioner Vesal provided updates.

c. Updates from Urban Design Panel

The Chair provided updates.

4. Appointment of Committee Members and Representatives

MOVED by Commissioner Langan
SECONDED by Commissioner Simpson

THAT Gabrielle Peters be appointed as VCPC representative to the Urban Design Panel until the next VCPC meeting, scheduled March 27, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Commissioner Matis absent for the vote.)

MOVED by Commissioner Langan
SECONDED by Commissioner Emami

THAT Noel Allison be appointed to the Planning and Milestones Subcommittee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Commissioner Matis absent for the vote.)

MOVED by Commissioner Allison
SECONDED by Commissioner Wittstock

THAT Ruby Langan, Nicole Simpson, and Gabrielle Peters be appointed to the JEDDI Subcommittee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Commissioner Matis absent for the vote.)

MOVED by Commissioner Emami
SECONDED by Commissioner Simpson

THAT Khat Vesal, Trisha Halpenny, and Ruby Langan be appointed to the Social and Indigenous Planning Subcommittee

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Commissioner Matis absent for the vote.)

5. Motion: Stanley Park Train Accessibility

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At this point, Co-Chair Peters relinquished the Chair to Commissioner Langan to move a motion.

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MOVED by Commissioner Peters
SECONDED by Commissioner Wittstock

WHEREAS

1. On November 6, 2023, the City of Vancouver announced the return of the Stanley Park Train; soon after, [local media reported](#) that the train would not include a wheelchair-accessible car, thereby excluding participation from children, youth, and adults with disabilities;
2. In previous years, the Stanley Park Train has been fully accessible;
3. In accordance with the [Accessible British Columbia Act](#), Vancouver City Council adopted an [Accessibility Strategy](#) on July 19, 2022, which “outlines [the City’s] commitment to supporting the full participation of persons with disabilities by establishing and maintaining inclusive services, programs and infrastructure, and by identifying, removing and preventing barriers;

4. The [BC Human Rights Code](#) states: 8(1) A person must not, without a bona fide and reasonable justification, (a) deny to a person or class of persons any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public, or (b) discriminate against a person or class of persons regarding any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public because of the Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age of that person or class of persons;
5. The [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#), which Canada has ratified, states: “States Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children (Article 7),” and “States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities [...] (c.) Enjoy access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services, and, as far as possible, enjoy access to monuments and sites of national cultural importance (Article 30).”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Vancouver City Planning Commission express its concern with the erosion of existing accessibility at a time when the City of Vancouver has made a commitment to expand access for people with disabilities of all ages;
- B. THAT the Vancouver City Planning Commission affirm that inaccessibility should be understood as a reflection of structural and systemic ableism, and that removing existing accessibility should be understood as a violation of the human rights of people with disabilities;
- C. THAT the Vancouver City Planning Commission recommend that Mayor and Council commit to maintaining or improving the previous level of accessibility as a result of any maintenance, construction, renovation, update, or other improvement or alteration of Vancouver’s built environment, space, programs, events, attractions, services, or communications;
- D. THAT the Vancouver City Planning Commission recommend that Mayor and Council amend the Accessibility Strategy to include a ban on any loss of existing accessibility in any of the City’s programs, services, communications, events, environments, or spaces, and further develop a policy requiring that any organization receiving funding, partnering, or endorsement from the City of Vancouver agree to the same ban;
- E. THAT the Vancouver City Planning Commission recommend that individuals unable to participate in the 2023 Stanley Park Train due to accessibility be compensated via free tickets for the 2024 Train, or some other means.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Commissioner Matis absent for the vote.)

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At this point, Commissioner Langan relinquished the Chair to Commissioner Peters for the remainder of the meeting.

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ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Allison
SECONDED by Commissioner Simpson

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Commissioner Matis absent for the vote.)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Wednesday, March 27, 2024
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 5:15 PM

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