



OLDER PERSONS AND ELDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

July 24, 2026

A meeting of the Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee was held on Friday, July 24, 2026, at 10:03 am, in the Joe Wai Room, Ground Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

PRESENT: Glenys Acland
Jaimie Ashton
Sana Aziz
Richard Earthy
Diane Gibney
Varouj Gumuchian, Chair*
Gloria Gutman
Young Joe
Beverley Pitman, Vice-Chair
Marion Pollack
Andrea Sara

ABSENT: Warren Chan (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Lucy Maloney, Council Liaison
Tim McMillan, Vancouver Public Library Liaison
Marta Filipski, Assistant Director of Social Policy and Projects; Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Connie Law, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Vice-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 Richard Earthy
SECONDED by Marion Pollack

THAT the Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee approve leave of absence for Warren Chan for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Marion Pollack

SECONDED by Diane Gibney

THAT the Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meeting of Friday, May 22, 2026, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Motion – Fast-tracking the Replacement of the City of Vancouver’s Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons

MOVED by Jaimie Ashton

SECONDED by Young Joe

THAT the Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee confirm the following recommendation contained in the letter to Mayor and Council dated July 10, 2026, entitled “Fast-tracking the Replacement of the City of Vancouver’s Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons,” attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

THAT the Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct City staff to fast track the process of hiring to fill the key position of Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons, which has been vacant since mid-April 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Marion Pollack abstained from the vote)

2. Senior’s Planner Resourcing

Staff from Arts, Culture and Community Services provided updates and along with the Council Liaison responded to questions and comments. Subsequently, it was

MOVED by Gloria Gutman

SECONDED by Beverley Pitman

THAT the position of Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons and the associated funding allocation be re-established.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Andrea Sara
SECONDED by Beverley Pitman

THAT the following be added at the end:

FURTHER THAT funding for the position of Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Person be included in the City of Vancouver's 2027 Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Varouj Gumuchian absent from the vote)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY with Varouj Gumuchian absent from the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

THAT the Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee recommend to Council that the position of Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons and the associated funding allocation be re-established;

FURTHER THAT funding for the position of Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Person be included in the City of Vancouver's 2027 Budget.

3. Liaison Updates

The Council Liaison, the Vancouver Public Library Liaison, and the Staff Liaison provided updates and responded to questions and comments.

4. Working Session Updates

The Vice Chair provided an overview on the working session held Friday, June 19, 2026.

5. Subcommittee Updates

The Transportation, Accessibility and Mobility Subcommittee Lead and the Housing Subcommittee Lead provided updates.

6. New Business

The Vice Chair provided an update on the Translink Seniors Focus Team. The Committee also discussed the Committee's status following the next Council election.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Richard Earthy
SECONDED by Gloria Gutman

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Friday, September 25, 2026
TIME: 10:00 am
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room, 2nd Floor,
City Hall / Teams Meeting

The Committee adjourned at 12:00 pm.

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VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-11

The Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee is a volunteer civic agency appointed by Vancouver City Council to help communicate community perspectives to Council and staff while advising on City priorities, projects, and initiatives. The following represents the views of the Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee. The Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee is not expressing views on behalf of the City of Vancouver.

July 10, 2026

Dear Mayor and Council:

RE: Council Recommendation: Fast-tracking the Replacement of the City of Vancouver's Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons

The following draft recommendation motion was approved by a majority of the Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee via email, following procedure for time-sensitive matters when a special meeting cannot be called. The motion will be brought to the Committee's July 24, 2026 regular meeting for retroactive approval.

WHEREAS

1. People 65 years of age and older make up 17% of Vancouver's population, and this age group is growing five times faster than those under 65 years of age;
2. Vancouver City Council's [Strategic Priorities](#) 2023-2026 include ensuring Vancouver is a seniors-friendly, accessible City. To this end, Council has since adopted a Seniors' Housing Strategy (2024) and an Older Persons Strategic Framework (2025). Council also voted to support the City of Vancouver's membership in the Global Age-Friendly City Framework (2026);
3. In 2023, Council responded to the City of Vancouver's Seniors' Advisory Committee's call for dedicated expertise on older persons and elders when it passed a motion to hire a Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons. City staff filled the position and the new Strategic Lead started work in January 2024. Since then, the City policies identified above were developed, approved, priority actions were identified and implementation had begun. In addition, many other City- and community-directed activities of an age-friendly nature were carried out.

In mid-April 2026, the Older Persons and Elders Committee (OPEAC) was advised that the position had been vacated and would not be filled for the

knowable future. OPEAC learned that instead, existing City staff would step in to fill some of the Strategic Lead's responsibilities.

OPEAC believes that the failure to immediately fill the Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons position puts at risk the significant progress made, on many fronts, to address and implement improvements to the lives of older adults and elders in the City of Vancouver;

4. Reasons for haste in filling this Strategic Lead position include the risk of losing the significant progress made on many fronts to improve the lives of older adults and elders in Vancouver. The Older Persons Strategic Framework has only been adopted recently; the implementation of its key actions needs to proceed, particularly given that Council's next meeting is not until November.

The Strategic Lead is intended to bring a focused 'intersectional aging lens' and coordination to both cross-municipal and community-facing activities on behalf of this equity-deserving segment of the City's population. Neither of these crucial aspects of the role can be performed well by City staff who are dedicated less than full-time.

In late June this year, City residents recognized the 5th anniversary of the 2021 heat dome, an unprecedented extreme weather event that disproportionately impacted older adults in this City. The increasing frequency of wildfires and wildfire smoke is just one crisis that serves to highlight the seriousness and urgency of addressing existing gaps in policies, programs and community-based services from the perspectives of Vancouver's older adult population. While the Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons cannot lead the emergency response, this role plays a crucial role in building networks of support so necessary for community-dwelling seniors in the City. The same applies to other areas of life for older City residents;

5. The Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee have asked their Council Liaisons, Councillors Klassen and Maloney to bring this motion forward, stressing the urgency of replacing this key position quickly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct City staff to fast track the process of hiring to fill the key position of Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons, which has been vacant since mid-April 2026.

Sincerely,

Varouj Gumuchian
Chair, Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee