A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, July 6, 2012, at 5:10 pm, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Jill Weiss, Chair
Justine Aaron
Tasia Alexis
Jeanette Andersen*
Cathy Browne
Paul Caune, Vice-Chair
Craig Langston
Greg Pyc

ABSENT: Sheryl Burns (Leave of Absence)
Matthew Porter (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Melissa De Genova, Vancouver Park Board
Commissioner Trevor Loke, Vancouver Park Board
Anne Nickerson, Equal Employment Opportunity Office

CITY CLERK’S OFFICE: Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

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VARY AGENDA

The Committee agreed to vary the agenda to deal with an item of new business regarding the meeting schedule immediately after adopting the minutes of the May 24, 2012, meeting. For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.

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Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Jeanette Andersen
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Sheryl Burns and Matthew Porter for the July, 26, 2012, meeting.

CARRIED
(Jill Weiss opposed)

Adoption of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of May 24, 2012, were adopted.

1. Independent Community Living vs. Institutional Living: Innovative Ideas for Pearson Centre and the Cambie Corridor

Christine Gordon, BC Coalition of Persons with Disabilities, and Ken Fraser, Executive Director, Vancouver Resource Society, provided an overview of current independent living options, noting the urgent need for more accessible housing and suggested the Cambie Corridor is an excellent opportunity to start creating affordable community living for people with disabilities. They explained the mechanisms of developing this kind of housing and what is required in order to meet client needs.

In discussion the Committee agreed to strike a Task Team to work on the issue of the Cambie Corridor, with the goal of providing information and suggesting to Vancouver City Council to direct staff to work with developers to ensure accessible and wheelchair modified units that the provide the necessary support for persons with disabilities are included in any new developments in the Cambie Corridor.

Appendix A (attached) contains details about the presentation and discussion.

2. Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts Study

Karis Hiebert and Kirsten Robinson, both from Central Area Planning, and Jerry Dobrovolny, Director of Transportation, Engineering Services,
provided background information on the origins of the viaducts study, the process so far, traffic impacts and early solutions, and responded to questions. The Committee agreed to discuss the project and provide a response.

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The Committee agreed to deal with New Business prior to item 3. For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.

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3. TaxiSaver Wrap Up and Future Issues

The Chair provided a summary of recent activities related to TransLink’s TaxiSaver program, reviewed what had occurred since TransLink reversed its decision to cancel TaxiSavers, and expressed concerns about future issues.

The Committee thanked the Chair for her work on the recent TaxiSaver issue.

In discussion it was noted that there needs to be more public consultation and that it is problematic that the TransLink User Advisory Committee meetings are closed meetings.

4. Other Business

a. Meeting times

MOVED by Paul Caune
SECONDED by Craig Langston

THAT the following decision made at the April 26, 2012, Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee meeting be rescinded:

The Committee approved the following schedule of meeting dates. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings occur at 5:30 pm
May 24*
June 28
July 26*
September 27*
October 25*
November 22*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Paul Caune
SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

A. THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee will have a regular meeting or working session on the fourth Thursday evening of every month from 2012 to October 2014, with the exceptions of August and December of each year, with meetings normally scheduled to start at 5:30 pm. The following dates are the regular meetings for the remainder of 2012:

September 27
October 25
November 22

FURTHER THAT the start time of meetings may be changed to 5:00 pm or 5:15 pm, at the discretion of the Chair or by a majority of members, as determined by e-mail or at an in person meeting, should the need arise for a longer meeting.

B. THAT additional meetings or working sessions at other times than noted in A, above, may be scheduled if a majority of committee members decide to do so by e-mail or at an in person meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Park Board Motion on Financial and Physical Accessibility

At its meeting on July 23, 2012, the Vancouver Park Board approved a motion requesting staff consult with the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee to develop a strategy to reduce financial and physical barriers
to accessibility to community centres, recreational facilities and programs.

In discussion, it was noted that financial and physical barriers to accessibility are a good place to start, but there are other barriers which also impede access to recreation for people with disabilities.

MOVED by Greg Pyc
SECONDED by Craig Langston

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee strike a task team to coordinate work with Park Board Staff on developing Financial, Physical and support accessibility for people with disabilities to Park Board Community Centres, facilities and Programs, with the following members initially on the task team to coordinate setup and recruitment:

Cathy Browne
Greg Pyc
Jill Weiss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Jeanette Andersen absent for the vote)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, September 27, 2012
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Committee Room 1
Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 8:27 pm

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Community Living vs Institutional Living

- Community living
  - Everyone can live in the community with appropriate supports.
  - Same level of physical assistance can be provided in the community as in an institution: people who are on ventilators or who need 24 hour care can, and do, live in the community. We already have enough history to demonstrate community living works well with people with high level assistance needs: there are currently 107 people on ventilators living in the community; 22 people on ventilators living in Pearson. Community living can provide needed assistance at the same cost of institutions.
  - Quality of life: people can live the life they want in the community. They have choices and rights that are the same as other citizens.
    - Choice is the most important issue.
    - People need to be self-determining – to choose how to live their own lives.
    - Freedom in housing choice that others take for granted.

- Institutional living
  - Physical needs are met.
  - Personal life needs are not met.

- Pearson is still here even though Woodlands, Tranquille and other institutions have closed in BC.

- Comparative costs: community living ½ cost Pearson; ¼ cost acute care.
  - Costs depend on what level of care given – if you warehouse people with a 1:10 staff ratio, that's cheaper, but it's not a life.

- Biggest issue for people with disabilities is the lack of housing in the community.
Supply of Accessible Housing very Limited

- Insufficient supply of accessible housing for people with disabilities to live in the community
- The stock of wheelchair modified housing hasn’t increased in 20-30 years, but the number of persons who need accessible housing has increased substantially. (Number of people with disabilities is increasing, and number of people over 65 is increasing rapidly).
- There is literally no accessible housing stock in the private market. Almost all wheelchair modified units are in housing co-ops, BC Housing, or other public housing developments – this stock hasn’t increased significantly in the last 20-30 years. Much of the existing accessible housing stock is not properly accessible; often the location is not accessible – on a steep hill, no curb cuts, not close to transit or amenities.
- There are about 300 people in institutions waiting for housing in the community. Many people are in care facilities because there is no where else to go. Until people have a home to go to - an address - they can’t move out of the institution.
- Supply of accessible housing is so limited that people never move after they do get an accessible unit, because there is nowhere to move to.
- A PDAC committee member noted that it took her 5 years to get out of Pearson because it took that long to organize housing in the community.
- Important that health authority is involved when new housing is created – this ensures funds for care attendants.

Accessible Housing:

- Accessible unit; accessible building/elevator
- Support assistance
- Affordable
- Accessible location/environment: close to amenities, transit, shops; no steep hills; curb cuts
Cambie Corridor Unique Opportunity for Accessible Housing

- Can we act quickly enough for the Cambie corridor?
- To provide 24-hour care in the community, economy of scale is needed. At least 6-8 units need to be clustered together to organize care/assistance cost-effectively. The Cambie Corridor and other large developments offer a unique opportunity to develop small blocks of affordable accessible housing units within other developments. It’s a small percentage of the total number of units in a large development, but a large enough number to allow the cost-efficient provision of comprehensive support services.
- Provides opportunity for economy of scale for care attendants in an integrated housing situation in the community.
- To Council
  - So many people waiting in institutions
  - So many people in the community, but stuck
    o If a person does find a place to live, they have to stay there because nothing else is available in the community.
- Freedom in housing choice that others take for granted.

City of Vancouver can increase accessible housing without cost to the city

- Policy is crucial.
  - Planning department sees building projects first
- Require building accessible affordable housing in the Cambie corridor
- City can facilitate – waive fees, community amenities, density bonuses, DCC
  - City often offers stuff to developers if they put in community amenities – park etc
  - Each time a development is made with 50+ units, require 6 wheelchair adapted suites
  - If 6 units in each building, the change would be dynamite.
  - People with disabilities would have the housing they need to live in the community
- For people to live in the community like everyone else, we need to develop the housing first.
- Vital that the housing be owned by non-profits
  - This creates long-term affordable accessible housing stock – it doesn’t get sold or flipped.
  - Non-profits ensure the housing is used by the appropriate client group
  - Non-profits ensure proper supports in place and can support the client
  - Many persons living in institutions need this support to transition to independent community living
**Vancouver Resource Society**

- Started by people who lived in Pearson and wanted to live in the community. Housing options in the community did not exist at that time, so they started VRS to develop independent community housing options.
- VRS purchases apartments & buildings, adapts them appropriately and provides affordable accessible housing with supports (24 hour care). VRS also provides a 9am to 9pm day program.
  - VRS has 257 units in 31 properties. VRS pays cost of construction – 150-200 square feet. VRS makes rents affordable with BC rent supplements.
  - VRS has formula that shows developers what to do
- Create affordable housing stock by getting housing stock in the hands of non-profits – that way it doesn’t get flipped
- Individualized care funding is the key – then clients can choose which provider best meets their needs & can combine their funding with others in innovative ways if they prefer. CISL is restrictive: not a lot of options
- Need two things
  - Good stream of affordable housing
  - Client driven care
- “Sometimes I forget I am differently able, and that’s the best feeling in the world”: quote from person living in VRS housing.

**BC Coalition of People with Disabilities**

- BCCPD has been working at Pearson since 1997. BCCPD is the only group with a continuing presence at Pearson
- Biggest problem is housing and the fact that care facilities are used as a substitute for affordable supportive housing. This affects:
  - 125 people in Pearson
  - 200 other people in care facilities
- Everyone can live in the community - freedom in housing choice that others take for granted
- Many people in care facilities because there is no where else to go
- When people originally moved out of institutions, there was one model – group homes
  - 30 years later, there are more options
  - hybrid approaches such as clustered independent units
    ° 24 hour care – overnight & help people need in the day
- Pearson is still here even though Woodlands, Tranquille etc have closed – no political will. If Pearson is re-built, it’s going in the opposite direction.
- Treasury Board hasn’t made funds for the re-development of Pearson available to City of Vancouver yet
- Vancouver Coastal Health has done pre-planning