



SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UNOFFICIAL NOTES (DRAFT)

April 17, 2015

A working session of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on April 17, 2015, at 9:30am, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT:

Eva Beda
Thomas Crean
Eddy Elmer (Recorder)
Beatrice Ho
Dellie Lidyard
Lisa Low
Jim McCully
Colleen McGuinness (Interim Chair)
Chris Morrissey (Past Chair)
Scott Ricker (Interim Vice-Chair)
Brian Tucker
Eva Wadolna
Jacqueline Weiler

ABSENT:

Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Vancouver City Council
Stephanie Kripps, Vancouver Public Library Liaison
Gudrun Langolf
Angie Natingor (Leave of Absence)
Taryn Scollard, Staff Liaison
Councillor Tim Stevenson, Vancouver City Council
Bob Worcester (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT:

Lon LaClaire, Engineering Services
Park Board Commissioner Erin Shum

GUESTS:

Margit Boronkay, Suzuki Elders
Ruby Boychuk, Gordon Neighbourhood House
Sailen Black, Planning & Development Services
Wesley Chan and Caleb Yong, Jakin Engineering (for Hon
Towers Ltd.)
Anca Hurst, Rositch Hemphill Architects
Wendy LeBreton, Development Services
Brad McCannell, SAFERhome Standards Society
James O'Neill, Social Policy & Projects
Larry Shapiro

1. Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Brian Tucker, SECONDED by Thomas Crean

THAT leaves of absence be approved for Angie Natingor and Bob Worcester.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Beatrice Ho, SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard

THAT the minutes of the March 20, 2015 regular meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Proposed Seniors' Housing at 5668 Balaclava Street and W. 41st Avenue

Sailen Black, Development Planner for the City of Vancouver, provided an overview of the proposal for a four-storey, 77-unit market condominium for seniors (for background: <http://former.vancouver.ca/devapps/5650balaclava/index.htm>).

A CD-1 rezoning application for the site was approved by Council on December 1, 2009, with very specific requirements about how the design should accommodate the needs of seniors.

The current proposal included two elevator cores and double corridors, and an amenity room for community-based services for seniors, located on the lowest level accessible from Balaclava Street. Pedestrian access to the residential units would be from the driveway on the north side of the complex. Underground parking spaces would be built (including spaces for persons with disabilities), all accessible from West 41st Avenue. Secured indoor parking for scooters would be available at grade, near the amenity room. Space would be provided for 100+ bicycles.

At its April 8th meeting, the Urban Design Panel (UDP) unanimously rejected this current proposal, citing the following concerns:

- (a) There is a flight of stairs in the hallways that could impede wheelchair access to other parts of the building in the event of an elevator outage;
- (b) The main pedestrian entrance is one level up, and separated from, the amenity room, thus impeding opportunities for social interaction.

The applicant has asked the Seniors' Advisory Committee and other interested parties to provide additional comments on the suitability of the building for older adults.

Brad McCannel of the SAFERhome Standards Society indicated that the project appears to be on the right track to meet the 19 safer home standards, but wished that the

applicant had consulted the Society beforehand in order to solicit feedback on how best to meet the safer home standards.

A variety of questions were posed about the accommodation of persons with disabilities and the safety of the access to and from the parking directly onto 41st Ave opposite Crofton School. Lon LaClaire, Engineering Services, said he would inquire about the rationale for allowing an exit off an arterial street, given that this is not City policy.

Staff indicated that Social Policy is working with the applicant to determine how to meet the requirement for a virtual village modeled on Beacon Hill and how non-profit agencies can provide senior-specific services and recreational activities to residents and the broader neighbourhood.

The representative for the developer indicated that although this project is designed to appeal to older adults in terms of accessibility and senior-friendly amenities, it is not social or supportive housing; it is a market strata condominium with units available to purchasers of all ages.

It was indicated that this project could set a precedent for re-zoning applications, if approvals are granted on the basis that applicants are providing "seniors' housing" even when such housing is not, in fact, suitable for seniors.

4. Funding for Conferences and Other SAC Activities

Scott Ricker indicated that registration for the Investing in Our Transportation Evolution conference (2015 ITE QUAD) is \$250-300. He will investigate possible funding sources to cover registration costs for members interested in attending.

It was recommended that SAC create a list of the most important conferences that should have SAC members in attendance; this would focus the Committee's activities as well as limit the number of requests made to the City Clerk to cover registration costs.

The suggestion was made that the Committee look at creative ways to help cover conference fees. The issue could also be raised at the upcoming Council of Councils meeting on April 27.

5. Team-Building Exercise

Brian Tucker facilitated a group exercise in which members discussed characteristics of effective teams. The Committee agreed on the following characteristics, which will form the guidelines for its conduct over the next two years:

- a) the team agrees on a common goal
- b) the workload is shared and everyone participates
- c) tasks are assigned to members based on their specific skills
- d) there is a balance between "thinkers" and "doers"
- e) there is good leadership which is tailored to different situations

- f) members work closely and rely on one another
- g) members respect and trust one another
- h) members communicate effectively (e.g., they listen actively, not passively)
- i) members' motives are transparent (i.e., no hidden agendas)
- j) members are inclusive
- k) members share credit for work
- l) members make decisions based on consensus
- m) members try to have fun

5. Committee Liaison Reports

a) *Park Board*

Park Board Commissioner Erin Shum provided an update on the construction of the new seniors' centre in Killarney. By month-end, the Park Board will have a short-list of three architectural proposals. Beatrice Ho commented that this project is long overdue and desperately needed to prevent social isolation among older adults. She did not know why it is not proceeding faster. Colleen McGuinness remarked that while this project has slowly moved forward, the City has adopted a LEED Gold standard for new civic buildings. Although this standard is welcome, it now means that construction costs for the centre have increased, thus possibly reducing the size of the usable space. Commissioner Shum will follow-up on these concerns.

Commissioner Shum indicated that she has not heard back from the Chair of the Park Board regarding inadequate parking at Brock House. Ms. Lidyard suggested that Commissioner Shum ask Councillor Melissa De Genova if she had received any update on the matter during her last weeks as the previous SAC's Park Board Liaison.

Commissioner Shum indicated that she will follow-up on the suggestion that speed bumps be installed on the bike path in front of Brock House in order to prevent cyclist-pedestrian collisions. She will also inquire about shrubs impeding visibility at the entrance of Brock House.

b) *Engineering Services*

Speaking on behalf of Taryn Scollard, Lon LaClaire provided the following updates:

- i. There will be more meetings of the transportation stakeholder group for the Transportation 2040 Plan
- ii. Phase 2 of the Point Grey-Cornwall corridor has included many new pedestrian-friendly features
- iii. There will be opportunities to provide input on the Point Grey Road bikeway
- iv. Safety improvements are being made to the Burrard Bridge, including the north end at Pacific Street, site of the second-highest number of accidents in the city
- v. Dangerous, uneven roadways are being restored in Gastown

Scott Ricker commented about safety concerns on West Cordova Street, north of Burrard, where cars exit the underground parking garage. He indicated that drivers often pull into the right-hand lane and do not look for traffic because the exit and the lane merge. They also make U-turns east on Cordova without checking for cars. Mr.

LaClaire indicated that this area has been identified as a safety concern and that changes are being made to the delineation of traffic lanes.

Dellie Lidyard asked why all accessible bus stops are not yet designated. She indicated that this poses a problem for drivers dropping off pedestrians. Mr. LaClaire responded that this is currently in the transportation work plan. Some stops are accessible but have not yet been formally reviewed; others require minor modifications. Staff will act on the former as quickly as possible.

Ms. Lidyard asked for an update on the possibility of building another cross-walk at Point Grey Road and Highbury Street, near Brock House. Mr. LaClaire said he would follow-up with Ms. Scollard.

Chris Morrissey raised the issue of construction vehicles occupying public parking spots for extended periods (e.g., 4200 block of Willow Street, where there is a hospital, park, and homes). She relayed Ms. Scollard's reminder that citizens can report these issues to the City and request that the vehicles be moved to other locations.

b) Vancouver Public Library

Colleen McGuinness spoke on behalf of the Committee's library liaison, Stephanie Kripps. Ms. Kripps inquired whether the Committee would like to proceed with another National Seniors' Day event on October 1 at the Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch, albeit on a smaller scale. The Committee agreed.

Ms. Kripps also indicated that the library's Inspiration Lab will be open to the public on May 5 (<http://www.vancitybuzz.com/2015/05/vpl-unveils-new-inspiration-lab-digital-media-production/>).

7. Subcommittee Reports

a) Outreach Subcommittee

The Subcommittee agreed that meetings be chaired on a rotating basis. It also recommended that the communications and outreach activities be separated, and that the former be assigned to Eddy Elmer, who would become the Committee's Chair of Communications. There were no objections from the Committee.

Beatrice Ho volunteered to organize an outreach meeting in East Vancouver. Eva Wadolna reminded the Subcommittee about the Seniors' Multicultural Festival at the Southeast Granville Seniors' Centre, April 23, 11am-3:30pm.

Brian Tucker discussed his idea for a project to learn more about best practices for preventing/alleviating social isolation in older adults.

The Committee agreed to send a copy of the letter in Appendix A to the Deputy Mayor.

b) *Housing Subcommittee*

Ms. McGuiness attended the public hearing on March 24 to urge Council to defer approval of the proposed change to the definition of “social housing” pending opportunity for consultation with other civic agencies. At a continuation of the hearing on March 26, Council approved a new, but amended, definition. Ms. McGuiness asked members to review the new definition and consider its implications for older adults. See:

<http://former.vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20150324/documents/phea20150324min.pdf>

c) *Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee*

Chair Dellie Lidyard indicated that she has insufficient members for her Subcommittee. Scott Ricker indicated that he would join. Eddy Elmer indicated that he would provide input on issues pertaining to street safety and lighting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Brian Tucker, SECONDED by Thomas Crean
THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Working Session Meeting:

DATE: Friday, May 15, 2015
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 12:00 pm

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Appendix A

City of Vancouver Seniors' Advisory Committee

April 17, 2015

Deputy Mayor Andrea Reimer
City of Vancouver
453 West 125h Ave.
Vancouver, B. C.
V5Y 1V4

Dear Deputy Mayor,

The members of the Seniors' Advisory Committee to Council are honored by our appointment and vow to do as good a job as we are able.

Several "newbies" were discussing how they might be as helpful as possible to Council. Recognizing that 'help' is defined by the helpee not the helper, we would like to ask Council how you see us being of most assistance to you.

We would hope that you would see our Committee as representing the interests of Vancouver seniors in providing input to City plans and programs and in interpreting City plans and policies to seniors. Perhaps that role can be seen as helping Council and City staff to facilitate change that is needed and which is aligned with Council's vision, values and policies. We would like you to clarify and affirm that role of the advisory committee in Council's change process please. This applies to all other advisory committees not just to the Seniors' Advisory Committee.

To this end, we wonder if we might spend some time at the Council of Councils meeting learning how advisory committees have helped Council bring about change in the past. What are the critical elements in the civic change process we need to bear in mind as we go about our work? How can we be most effective from your point of view?

We appreciate this may be a request that is too late for inclusion in the plans for the April 27th event; however, we do feel it is very important for us to understand your expectations about the change process (and not simply staff's needs in terms of procedures). If changes to the agenda are not possible now, perhaps we could work together with Council and staff for a Council of Councils meeting in the fall, focusing on the change process.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen McGuinness,
Chair, Seniors' Advisory Committee