



**SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
UNOFFICIAL NOTES (DRAFT)**

August 19, 2016

A working session of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on August 19, 2016, at 9:30am, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT:

Eva Beda
Thomas Crean*
Eddy Elmer (Recorder)
Beatrice Ho
Anthony Kupferschmidt*
Gudrun Langolf
Dale Lutes
Jim McCully
Colleen McGuinness (Chair)
Scott Ricker (Vice-Chair)
Eva Wadolna
Jacqueline Weiler
Bob Worcester

ALSO PRESENT:

Tasia Alexis, Persons with Disabilities Committee
Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Vancouver City Council
Laura Mackenrot, Persons with Disabilities Committee
Jenniffer Sheel, Manager, Street Activities
Margaret Wittgens, Director, Public Space & Street Use

ABSENT:

Trustee Fraser Ballantyne, Vancouver School Board
Christopher Kevlahan, Vancouver Public Library
Dellie Lidyard (Leave of Absence)
Chris Morrissey, Immediate Past Chair
Taryn Scollard, Engineering Services
Park Board Commissioner Erin Shum
Councillor Tim Stevenson, Vancouver City Council
Brian Tucker (Leave of Absence)

GUESTS:

Amie Peacock, Community Developer

* Denotes an absence for a portion of the meeting

Note: some items were taken out of order.

1. Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Eva Wadolna, SECONDED by Eva Beda

THAT leaves of absence be approved for Dellie Lidyard and Brian Tucker.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Beatrice Ho, SECONDED by Jackie Weiler

THAT the minutes of the July 8, 2016 regular meeting be approved.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Proposed British Columbians with Disabilities Act

The Committee approved the Chair's draft letter supporting Barrier-Free BC's proposed legislation (see [April 15, 2016](#) minutes for more information).

ACTION: Letter to be sent to the City Clerk for distribution to Council and City staff.

4. Jim Deva Plaza

Members discussed their impressions of the new plaza. Opinions were mixed. While some members were pleased with the overall design, others found it underwhelming, citing lack of greenery, seating, and comfortable lighting. Members were pleased with some accessibility features (e.g., the ramp leading to the plaza and seating that easily accommodates wheelchair users), but were unhappy with others (e.g., lack of an accessible bathroom). Some members were also disappointed that the plaza was not extended north of Davie Street.

Jennifer Sheel, Manager of Street Activities, and Margaret Wittgens, Director of Public Space & Street Use, indicated that an accessible public bathroom will be installed on the plaza in late fall. They also indicated that even though the plaza will not be extended north of Davie Street, design elements from the plaza will gradually be introduced to that area.

5. Public Bathrooms

Members discussed the urgent need for more public bathrooms throughout the city, including all locations where there are public services.

ACTION: Gudrun Langolf will work with the Transportation & Mobility Subcommittee to draft a motion asking Council and staff to create a formal policy on this issue. The draft motion will be sent to Councillor Ball for review.

6. Other Street Use Issues

Members told Ms. Sheel and Ms. Wittgens about the need for the more covered bus shelters, benches, garbage bins, and universal electric charging stations throughout the city. They also indicated the need to reduce clutter on sidewalks (e.g., bike racks, tables, sandwich boards), which can impede access for persons with disabilities. Ms. Sheel and Ms. Wittgens indicated that the City is looking to create expanded sidewalks in high-traffic areas.

7. Committee Liaison Reports

No reports.

8. Subcommittee and Task Force Reports

a) *Communications*

No report.

b) *Community Engagement Subcommittee*

Subcommittee members discussed their attendance at the opening of the Jim Deva Plaza. In recognition of National Seniors' Day on October 1st, Scott Ricker reported that the West End Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre in conjunction with the SFU Seniors Society and the West End Seniors Network and SAC will host a free public party at the plaza. Isobel Mackenzie, the BC Seniors Advocate, will be in attendance, as will representatives from SFU Gerontology, the West-End Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre, and the West End Seniors' Network. Free hamburgers and entertainment will be provided.

Beatrice Ho also discussed the Subcommittee's attendance at the latest West End Planning Table meeting, which focused on the future leadership of the Mole Hill Community Housing Society.

c) *Housing Subcommittee*

Scott Ricker indicated that a representative from the office of the Chief Building Official will attend future Subcommittee meetings. He also stated that Taryn Scollard is still trying to arrange for a meeting between the Committee and the Chief Housing Officer, Muktar Lathif.

d) *Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee*

Eva Wadolna discussed her draft recommendations for the design of the Arbutus Corridor Greenway.

ACTION: Ms. Wadolna will finalize her draft and forward to Eddy Elmer for editing. She will also draft a motion calling on Council to review and accept the recommendations and to work closely with the SAC and other advisory committees during all phases of this project. Both documents will be voted on at the next Committee meeting.

Colleen McGuinness indicated that a staff member will attend in September to discuss members' recommendations about the West 10th Avenue Corridor (Medical Precinct) re-design.

ACTION: A copy of the Committee's [motion](#) regarding this matter will be sent to Councillor Ball, who did not receive a copy earlier.

e) *Social Isolation & Loneliness Task Force*

The Committee formally recognized Brian Tucker for his hard work on the Social Isolation and Loneliness in Seniors (SILAS) project. The purpose of the project is to learn best practices for programs aimed at reducing social isolation and loneliness among older adults in Vancouver. It will comprise a series of consultations with local senior-serving agencies and older adults who have benefited from social isolation and loneliness programs. Results of the consultations will be summarized in a report to Council. The project will start September 25 and last 3 months.

Thanks to Councillor Ball's intervention, Social Policy has allocated \$12,000 for the project and will work with the Committee to apply for additional funding from Vancouver Coastal Health. Part of these funds will be used to hire a consultant to direct the project.

ACTION: At the next regular meeting, members will vote on Mr. Tucker's motion to formally launch the program.

Following discussion of logistical details, members heard from Amie Peacock, director of "Beyond the Conversation," a program designed to improve social integration of older immigrants with language barriers.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Eddy Elmer, SECONDED by Eva Wadolna
THAT this meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Regular Meeting:

DATE: Friday, September 23, 2016
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 12:30 pm

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