



**SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
UNOFFICIAL NOTES**

December 18, 2015

A working session of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on December 18, 2015, at 9:30am, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT:

Eva Beda
Thomas Crean
Eddy Elmer (Recorder)
Beatrice Ho
Gudrun Langolf
Dellie Lidyard
Jim McCully
Colleen McGuinness (Chair)
Angie Natingor
Scott Ricker (Vice-Chair)
Brian Tucker
Eva Wadolna
Bob Worcester

ABSENT:

Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Vancouver City Council
Stephanie Kripps, Vancouver Public Library
Lisa Low
Chris Morrissey (Immediate Past Chair)
Park Board Commissioner Erin Shum
Councillor Tim Stevenson, Vancouver City Council
Jacqueline Weiler (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT:

Taryn Scollard, Engineering Services

GUESTS:

Belinda Boyd, Vancouver Coastal Health
Heather Cowie, Graduate Student, SFU Gerontology
Clemencia Gomez, Former SAC Member
Dr. Atiya Mahmood, Associate Professor, SFU Gerontology
Heather McCain, Citizens for Accessible Neighbourhoods

1. Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Dellie Lidyard, SECONDED by Beatrice Ho
THAT a leave of absence be approved for Jacqueline Weiler.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Gudrun Langolf, SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard
THAT the minutes of the November 20, 2015 regular meeting be approved.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Recruitment of Volunteers for Vancouver Coastal Health's Community Engagement Advisory Network

Belinda Boyd, Director of Community Engagement for Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCH) provided an overview of the Authority's Community Engagement Advisory Network. The Network comprises volunteers from the community, including older adults, who would like to have a voice in healthcare policy development (e.g., patient outcomes; advance care planning). The Network does not have a set meeting schedule, but opportunities for involvement in specific issues/projects are communicated to members through a weekly newsletter. There is no specific time commitment; volunteers can be as involved as they wish. Eddy Elmer indicated that he would advertise the Network on the Committee's social media sites. Members discussed the possibility of forming a healthcare subcommittee.

4. Changes to East Side 49th Avenue Bus Route

Heather McCain, executive director of Citizens for Accessible Neighbourhoods (CAN), indicated that TransLink plans to cut part of this route to increase reduce time and save money. According to Ms. McCain, the cut would negatively impact older adults, persons with disabilities, and families with children, particularly since the Champlain Heights Community Centre and the only grocery store in this area is located along the portion of this route to be cut.

Ms. McCain indicated that TransLink's process for collecting feedback about this change was inadequate, given that it relied primarily on an online survey. She insisted that more feedback be sought from older adults and families about the impact of this change.

She also suggested alternate ways to reduce transit times along this route, but TransLink does not appear to have been receptive to the neighbourhood suggestions. She asked if the Committee would draft a motion calling on Council to ask TransLink not to make the proposed cut. The Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee will draft this motion, underscoring that TransLink may have approached this change from an able-bodied perspective.

Gudrun Langolf suggested that when TransLink plans future route changes, it should provide paper questionnaires on the busses that are directly affected.

ACTION: TAM Subcommittee to draft a letter to Council for consideration at the January meeting. The letter is to include the suggestion that TransLink make paper surveys available to riders of the route when a route change is proposed.

5. Request for Letter of Support for Community Engagement Research Project

Dr. Atiya Mahmood, Associate Professor of Gerontology at Simon Fraser University, and her graduate student, Heather Cowie, provided an overview of a research project they are planning: "Neighbourhood Social and Built Environment and Health Literacy: A Community Engagement Strategy to Enhance Mobility and Well-being in Older Adults."

This participatory action project, which will be conducted in co-operation with the South Granville and Kitsilano Neighbourhood Houses, has three main goals:

- a. To give older adults, in the areas served by the neighbourhood houses, an opportunity to identify environmental barriers in their neighbourhoods that impede mobility and social engagement (e.g., by doing neighbourhood audits using cameras or other recording equipment)
- b. To identify and measure the biographical and environmental aspects of health literacy in later life to understand the role that neighbourhoods play in the health and wellbeing of older adults
- c. To examine characteristics of social engagement opportunities that draw older adults into the community, as well as how they may overcome common age-related barriers to social participation

Dr. Mahmood and Ms. Cowie asked if the Committee would write a letter of support for the project that could be used to help secure funding from CIHR. Members agreed to write a letter, noting that data gleaned from this project could be very useful for the Committee's own work on housing and mobility and could provide excellent opportunities for intergenerational contact (e.g., young people from the neighbourhood houses could help older adults use technology, and older adults could show younger people the environmental barriers they face).

ACTION: Eddy Elmer and Thomas Crean to work with Dr. Mahmood to draft the letter, underscoring the ways in which the project is relevant to the Committee's mandate.

Members also asked Dr. Mahmood if she would be willing to work with the Housing Subcommittee to create a checklist for staff regarding the essential elements of seniors' housing. She and her student agreed to help.

ACTION: Eddy Elmer will follow up and help coordinate Dr. Mahmood's attendance at a future Housing Subcommittee meeting.

6. Committee Liaison Reports

a) Vancouver City Council

No report.

b) Park Board

No report.

c) Staff Liaison

Taryn Scollard provided the following updates:

- i. Engineering Services has drafted the preliminary Outdoor Lighting Strategy report. It is being circulated to other departments for review and will be presented to Council in the spring. The Committee will have an opportunity to comment on the report to ensure that its lighting concerns have been adequately addressed.
- ii. The west portion of the South False Creek Seawall renovation will proceed in 2016.
- iii. The City has a new general manager of Community Services, Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, who replaces Brenda Proskin. Among her various duties, she will oversee liquor licensing, taxis, and housing.
- iv. Ms. Scollard has a new administrative assistant, Kurt Stavrou.

d) *Vancouver Public Library*

No report.

7. Subcommittee and Task Force Reports

a) *Housing Subcommittee*

No report.

b) *Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee*

See Appendix A.

Ms. Lidyard indicated that there will be no follow-up Custom Transit Workshop report; the final report will be posted on TransLink's website.

Brian Tucker reported on his six-month experience as a HandiDart user. He has forwarded his report to TransLink via Scott Richer and will send a copy of the Committee.

ACTION: Brian Tucker to circulate a copy of his HandiDart experience.

c) *Communications*

Eddy Elmer discussed some technical problems that occurred with the Committee's listserv in November. He reminded members to report any e-mail address changes to him as soon as possible so that the e-mail list remains up-to-date. He passed around a sheet asking members to verify their current e-mail address and reminded them not to use any other e-mail addresses when sending messages to the listserv.

Colleen McGuinness indicated that the Clerk's office has agreed to list dates for our working sessions on the Committee's official City website. They have also agreed to put a link to our unofficial website on the City's website.

Members suggested that Eddy Elmer keep a parallel set of notes for official meetings to provide readers with an elaboration of items recorded by the Clerk in official

meeting minutes. These parallel notes can be posted on the Committee's unofficial website.

d) Outreach and Engagement Task Force

Beatrice Ho discussed some events that she and Jacqueline Weiler attended, including the BC eHealth and Innovative Technology Showcase (eHITS).

e) Social Isolation and Loneliness Task Force

Brian Tucker indicated that Social Policy is planning a social isolation research forum for sometime this spring. He will keep the Committee posted.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Eddy Elmer, SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard
THAT this meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Regular Meeting:

DATE: Friday, January 15, 2016
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:

Minutes of the Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee Meeting (November 20)

We had our meeting on November 20, 2015 with Gudrun Langolf, Scott Ricker, Bob Worcester and myself, in attendance. Angie Natingor did not attend the meeting as she had to recuse herself from the first part of the SAC meeting because of potential conflict of interest.

Issues Discussed

Gudrun sent out a poster about World Toilet Day which generated a vigorous discussion about the necessity of public toilets in public spaces. Gudrun will be drafting a motion re public toilets for discussion and possible submission to SAC.

Dellie brought forward a complaint from a senior in Kits Neighbourhood House regarding the lack of signage directing people to Granville Island from the south-end of the Granville Bridge going into the Cloverleaf. This is the second time this issue was raised by someone from the Neighbourhood House. This time, it involved a person in a wheelchair who was trying to find his way from the bridge to Granville Island. The person was disoriented and did not know which direction to go. Fortunately, the senior was able to give him directions. We think that more prominent directional signs directing people to Granville Island, which is a popular tourist attraction, are called for.

Outstanding Issues

We are still following up on a couple of outstanding issues previously identified.

Submitted by:

Dellie Lidyard, Subcommittee Chair