



**SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
UNOFFICIAL NOTES
February 19, 2016**

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

- PRESENT:** Thomas Crean *
Eddy Elmer (Recorder)
Beatrice Ho
Gudrun Langolf
Dellie Lidyard
Jim McCully
Colleen McGuinness (Chair)
Scott Ricker (Vice-Chair)
Brian Tucker
Eva Wadolna
Jacqueline Weiler
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Vancouver City Council
Chris Morrissey (Immediate Past Chair)
Taryn Scollard, Engineering Services
- ABSENT:** Eva Beda (Leave of Absence)
Trustee Fraser Ballantyne, Vancouver School Board
Stephanie Kripps, Vancouver Public Library
Lisa Low
Park Board Commissioner Erin Shum
Councillor Tim Stevenson, Vancouver City Council
Bob Worcester (Leave of Absence)
- GUESTS:** Raymond Greenwood, West Side Seniors' Hub
Mary McLaughlin, Canadian In-Home Care Assistance
Jessie Sutherland, Worldview Strategies

* Denotes an absence for a portion of the meeting

1. Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Eva Wadolna, SECONDED by Jackie Weiler
THAT a leave of absence be approved for Eva Beda and Bob Worcester.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Eddy Elmer, SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard

THAT the minutes of the January 15, 2016 regular meeting be approved, with the following correction: the date of the webinar listed on page 4 was January 27, not January 20.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACTION: The Secretary will relay the change to the City Clerk

3. Update on Pearson-Dogwood Lands Redevelopment

Due to a scheduling miscommunication, Meg Harod from City Planning was unable to attend. The update was placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

4. Elder Financial Abuse Awareness & Prevention Program

Jessie Sutherland, consultant with Worldview Strategies, provided an overview of "Finding Home: A Dialogue on Elder Financial Abuse." This is a participatory action program in which older adults from ethnically diverse communities address forms of financial elder abuse that are unique to their communities and that are not addressed in mainstream literature and programming on this issue. The Committee recommended that the Ms. Sutherland share information about her program with the Vancouver Park Board, given the Board's interest in facilitating seniors-specific community programs.

ACTION: The Committee will introduce Mr. Sutherland to Commissioner Erin Sum, our Park Board liaison.

5. Community Dialogues on St. Paul's Hospital Relocation

Eva Wadolna attended a recent community forum on this topic, which was attended largely by residents of the West End. She summarized the various concerns that the attendees raised:

- loss of urgent care services in the West End, which will impact both residents and as well as the large crowds who visit the area for festivals (e.g., fireworks festival)
- loss of primary healthcare service, laboratory and diagnostic services (e.g., radiology), which may necessitate driving to the new location, thus going against Vancouver's Greenest City initiative
- loss of homecare services
- loss of an historic site and popular gathering place in the middle of the West End

- lack of adherence to West End Community Plan (e.g., replacement of site with extremely tall residential towers)
- lack of affordable hotel accommodations and restaurants within walking distance of the new hospital
- possible obstruction of emergency vehicles by events in Chinatown and the area around Rogers Arena and BC Place
- poor soil quality in new location; seismic concerns
- safety and security for patients and visitors in the new location

At the forum, Ms. Wadolna proposed that two hospitals be built: one in the West End providing core services for that community, and a larger, high-tech hospital in the False Creek Flats area providing specialized services and research. She indicated that representatives from Providence Health told her that the provincial government favours a single St. Paul's site. They invited her to share her proposal and, if enough people are interested in the idea, Providence Health may feel compelled to share it with the provincial government.

6. Park Board Motion: "Serving Our Seniors"

Beatrice Ho led a discussion about the motion on notice by Park Board Chair Sarah Kirby-Jung (attached to the meeting agenda). The following general comments and recommendations were offered:

- The Park Board is to be commended for this initiative
- We must consider not just independent seniors' centres, but also coordinated networks in order to avoid duplication of services (e.g., West Side and East Side Seniors Hubs)
- It is important to ensure that existing seniors' venues are not lost in neighbourhoods that are being re-developed (e.g., Britannia)
- The importance of spaces for meal gatherings (e.g., at Kerrisdale Community Centre) should be recognized
- We must think about the future, too, such as supporting a community centre on the Jericho lands
- Input and participation of people who live in the neighbourhoods affected should be emphasized
- Seniors themselves must be involved in the process so that they do not feel this is yet another initiative done "for them" rather than "with them"
- The initiative should be modeled on the City's successful youth initiative

The following specific comments and recommendations were offered:

- The motion does not mention community centre associations, which differ from community centres
- The number of seniors' centres in the City should be verified

- “Seniors advisory group” is vague and should be reworded to “Seniors’ Advisory Committee” if that was the group referenced

ACTION: Beatrice Ho will consolidate these comments and forward to Councillor Elizabeth Ball and Park Board liaison Erin Shum.

7. Committee Liaison Reports

a) *Vancouver City Council*

Councillor Ball provided the following updates:

- Seniors have contacted her indicating that they feel threatened by the marijuana dispensaries in their neighbourhoods. She has encouraged them to share their concerns at public hearings as well as meetings of the Board of Variance.
- Some seniors have contacted her expressing fear that they may lose access to medical marijuana. She reassured them that there is a federal program that provides access to medical marijuana with a doctor’s referral.
- The Committee will hear about the Dementia Friends train-the-trainer program in due course. Staff is aware of the need to consult the Committee about this project and they look forward to SAC’s input. (Note: later in the meeting, Eva Wadolna and Chris Morrissey agreed to act as SAC liaisons on this project.)

b) *Park Board*

No report.

c) *Staff Liaison*

Taryn Scollard had no report. Scott Ricker advised about a pothole at Beach and Horny Streets; Ms. Scollard indicated that she would follow up on the matter.

d) *Vancouver Public Library*

No report.

7. Subcommittee and Task Force Reports

a) *Housing Subcommittee*

Chris Morrissey provided an update. The Subcommittee discussed the definition of “seniors’ housing,” including minimum age requirements. The

Subcommittee accepted Jim McCully's recommendation that 55 be the lower age limit, consistent with the limit set by BC Housing and related agencies. The Subcommittee also recommended that 20% of all new social housing units be allocated to seniors. Councillor Ball indicated that she will talk to the Subcommittee about this matter because she had just finished discussing it with City staff.

b) *Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee*

Dellie Lidyard provided the following updates:

- Angie Natingor had to resign from the Subcommittee, as well as the Committee as a whole, citing personal reasons.
- The Subcommittee's workplan was discussed. The focus will be on the Transportation 2040 Plan as well as Vision Zero. Ms. Lidyard expressed concern that the City's latest activities seem to be a departure from the 2040 Plan's focus on access for people of all ages of abilities. Ms. Wadolna echoed these comments, indicating that she provides feedback at many transportation planning meetings, but that her recommendations are often overshadowed by those of cycling advocates. Ms. Lidyard wants to ensure that the needs of older adults are addressed in all new transportation projects going forward and asked Ms. Scollard if someone from the City would discuss these concerns with her. She recommended Lon LaClaire, Manager of Strategic Transportation Planning. The Committee agreed to invite him to the March meeting.
- The Subcommittee feels that residents of False Creek, especially older adults with disabilities and those who drive, may have trouble accessing the South False Creek Seawall extension.

c) *Communications*

No report.

d) *Outreach and Engagement Task Force*

Beatrice Ho provided the following updates:

- Some members of the Chinese Cultural Centre sent a letter to the Committee regarding an increase in the membership fee required from those wishing to vote at the Annual General Meeting. Some members cannot afford the increase and are upset that they can no longer vote. These members have indicated that they feel intimidated by Centre staff from making any complaints and would like the City's help in resolving the matter. Given that the Centre is located on City-owned land and that it receives City funding, the Committee felt that the City might have jurisdiction over this matter. The Chair recommended writing a letter to Mary Clare Zak, Director of Social

Policy, asking her to investigate. Councillor Ball indicated that she would have an informal discussion with Ms. Zak and report back at the next meeting.

- Ms. Ho received an invitation from the UBC Faculty of Medicine to host a booth at a Chinese mental health forum on March 12. Given logistical challenges, the Committee decided to decline the invitation.
- The Digital Emergency Medicine division of the UBC Department of Emergency Medicine would like to partner with the Committee on an e-health strategy. Ms. Ho will attend an upcoming meeting and see if a joint e-health event could be held during Seniors' Week.
- Jackie Weiler attended a meeting of the Vancouver Cross Cultural Seniors Network to hear TransLink representatives provide a presentation on the Compass Card. Many in the audience expressed difficulty using the card and suggested that TransLink make learning material more user-friendly for older adults.
- The B.C. Seniors' Advocate will visit Kits Neighbourhood House on March 22 to discuss Medical Services Plan (MSP) premium increases.

e) *Social Isolation and Loneliness Task Force*

Brian Tucker provided an update on a webinar he had watched regarding initiatives to reduce social isolation of older adults. He expressed disappointment with the webinar, indicating that the initiatives presented were not applicable to the Vancouver context. Dr. Tucker had invited Raymond Greenwood, board member with the West Side Seniors Hub, to discuss his organization's initiatives on reducing isolation, but unfortunately Mr. Raymond had to leave early.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Eddy Elmer, SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Regular Meeting:

DATE: Friday, March 11, 2016
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 12:30 pm

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