



SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UNOFFICIAL NOTES (DRAFT)

January 16, 2015

A working session of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on January 16, 2015, at 9:30am, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Eddy Elmer (Recorder)
Dellie Lidyard
Chris Morrissey (Chair)
Carol Oreck
Rowena Tate
Eva Wadolna

ABSENT: Thomas Brunker (Sick Leave)
Councillor Tim Stevenson, Vancouver City Council
Sharon Fenton
Clemencia Gomez
Scott Graham (Leave of Absence)
Alan Herbert
Colleen McGuinness, Vice-chair (Leave of Absence)
Taryn Scollard, Staff Liaison, Engineering Services

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Vancouver City Council

1. Introductions and Welcome

Committee members and Councillor Elizabeth Ball, one of the Committee's two new Council liaisons, introduced themselves.

2. Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Eva Wadolna, SECONDED by Rowena Tate

THAT leaves of absence be approved for Scott Graham and Colleen McGuiness.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Eva Wadolna SECONDED by Rowena Tate

THAT the agenda be approved with the addition of the following issues:

- a. Pedestrian safety motion
- b. Brock House parking
- c. Crosswalk at Point Grey Road and Wallace
- d. Pets and renters motion

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Carol Oreck, SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard

THAT the minutes of the November 21, 2013 meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

a) *Pearson-Dogwood Lands Redevelopment Update*

Chair Chris Morrissey indicated that she and Housing Subcommittee chair Colleen McGuiness attended a meeting [where? with whom?] to discuss the redesign. She indicated that the Subcommittee supports the Small House & Neighbourhood model chosen by Vancouver Coastal Health (the Subcommittee had originally wished that the Green House Project® be used, but this was not feasible because the model's

developer requires strict adherence to the model and official registration by those using it).

Vancouver Coastal Health intends to build four small units housing 25 people each, with the possibility of providing openings between the units. Vancouver Coastal Health is also looking to employ total care workers who perform most, if not all, of the tasks currently performed by specialized workers. Because family members have expressed concern that the new facility will no longer have dedicated recreation workers, the Subcommittee hopes that these tasks will be taken over by the total care workers. It is hoped that these full-time workers will be able to provide continual recreation activities throughout the day, in contrast to that provided by part-time recreation workers. Councillor Ball suggested that the Subcommittee look into contacting Langara College and other post-secondary institutions about the possibility of providing training for the total care workers.

b) Council of Councils Meeting

Members indicated that the meeting was very useful because it allowed them to learn about the work of the other civic committees and consider working with them on issues of mutual interest.

c) 41st and Balaclava

No news.

d) Motion Regarding Pedestrian Safety on Sidewalks and the Seawall

Transportation Subcommittee chair Rowena Tate reminded the Committee that this motion has been revised and awaits SAC approval before presentation to Council. Chair Chris Morrissey asked Ms. Tate to email the revised motion to members for perusal. Councillor Ball requested a copy of the motion and indicated that she will discuss it with staff.

e) Brock House Parking

Dellie Lidyard wants Brock House visitors to be able to park for free during weekend and evening events. She asked the SAC's previous Park Board liaison, Melissa DeGenova, to advance the issue at the Park Board, but does not know about the current status of this matter. Councillor Ball indicated that she will discuss the matter with Transportation Director Jerry Dobrovolny.

f) *Crosswalk at Point Grey Road and Wallace*

Dellie Lidyard indicated that she has not yet heard back from Staff liaison Taryn Scollard about this matter. Councillor Ball indicated that she will discuss the matter with Transportation Director Jerry Dobrovlny.

6. Committee Liaison Reports

No reports.

7. Subcommittee Reports

a) *Communications and Outreach Subcommittee*

Subcommittee Chair Eddy Elmer said he hopes to post more photos of SAC events to the Committee website. Councillor Ball indicated that she if there are any issues or events that the Committee would like to publicize, she would be happy to raise them at the end of any regular Council meeting.

b) *Housing Subcommittee*

No report.

c) *Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee*

No report.

8. New Business

a) *Meeting with Mukhtar Latif, Chief Housing Officer*

Chair Chris Morrissey indicated that, due to scheduling conflicts, we have still been unable to arrange a meeting with him. Members agreed with Rowena Tate that it would be best if we waited to schedule the meeting for April or May, after the new Committee is selected.

b) *Property Tax Deferral and Homeowner Grant*

Chair Chris Morrissey indicated that many homeowners are unable to defer their property taxes or claim the provincial Homeowner Grant due to large increases over

the property values. She indicated that many of these homeowners are widowed women with limited cashflow. Without the ability to defer taxes or claim the homeowner grant, they must consider selling their homes. Chris Morrissey asked whether the Committee wished to examine this matter (perhaps in collaboration with the Women's Advisory Committee) and also recommended that we write letters to community centres to provide educational seminars about the tax deferral and homeowner grant. Councillor Ball suggested that we contact the relevant agencies and have them provide the Committee with information that we could post to our website.

c) End-of-Term Committee Report

Chair Chris Morrissey indicated that she e-mailed a draft copy of the report to all members for review. She asked the Communications & Mobility Subcommittee to provide some more details about future directions, including an explicit recommendation that the next Committee continue with community outreach meetings.

In discussing the Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee report, Councillor Ball indicated that she worked hard to pass a motion re: clearing sidewalks of encroachments. She plans to report back to Council on the status of this motion and has asked us if there have been any positive changes as a result of this motion. It was agreed that the matter would be addressed by the Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee.

Eva Wadolna expressed concern that the current terms of reference for the Committee underestimates the workload of members, thereby misleading potential applicants to the Committee. She also indicated that the Committee requires more funding for outreach activities. Councillor Ball said that she would contact staff to discuss both matters.

d) Conference on System Change for Seniors' Care

Carol Oreck indicated that 500 people will attend the conference. Chris Morrissey, Carol Oreck, and Eva Wadolna have applied to attend the conference free of charge.

e) Pets and Renters Motion

Eva Wadolna asked about the status of this matter. Councillor Ball indicated that there is a delay because the matter poses complex legal challenges (e.g., difficulty in forcing building owners to accept pets). She also indicated that tenants have

contacted her to complain about the motion because of concerns about pet allergies. She also expressed concern about the cost of cleaning an apartment after a tenant with a pet(s) leaves (up to \$10,000).

Rowena Tate indicated that she attended a meeting between representatives of building owners and renters. She said that the representatives are trying to work out an arrangement, but the issues have become quite unwieldy.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Eddy Elmer, SECONDED by Rowena Tate
THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Friday, February 20, 2015
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 11:30 am