



Seniors Advisory Committee

MINUTES

July 15, 2011

A meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee was held on July 15, 2011, at 9:38 am in the Business Centre Meeting Room, Second Floor, City Hall.

**PRESENT:** Dena Dawson, Acting Chair  
Grace Balbutin  
Tom Brunker  
Henry Lee  
Virginia McDade  
Colleen McGuinness  
Milinda Schulz  
Eva Wadolna

**ABSENT:** Alice Choi  
Sylvia Gurstein (Leave of Absence)  
Dellie Lidyard (Leave of Absence)  
Chris Morrissey, Chair (Sick Leave)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Ellen Woodsworth, Vancouver City Council  
Jill Weiss, Persons With Disabilities Advisory Committee Liaison  
Neal Carley, Assistant City Engineer, Streets (Staff Liaison)

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Pat Boomhower, Meeting Coordinator

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***VARY THE AGENDA***

*The Committee agreed to vary the agenda in order to hear from guest presenters first. For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.*

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**Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the April 15, 2011, meeting were approved.

**Leave of Absence Requests**

Leaves of absence were approved for Dellie Lidyard and Sylvia Gurstein for this meeting.

## 1. Comox-Helmcken Greenway Design

Matthew Bourke, Central Area Planner, and Douglas Scott, Landscape Architect, presented the public engagement process regarding the design of the Comox-Helmcken Greenway and requested feedback on design and consultation opportunities with seniors. (*Project outline distributed - on file*).

Factors discussed for planning walking tours included variation in comfort zones, age, distances, walking pace and purpose, bench positioning, slope, washroom availability, safety, meal and transportation for the return trip, and convenience when leaving the tour zone.

Eric Kowalski, Executive Director, West End Seniors Network, noted means to advertise tours. Discussion also considered demographics and locations in buildings, legibility, and working with managers to promote tours.

## 2. Subcommittee Reports

### a) Housing Subcommittee

#### i. Update on Steeves Manor

Colleen McGuinness and Grace Balbutin provided an update on the meeting with BC Housing, progress being made at Steeves Manor to address concerns, and advised that a Legal Advocate is available for adults age 55 or older, through the BC Centre for Elder Advocacy and Support.

Ms Balbutin noted to call the Seniors Advocacy and Information Line (SAIL) at 604-437-1940 for referrals to the Legal Advocate Program.

### b) Transportation Subcommittee

#### i. Update on Feedback to TransLink

Tom Bruncker, Subcommittee Chair, reported feedback was submitted on behalf of the Committee in April 2011, to TransLink regarding the *UBC Rapid Transit Line* design options. TransLink has requested further details from the Subcommittee.

Mr. Bruncker also reported on suggestions the Subcommittee forwarded to TransLink and the TransLink Advisory Board regarding the # 50 Bus Line, bus frequency and routes. In addition, he circulated sample signage at MacDonald Street and 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, to place near seniors' residences.

Subsequent discussion highlighted the need for:

- running buses two-ways along the #50 route
- buses to run every half hour
- lengthening the time at pedestrian crossings
- signs which countdown wait time to the next bus.

MOVED by Tom Brunker  
SECONDED by Colleen McGuinness

THAT the Seniors Advisory Committee send a letter to the Director of Transportation, City of Vancouver, to request:

- i. improvements needed along the #50 bus line route, as presented at the July 15, 2011, Seniors Advisory Committee meeting, be made a priority; and
- ii. bus arrival countdown signs be placed along the Main Street bus route.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*ii. HandyDart Update*

Jill Weiss, Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee Liaison, reported on progress made with respect to TransLink's revision of HandyDart's eligibility process, the Taxi Saver program, and research done by Dellie Lidyard.

*iii. Sidewalk Crossings*

Peter Sven presented concerns regarding pedestrian safety issues and the design of the intersection at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Dunbar Street for the pedestrian crossing (*Material circulated - on file*). Discussion followed regarding ramp steepness at the median and improvements to deal with increasing vehicular traffic and pedestrians.

MOVED by Colleen McGuinness  
SECONDED by Eva Waldona

THAT the Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) request that the City of Vancouver Engineering Department:

- i. re-examine the design of the intersection of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Dunbar Street to address pedestrian safety concerns raised at the SAC meeting on July 15, 2011;
- ii. move the north/south crosswalk to the west side of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue; and
- iii. take into consideration that a new 6-storey building is being constructed near the intersection of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Dunbar Street which will have a population with disabilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**c) Joint Task Team on Accessibility**

The Staff Liaison advised that the Committee has been in contact with the City's Chief Building Official. Ms. Weiss, Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee Liaison, noted the Joint Task Team provided research with regard to examples of building codes across Canada with respect to accessibility.

**3. Age Friendly Cities report - Update**

No report.

**4. Virtual Village Task Force - Report**

Colleen McGuinness advised that she and the Chair are working on the report.

**5. Conference Reports**

**a) Enhancing Community Planning Workshop**

Eva Wadolna reported on the Enhancing Community Planning Workshop that she and the Chair attended on May 7, 2011, regarding how to expedite the neighbourhood planning process, engage more people and balance priorities.

**b) Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors to the Minister of Health**

Eva Wadolna noted she met with Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, MLA and Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors to the Minister of Health and informed her of the range of issues pertaining to seniors.

MOVED by Colleen McGuinness  
SECONDED by Eva Waldona

THAT the Seniors Advisory Committee invite the Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors to the Minister of Health to a Committee meeting in September or October, 2011.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**c) Growing Old in a Changing Climate Conference**

Eva Wadolna outlined issues covered at the May 25 and 26, 2011, gerontological conference held at the SFU Segal Graduate School of Business regarding population aging and global warming.

Neal Carley, Engineering Services, offered to repeat his presentation from the conference, at the SAC meeting in September 2011.

**d) Renters' Roundtable Forum**

Eva Wadolna reported on the May 26, 2011, forum held at the Library as part of the City of Vancouver's *Talk Housing with Us* series, which examined the lack of affordable rental housing and was attended by Mayor Robertson and some Councillors.

Councillor Woodsworth provided an update on the Arbutus Centre project that will incorporate units for seniors.

e) **Unconference on Affordable Housing**

Eva Wadolna reported on the day-long session held at the Empire Landmark Hotel on June 4, 2011, as part of the City of Vancouver's public engagement program. She also reported hosting a discussion on seniors housing and showing a housing segment of the Age Friendly Cities DVD (produced by SFU).

She recommended that the Seniors Advisory Committee raise its profile so more seniors are aware of the committee.

6. **New Business**

(a) **Advisory Committee Feedback to Council**

The Committee discussed how Council receives input from the advisory committee.

(b) **Vancouver Cross Cultural Seniors Network**

Grace Balbutin will provide information on guest speakers for upcoming Vancouver Cross Cultural Seniors Network meetings in the event SAC members wish to attend. She will also forward the name of a possible guest speaker on the topic of elder abuse for SAC's September 2011 meeting.

(c) **West End Seniors Network**

It was noted Eva Wadolna has been elected to the WESN Board of Directors.

**Next Meeting:**

DATE: Friday, September 16, 2011  
TIME: 9:30 am  
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 11:31 am

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