



SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UNOFFICIAL NOTES

July 17, 2015

A working session of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on July 17, 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
Lisa Law
Jim McCully
Colleen McGuinness (Chair)
Chris Morrissey (Immediate Past Chair)
Angie Natingor
Scott Ricker
Brian Tucker
Eva Wadolna
Jacqueline Weiler
Bob Worcester

ABSENT:

Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Park Board Commissioner Erin Shum
Councillor Tim Stevenson

ALSO PRESENT:

Stephanie Kripps, Vancouver Public Library
Taryn Scollard, Engineering Services, Streets Division

GUESTS:

Dale Bracewell, Active Transportation
Lynn Guilbault, Active Transportation
Anthony Kupferschmidt, West End Seniors' Network
Julianna Törjék, Assistant Planner, Social Policy
Carol Ann Young, Senior Planner, Social Policy

1. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Eddy Elmer, SECONDED by Scott Ricker

THAT the minutes of the June 19, 2015 meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Healthy City Strategy and Age-Friendly Action Plan Updates

Carol Ann Young, Senior Planner for Social Policy, provided an update on the [Healthy City Strategy](#). She asked the Committee to examine the 19 Healthy City Action items and inform her if there are any of particular interest to the Committee.

She also provided an update on the [Age-Friendly Action Plan](#). She indicated that certain elements of this plan have been merged with the Healthy City Strategy action items.

One element is a dementia awareness training program that teaches staff how to identify and respond to persons with dementia. It is anticipated that all City employees will eventually receive this training, which is provided by the Alzheimer's Society of BC. Social Planning will apply to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities for funds to start a "train-the-trainer" program in which staff provide the training themselves.

Committee members offered the following comments:

- a. There is very strong concern that by selectively merging items from the Age-Friendly Action Plan with the Healthy City Strategy action items, staff are not adhering to the specific framework articulated by the Age-Friendly Action Plan. The City committed to follow the plan after it was approved by Council in 2013. It was also a required condition for receiving provincial designation as an Age-Friendly Community. This designation could be cancelled if we do not adhere to the plan as approved by Council. The Plan must also be followed if Vancouver is to be successful in achieving its Council-mandated goal to become a Global Age-Friendly Community as defined by the World Health Organization. By selectively merging items from the Age-Friendly Action Plan with the Healthy City Strategy action items, the overall focus of the Action Plan is perceived to be diminished, as is the ability to objectively measure our progress towards becoming an age-friendly city. The Committee implores Staff to focus on the Age-Friendly Action Plan as a coherent document in its own right. Ms. Young asserted that the Healthy City Strategy actually reinforces the Age-Friendly Action Plan, just as it reinforces other Council-approved documents such as the Greenest City Action Plan and the Food Strategy.
- b. Advisory committees must be engaged as early as possible to provide timely feedback about the selection of Health City Strategy action items. Ms. Young indicated that her staff had already consulted with advisory committees in a large group meeting, but Eva Wadolna, one of the attendees, does not know if the committees' feedback was ever considered. Ms. Young indicated that the 19 action items will roll out over the next few years.
- c. The City should have a plan to co-ordinate advisory committees' contributions to these two strategies.
- d. Addressing social isolation should be a priority. Ms. Young indicated that this will be addressed by the Healthy City action items. She also indicated that Greg Dreicer (Vancouver Museum) and Lydia Kennedy (Vancouver Foundation) will work with the City on this issue. Ms. Young will inform them that Brian Tucker is interested in working with them.

- e. End-of-life issues should be considered. Ms. Young responded that these issues are more within the provincial government's purview.
- f. Given that the Age-Friendly Action Plan stresses the importance of communication, the City must do a better job of publicizing its age-friendly initiatives. For example, residents are unaware of the City's program for missing and vulnerable older adults, or that fire halls have been designated as safe havens for seniors who become disoriented. Ms. Young suggested that the Committee contact the Vancouver Fire Department, as well as Kevin Bertrand [sp?] of the Vancouver Police Department to discuss these particular initiatives.

3. Seaside Greenway Sidewalk Update

Dale Bracewell, Manager of Active Transportation, summarized [phase 2 of the Seaside Greenway project](#). He focused on improvements to [walking surfaces](#). Members offered the following feedback:

- a. They are pleased that all three proposals provide direct access to 4th Avenue, thus minimizing safety risks associated with driving through narrow back streets. They are also pleased with plans to synchronize traffic signals.
- b. Safety at the interface of drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians is critical. Mr. Bracewell indicated that this will be achieved by good sight lines, sidewalks separated from bicycle lanes, and other design features.
- c. There is concern about motorists accelerating down steep driveways, thus increasing risk for accidents. Mr. Bracewell said that this will be addressed by improving visibility for pedestrians and motorists (e.g., by trimming hedges), and ensuring that cars do not have the right-of-way.
- d. Cyclists appear to have priority for street crossing because they experience a shorter delay than pedestrians do after they press the crosswalk button.
- e. It would be ideal to have tactile walking surface indicators (TWSIs) on the sidewalks. Ms. Scollard indicated that this has not yet been decided.
- f. It is important to improve walkability for *all* residents in the area, including those living in the many rooming houses located west of MacDonald Street.
- g. There is a need to maintain stairway access to the beaches. The Committee was informed that this is a Park Board issue.
- h. There is a need for parking spaces near vantage points. Mr. Bracewell indicated that some spaces will be available along Tatlow Park, with the possibility of more spaces in the cul-de-sac area.

Mr. Bracewell suggested that the Committee pass a motion indicating its preferences for this phase of the project. The Chair indicated that the Transportation & Mobility

Subcommittee will walk through the area and provide their recommendations to the Committee. Mr. Bracewell will return in September to solicit more feedback.

4. National Seniors' Day, October 1, Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch

Stephanie Kripps provided the following updates from the library:

- a. Dr. Kendall Ho, director of the eHealth Strategy at the University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine, has confirmed that he will do a presentation on technology and healthcare.
- b. The library will screen [Cyber Seniors](#), a new documentary about a group of older adults learning to use the Internet.
- c. The library will offer tours of its new [Inspiration Lab](#).

The Outreach Subcommittee suggested hosting a debate about seniors' issues between local candidates in the upcoming federal election. The SAC Chair will draft a letter of invitation for candidates and forward it to members for perusal. Thomas Crean suggested that one debate topic could be the creation of a seniors' bill of rights (Appendix B-1); the Committee will vote on this idea at the next meeting.

The Outreach Subcommittee suggested collaborating with the Simon Fraser University Seniors Lifelong Learners Society to co-host a "philosopher's café" on the topic of social isolation. Scott Ricker indicated that the Society would probably not be available to do this on National Seniors' Day. It was suggested that perhaps individual library branches could host their own small group discussions on this topic. Alternately, social isolation could be proposed as a discussion topic for TED-like talks at organizations like the West End Seniors' Network.

It was suggested that the Committee contact managers of the individual library branches, as well as the local business improvements associations, to see if they are planning their own Seniors' Day events, or whether they would like to join ours.

Ms. McGuinness presented a draft letter requesting that TransLink offer free transit for older adults on October 1.

MOVED by Thomas Crean, SECONDED by Scott Ricker

THAT the letter in Appendix A, requesting free transit for seniors on October 1, be forwarded to Councillors Stevenson and Ball for their direction.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Committee Liaison Reports

a) *Vancouver City Council*

No reports.

b) *Park Board*

No report.

c) *City of Vancouver Staff*

Taryn Scollard reported that the Chief Building Officer (CBO) is soliciting comments regarding the updated Building By-law after various groups protested some of the amendments. Ms. Scollard reminded him to consult with SAC, as well as the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee. She was unable to provide a timeline for consultation, but will inquire when the CBO returns from vacation.

Angie Natingor asked Ms. Scollard if the City plans to improve seating at bus stops.

Scott Ricker asked for an update about safety concerns on West Cordova Street, north of Burrard, where cars exit the underground parking garage and do u-turns (see [April 17, 2015 minutes](#)). Ms. Scollard indicated that she would inquire.

Dellie Lidyard asked for an update on her request to install a new crosswalk at Arbutus Street and 6th Avenue (see [May 15, 2015 minutes](#)).

d) *Vancouver Public Library*

See item 4 above re: National Seniors' Day.

5. Subcommittee Reports

a) *Communications*

Eddy Elmer reminded members to submit brief biographies for the website.

b) *Outreach Subcommittee*

See Appendix B and item 4 above.

c) *Housing Subcommittee*

See Appendix C.

d) *Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee*

See Appendix D.

Goodrun Langolf discussed the [Vision Zero Initiative](#), an international road traffic safety project started in Sweden. The project aims to eliminate traffic injuries and fatalities on roadways around the world. Ms. Langolf suggested that the Committee ask Engineering Services and the Vancouver Police Department about the extent to

which Vision Zero is an integral part of the City's Transportation 2040 Plan, and whether the Committee can provide input in this regard.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Eddy Elmer, SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next working session:

DATE: August, August 21, 2015
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 12:30 pm

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Appendix A:
Letter to Mayor and Council Regarding Free Transit on
National Seniors' Day, October 1, 2015

Dear Mayor Robertson and members of Council,

The Seniors' Advisory Committee is writing to inform you that October 1, 2015 is National Seniors' Day in Canada.

The Advisory Committee members are working with seniors' groups throughout the City to offer open houses, public education forums, and events to 'celebrate our seniors'. A number of organizations are co-operating to ensure that Seniors' Day is well-promoted and reaches older adults in all corners of the City.

For this one day, we would like to have free transit to encourage seniors to go out and celebrate during this day.

A critical issue for many seniors is isolation, and transit is key to seniors' ability to get out. Often the cost of the fare is a deterrent. To ensure seniors are able to participate fully in this day, BC Transit's support is essential.

Therefore, we respectfully appeal to you to forward our request to BC Transit. We would like to have complimentary transit for seniors and their companions on October 1st this year.

We ask for your support for this initiative.

Sincerely

Colleen McGuinness,
Chair

Appendix B

Minutes of the Outreach Subcommittee Meeting

A meeting of the Subcommittee was held at 9:30am on July 13, at Juliet's Café, 1905 Cornwall Avenue.

PRESENT: Thomas Crean (Chair)
Beatrice Ho
Brian Tucker
Eva Wadolna
Jacqueline Weiler

1. Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) Presentation

Eva Wadolna spoke about Councillor Ball's presentation to CARP about the SAC. She indicated that CARP would like to be more involved in advocacy work for seniors. The Subcommittee decided to ask the Vancouver Public Library to invite CARP to host a table at the National Seniors' Day event on July 1.

2. National Seniors' Day, October 1, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch

Beatrice Ho reported that Stephanie Kripps will let her know by Thursday about the feasibility of having 28 tables in the library foyer; a federal election all-candidates' debate about seniors' issues; and a screening the 75-minute documentary *Cyber Seniors*, with the possibility of an introduction by Dr. Kendall Ho (director of the e-Health Strategy at UBC).

The Subcommittee, through Colleen McGuinness, will continue exploring partnerships with the business improvement associations (BIAs). Additional community events will be promoted and encouraged by the 22 BIAs, hopefully in co-operation with local community centres.

The Subcommittee approved Ms. McGuinness' letter regarding free transit on Seniors' Day (Appendix A). It will be forwarded to SAC for approval on Friday.

The VPL's Marketing & Communications Department will label the Seniors' Day event as a partnership between SAC and the VPL. The library will commence promotion on August 20th. Press releases will be provided to the Subcommittee, which will then be forwarded to Eddy Elmer, SAC secretary, for broadcast to SAC's network. They will also be forwarded to Ms. McGuinness for broadcast to the BIAs.

3. Development of a Seniors' Bill of Rights

The Subcommittee discussed a proposed Seniors' Bill of Rights (Appendix C-1). Members inquired about the possibility of asking community groups and agencies to work with the Subcommittee to have the Bill of Rights tabled locally, provincially, and nationally on Seniors' Day.

4. Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Seniors

The Subcommittee discussed possible ways to address these issues, including hosting a "philosopher's café" at the Roundhouse Community Centre. Brian Tucker would promote the event. Jacqueline Weiler will speak to Scott Ricker about the possibility of co-hosting the café with the SFU Seniors Lifelong Learners Society.

5. New Business

Jacqueline Weiler agreed to chair the next Subcommittee meeting.

Appendix B-1

Proposed Seniors' Bill of Rights

The following Bill of Rights was originally proposed by MP Brian Masse. It was passed by the House of Commons on June 20, 2006. The underlined sections are updates proposed by the Subcommittee.

Older Canadians are creative, active and valued members of our society. Every senior living in Canada has the right to:

- a. income security, through protected pensions and indexed public income support that provides a reasonable state of economic welfare and adequate consumer protection;
- b. security of the person, free from age-discrimination and abuse of any type;
- c. housing, through secure accessible, appropriate and affordable housing;
- d. wellness, through health promotion and preventative care;
- e. health care, through secure, public, accessible, universal health care including primary care, dental care, homecare, palliative and geriatric care, end-of-life care and pharmacare (uniform through provinces & territories); aids for vision, hearing and mobility impairments;
- f. self-development, through lifelong access to affordable recreation, education and training;
- g. government services, through timely access to all federal, provincial, and municipal government services and programs, including family re-unification.

Appendix C

Minutes of the Housing Subcommittee Meeting

A meeting of the Subcommittee was held at 1:30pm on July 14, in the Business Centre Meeting Room, Second Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Eva Beda
Dellie Lidyard
Jim McCully
Colleen McGuinness
Chris Morrissey (Co-chair)
Scott Ricker (Co-chair)
Bob Worcester

1. Housekeeping Matters

Scott Ricker and Chris Morrissey agreed to co-chair the Subcommittee.

2. Priorities for the Term

The Subcommittee met for the first time and so used the majority of the meeting to share briefings on the work of the previous Subcommittee and provide background on each major item.

The summary of the Housing Subcommittee report from the SAC 2011-2014 term formed the basis of the information shared.

In conclusion, the following priorities were established:

- a. Building Code - ensure implementation of the accessibility elements
- b. Work with the Planning Department to ensure “visitability” is incorporated
- c. Policy on seniors housing allocations in all new developments
- d. Work with Social Policy to inventory the elements necessary for developments to receive classification as seniors’ housing

Appendix D

Minutes of the Transportation & Mobility Subcommittee Meeting

A working session of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on July 17, 2015, at 9:00am, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Gudrun Langolf
Dellie Lidyard (Chair)
Angie Natingor (Recorder)
Scott Ricker
Jacqueline Weiler
Bob Worcester

ABSENT: Ruby Boychuk

1. Housekeeping

Jill Weiss, co-chair of the Transportation Subcommittee of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, had originally wished to continue participating in the Subcommittee. However, this may no longer be possible as it is difficult for her to attend meetings in the early morning.

2. Street Lighting

Eddy Elmer discussed the City's proposed outdoor lighting strategy, which was initiated by a recent motion by Councillor Ball. He suggested three major roles that outdoor lighting plays in achieving the Committee's goals:

- a. improving safety
- b. facilitating social and civic participation
- c. animating the public realm and enhancing the built environment

He spoke about concerns that some types of lighting are misdirected and do not serve any of the above purposes. This can be remedied by paying closer attention to qualities such as the strength, colour, and direction of light. Eddy will forward his comments to Engineering Services.

3. South End of Burrard Bridge

An email from Bruce Gilmour was brought to the Subcommittee's attention. He identified serious concerns about the pedestrian crossing on the south end of the bridge. The Subcommittee will await results of the site inspection that Mr. Gilmour will be conducting with staff.

4. Marine Drive Canada Line Station

An email from Terry Slack was brought to the Subcommittee's attention. He indicated that there are conflicts between busses, cyclists, and pedestrians at the passenger pick-up/drop-off location at the Marine Drive Canada Line station. Dellie Lidyard has heard similar comments from others. The Subcommittee agreed to table a motion at the next SAC meeting, asking Council to direct staff to work with TransLink to create designated pick-up/drop-off zones at all Canada Line stations.

5. TransLink Annual General Meeting

Scott Ricker and Dellie Lidyard attended TransLink's annual general meeting on June 26. Mr. Ricker commented that it was mostly attended by special interest and media groups rather than the general public. Nothing of significance was discussed at the meeting as TransLink was still awaiting results of the transit plebiscite.

6. Simon Fraser University City Conversation Re: Transit Plebiscite

Dellie Lidyard attended this forum and offered her opinion that the biggest reason for the no vote was lack of sustainable, guaranteed funding. Although the mayors were given authority to hold the plebiscite, they were not given authority to access or raise funds to implement their proposed transit plans.

7. Items for Follow-Up

Angie Natingor will follow-up on a request sent to Taryn Scollard regarding the possibility of improved seating at bus stops, and who is ultimately responsible for making decisions in this regard.

The Subcommittee will continue participating in the Vehicle for Hire Dialogue for the time-being. Scott Ricker mentioned that Jessica Bratty requested his participation in a meeting to discuss finding a researcher.

Eddy Elmer indicated that there is a lack of garbage bins in certain neighbourhoods and bus stops.

8. Update on Outstanding Issues

Free parking for members and volunteers [of what?] has now been extended to event days.

The Subcommittee is awaiting response regarding the crosswalk near Brock House, and at Arbutus Street and 6th Avenue. It is also waiting to hear when all bus stops that are accessible for persons with disabilities have been labelled as such.