



SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

July 18, 2014

A meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee was held on Friday, July 18, 2014, at 9:35 am, in the Business Centre, Second Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Chris Morrissey, Chair
Tasia Alexis (PDAC representative)
Eddy Elmer
Sharon Fenton
Clemencia Gomez
Scott Graham
Alan Herbert
Dellie Lidyard
Colleen McGuinness, Vice-Chair
Carol Oreck
Rowena Tate

ABSENT: Tom Bruncker (Sick Leave)
Eva Wadolna

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Tony Tang (Council Liaison)
Stephanie Kripps (Vancouver Public Library Liaison)
Taryn Scollard (Staff Liaison, Engineering Dept.)

GUEST: Dan Garrison, Senior Housing Planner, City of Vancouver
Alex Youngberg, Vancouver Public Library

1. Introductions

Stephanie Kripps, SAC liaison from the Vancouver Public Library introduced her colleague Alex Youngberg.

2. Leave of Absence Requests

Leave was requested by Eva Wadolna.

MOVED by Dellie Lidyard
SECONDED by Rowena Tate

That leave be approved for Eva.
CARRIED

3. Approval of the agenda

MOVED by Clemencia Gomez
SECONDED by Rowena Tate

That the agenda be approved with an amendment to include Age Friendly Action Plan.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Sharon Fenton
SECONDED by Scott Graham

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting on June 20, 2014, be approved.

CARRIED

The Committee agreed to vary the order of the agenda to deal with Item 6 "Presentations". For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.

5. Business arising from the previous meeting

a. **Rupert Street update** - There was no update at this time.

Taryn was asked for the dates of the Committee on Sidewalk, Curb Cut and the City manual on Streets and agreed to report back at a future meeting.

b. **Subsidized Dental Coverage**

Eddy reported that he had received a request for SAC support for the creation of a province-wide dental care program for seniors.

As part of his research on this topic Eddy spoke with UBC Dentistry Prof. Brondani and learned that there are a number of existing programs for low-income individuals and seniors. It was agreed that SAC would review any proposal from the proponent and then determine if this is within the SAC mandate.

c. Age Friendly Action Plan

Sharon Fenton reported that Carol-Ann Young has received the age-friendly-action-plan motions. Because the age-friendly motions were a request to City Council to ask the provincial government for increased funding it is unlikely that there would be interest in this pre-election period. It was also noted that there is a growing interest in dementia research and there is a national effort to have the federal government create a national dementia action plan.

It was agreed to carry this topic forward to the September meeting as the dementia issue is incorporated within the age-friendly city plan managed by the Social Policy division.

6. Presentation

a. Dan Garrison, Seniors Housing Planner

Chris introduced Dan and he stated that he shepherds all housing policies including supply increase, diversity and support for lower income tenants. The City has an aggressive set of targets for housing stock increases. The planning staff has been developing and implementing policies, working on identified community plans within certain neighbourhoods, and working in partnership with not-for-profits to manage the development of new units.

The priority groups are: street homeless, families with children, people with disabilities and seniors.

Currently 5% of the new social housing stock is required to be fully accessible. Pertaining to the west-end buildings under consideration for redevelopment near Burrard, it was requested that staff report back to SAC once the policy about the relocation of seniors is established so that early input might be made.

SAC members made it clear that the City's term "affordable housing" should be used cautiously as it does not protect most low-income seniors.

New social housing units that come available will be leased to non-profits with BC Housing registry and individual non-profit waitlists the source of candidates for the units.

b. Vancouver Public Library - Stephanie Kripps and Alexander Youngberg
The staff of the VPL is interested in developing a National Seniors' Day program for October 1, 2014. Stephanie and Alexander attended the meeting to ask for input from the committee members about appropriate programming.

There was a general discussion of ideas and topics that might be of interest. It was concluded that an ad hoc committee composed of VPL staff would work with Eddy Elmer and Clemencia Gomez and, should it be necessary, consult with the SAC via email. The programming decisions will need to be made by mid-August.

In general it was agreed that the overarching theme would be social isolation and that there would be an aboriginal welcome, an inter-generational component and an opportunity for social service providers to present their information.

Eddy agreed to spearhead the working committee.

7. Committee Liaison reports

There were no reports

8. Sub-committee reports

Due to the lateness of the day there were no sub committee reports.

9. New Business

a. Building Code implementation update

Recently City Hall announced that there would be a delay in the implementation of the revised building code. There was general concern expressed about this. In conclusion, it was agreed that SAC would send a letter to Mayor and Council, with copies to the appropriate staff, stating the SAC concerns about this delay and the expectation that the delay, in no way, would allow for changes or modifications to the accessibility features that were approved by Council. Due to the lateness of the day it was agreed that the Chair and the Vice Chair would draft a letter for the committee's consideration. Once the text is approved by email it will be delivered to the appropriate parties.

- b. Topics and structure for next community meeting
Deferred to a future meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED byDellie Lidyard
SECONDED byClemencia Gomez

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next2014 Working Sessions:

November 21, 2014, 9:30 am, Business Centre, Second Floor, City Hall

Next 2014 Regular Meetings:

September 12, 2014, 9:30 am, Committee Room #1, Third Floor, City Hall

October 17, 2014, 9:30 am, Committee Room #1, Third Floor, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 12:30 pm.