



SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

June 20, 2014

A meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee was held on Friday, June 20, 2014, at 9:40 am, in the Business Centre, Second Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Chris Morrissey, Chair
Eddy Elmer
Sharon Fenton
Clemencia Gomez
Alan Herbert
Dellie Lidyard
Colleen McGuinness, Vice-Chair
Rowena Tate
Eva Wadolna

ABSENT: Tom Brunker (Sick Leave)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Tony Tang (Council Liaison)
Stephanie Kripps, Vancouver Public Library

GUEST: Michael Geller

1. Introductions

Stephanie Kripps, representative from the Vancouver Public Library was welcomed to the meeting as the new VPL staff liaison member.

2. Leave of Absence Requests

Leaves were requested by Carol Oreck and Scott Graham.

MOVED by Alan Herbert

SECONDED by Rowena Tate

That leaves be approved for Carol and Scott.

CARRIED

3. Approval of the agenda

MOVED by Clemencia Gomez
SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard

That the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Colleen McGuinness
SECONDED by Rowena Tate

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting on June 9, 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 - deferred

b. Age-friendly Action Plan

The committee members discussed the consequences of the redevelopment of several affordable rental buildings at Georgia and Burrard that are outside the West End Planning process. The recent decision by the Federal Government to end co-op subsidies has contributed to this situation.

Clemencia agreed to look into the possibility of BC Housing subsidies for co-op housing.

It was agreed that City Housing staff and Social Planning staff be invited to attend the July meeting to join in the discussion of this topic in conjunction with the concept of aging in place.

c. Friesen Conference

Eva and Clemencia provided a brief summary of the two-day conference on seniors housing. In summary they concluded that there was very little new information presented. A great portion of the meeting was focused on

assisted living yet that is suitable for only a small portion of the aging population.

There was little about low income housing choices, which was disappointing since one third of the senior population cannot afford market rental rates.

6. Presentation

Michael Geller, architect and developer was welcomed to the meeting and asked to share his ideas and expertise about housing options that could/should be developed for older adults.

A wide-ranging discussion took place.

Geller noted that congregate housing is a possible option for seniors living independently but that zoning by-laws often create problems and this is something that would need to be addressed. Not-for-profits used to play a role in providing low-cost housing options but as a result of the loss of federal government funding the not-for-profit societies have abandoned housing projects.

7. Committee Liaison reports

There were no reports

8. Sub-committee reports

a. Communication and Outreach

Eddy reported on the Seniors' Week event at the Roundhouse where Tony Tang read the City's proclamation. He noted that this year the focus was on linking seniors service agencies.

The West End Seniors Network will be having their annual Strawberry Tea and Eddy will have a table for SAC. Unfortunately there are no other members available to attend.

Clemencia reported that there would be an event at the South Granville Seniors Centre and Isabelle McKenzie, the recently appointed BC Seniors Advocate, will be the special guest.

Clemencia also reported that the South Granville Seniors Centre was informed that the fee for a Parks Board permit for a gathering in Stanley Park would be \$150.00. This is a hardship for a not-for-profit group of this sort and she was referred to Parks Board Liaison Melissa De Genova.

Clemencia also suggested that during the next term, SAC members might be encouraged to take the lead in gathering all municipal advisory groups dealing with seniors' issues. This would allow for a discussion of common issues.

Eddy also noted that there would be a Health Fair at the Roundhouse in the fall and SAC should plan to make this part of the outreach.

The members were informed that no application for New Horizon funds was made this year.

b. Housing - no report

c. Transportation and Mobility - report attached

Rowena Tate presented the highlight of the committees work over the last month. There was a Transportation Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group and the closing of Robson and parklets were discussed.

Rowena also reported that the community priority for the Capital Plan downgraded housing to the third spot.

d. Pets and apartments

Rowena Tate reported that a meeting was held at City Hall on May 20, 2014, attended by Councillor Stevenson and city staff, and representatives from SAC, BC Coalition for People with Disabilities, BCSPCA, Humane Society, BC Housing, Residential Tenancy Branch, Tenant Resource & Advisory Committee and Landlord BC. After much discussion, it was agreed that a "toolkit" for landlords and tenants should be drawn up to meet the requirements of both parties. CoV will draw up and circulate a draft for further discussion.

9. New Business

a. Subsidized dental coverage for seniors

Eddy reported on a conversation with a member of the community concerned about the cost of dental services for people with limited funds. It was agreed that this topic is outside the jurisdiction of the SAC. Eddy was encouraged to suggest that the individual submit a short statement to help identify if this is a topic that SAC could address.

b. Topics and structure for next community meeting

Deferred to a future meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Sharon Fenton
SECONDED by Eva Wadolna

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next2014 Working Sessions:

August 15, 2014, 9:30 am, Business Centre, Second Floor, City Hall
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.

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SAC Transportation & Mobility Subcommittee (SAC-TAMS) Update on Activities, June 19, 2014

Cornwall/Point Grey corridor

Jill and Rowena attended a meeting with City staff (Taryn Scollard, Jerry Dobrovolny, David Rawsthorne and Dale Bracewell) on May 5, to follow up on previously unresolved issues relating to the project. Some have been resolved, but others still need to be addressed. A report will be issued.

City Streets Manual Working Group

The first meeting of the group, composed of City staff from Streets and Planning Depts. and representatives from SAC (Carol and Rowena), PDAC, Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee (CYFAC) and the Active Transportation Committee, was held on May 13. A list of items was drawn up for discussion. On June 10, the group met to discuss

issues relating to sidewalks and curb ramps, including surfaces, dimensions, hazards. City staff will review best practices across North America and propose solutions.

Custom Transit Service Review

On May 23, TransLink announced a \$1 M commitment to provide over 30,000 taxi trips within the HandyDart program. This, along with a commitment to keep the registration process for HandyDart as is, rather than move to an invasive interview and phone process, was the result of recommendations from stakeholder workshops, attended by Dellie, Jill and Rowena, last year.

Dellie and Rowena attended a further stakeholders' workshop on June 14 where TransLink presented recommendations to increase trip availability and enhance customer experience. These recommendations were discussed in round tables where stakeholders had an opportunity to voice opinions and suggestions to improve HandyDart service. TransLink will circulate a report of the outcomes and next steps.

TransLink Compass Card

Dellie attended a meeting about the Compass Card at Kits Neighbourhood House in May. The following concerns were addressed:

- i) **Purchase:** Seniors will be able to buy **Concession Compass Cards** at Compass Retailers (where FareSavers are currently being purchased), by phone, on line and at TransLink's Customer Service Centre (Stadium-Chinatown Station). They will *not* be able to buy them at Compass Vending Machines (at SkyTrain and Seabus stations and 18 London Drug Stores), where Adult Compass Cards will be sold. **Single use “tickets”** can only be purchased at Compass Vending Machines, and on buses where exact cash fare only will be accepted.
- ii) **Transfers:** Passengers will no longer be able to use a ticket purchased for cash on a bus to transfer to SkyTrain or the Seabus, but will have to purchase another ticket. Seniors who travel infrequently and don't have easy access to Compass Vending Machines to purchase single use tickets, were particularly unhappy about this as it will cost more for them to travel to other zones since most of them need to take a bus to get to the SkyTrain or Seabus.
- iii) **Lost/stolen cards:** Transit users can report lost/stolen cards by calling a number that will be well publicized on buses/SkyTrain/Seabus as well as on TransLink boards. However, in order to verify the person's identification, TransLink will require details of the last three trips taken prior to the loss of the card. This is a problem not only for seniors but also for many infrequent and/or irregular transit users.

TransLink will hold more information sessions prior to the rollout, the date of which is constantly moving.