



Seniors Advisory Committee

MINUTES

March 18, 2011

A meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee was held on Friday, March 18, 2011, at 9:40 am, in the City Hall Business Centre Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Chris Morrissey, Chair
Tom Brunker*
Alice Choi
Dena Dawson, Vice Chair
Sylvia Gurstein
Henry Lee
Dellie Lidyard
Virginia McDade
Colleen McGuinness
Milinda Schulz
Eva Wadolna

ABSENT: Grace Balbutin (Sick Leave)

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Loretta Woodcock, Vancouver Park Board
Trustee Allan Blakey, Vancouver School Board
Neal Carley, Assistant City Engineer, Streets

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

VARY AGENDA

The Committee agreed to vary the agenda as follows:

- Hear a presentation from Sandy James, Chair, Walk21 immediately after the item 1;
- Deal with items 2 and 3 after the other items on the agenda, in order to accommodate presenters' arrivals.

Note from Meeting Coordinator: for ease of reference, the Minutes are recorded in numerical order.

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Committee ratified the election of Chair taken at the unofficial meeting on February 18, 2011 with Chris Morrissey elected as Chair for the 2011 term.

Following due process, Dena Dawson was elected Vice-Chair for the 2011 term.

2. Housing Development Process

Doug Robinson, Development Services, and Dan Garrison, Social Planning, provided a presentation on the housing development process, and responded to questions.

3. Assist Items

Roger Jones, Consultant, noted there is a proposal for an assistive technology cooperative for people with disabilities and seniors, and explained the issue is not always funding, but is fairly often a lack of knowledge about what assistive devices are available. He asked members to fill out the survey at <http://bcatcoop.wordpress.com/survey-2>, and noted there is a meeting on March 23, 2011.

4. Subcommittee Reports

a. Housing Subcommittee

Eva Wadolna provided an update on the Steeves Manor matter, noting reasonable satisfaction in resolution.

MOVED by Dellie Lidyard
SECONDED by Sylvia Gurstein

THAT the Chair send a letter to BC Housing acknowledging and thanking them for prompt action on the Steeves Manor matter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Tom Brunner absent for the vote)

The committee agreed that, in the future, formal direction to the Chair, or in her absence, the Vice-Chair, would be provided to send letters on behalf of the entire Committee, and that any decisions made at Subcommittees be forwarded to the entire Committee for ratification.

Eva Wadolna resigned from the Housing Subcommittee. She noted the next meeting of the Subcommittee was scheduled for April 5, 2011, at 1:00 pm. The Chair agreed to coordinate this meeting in the absence of a Chair for the Housing Subcommittee.

b. Transportation Subcommittee

Dena Dawson, Vice-Chair, reviewed the notes from the last Transportation Subcommittee meeting, noting countdown timers will be installed at some crossings and can be requested by the Committee.

Neal Carley, Assistant City Engineer, Street responded to questions regarding pedestrian signal timings, and recommended concerns be sent to Dave Coburn, Engineering Services. He also agreed to assist with requests for staff to attend Subcommittee meetings.

The Vice-Chair also noted the Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of BC (COSCO), has a variety of workshops available for seniors (*brochure distributed - on file*).

Jill Weiss, Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, provided an update on HandyDart systems, noting Dellie Lidyard is assisting with research on best practices in order to forward to HandyDart/ TransLink, and invited Committee members to review and provide input. She agreed to send the document to the Committee.

In the absence of the Chair of the Transportation Subcommittee, another member invited Dellie Lidyard join the Transportation Subcommittee; Ms. Lidyard accepted the invitation.

MOVED by Colleen
SECONDED by Dellie

THAT Chris Morrissey represent the Seniors Advisory Committee at the March 30, 2011 on HandyDart with TransLink, and that she make every effort to be invited.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Tom Bruncker absent for the vote)

5. Grandparents' Day

No report.

6. 2011 Workplan

No report.

7. New Business

a. Walk 21

Sandy James, Chair, Walk 21, provided an overview of the event and along with Neal Carley, Assistant City Engineer, Streets, responded to questions. They noted there will be a conference October 3 to 5, 2011, along with some free public events.

Note from Meeting Coordinator: Information on Walk 21 is available at <http://www.walk21.com/vancouver/index.html> and http://vancouver.ca/mediagallery_wa/mediaroom/videos.aspx?catid=Transportation&videourl=Walk%2021.flv

b. Earthquake Preparedness and Seniors

Commissioner Woodcock noted during an emergency the most important thing for seniors was to be in contact with family and friends, however many do not have cell phones. She also said she was meeting with Kevin Wallinger, Director of Emergency Management for the City and bringing up this matter.

Committee members indicated they would be interested in hearing a presentation from Mr. Wallinger on emergency management in the city as it relates to seniors.

Next Meeting:

DATE: Friday, April 15, 2011
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: City Hall Business Centre Meeting Room
2nd Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 11:53 am

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