



SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting notes

March 21, 2014

A meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee was held on Friday, March 21, 2014, at 9:30 am, at Barclay Manor in the West End.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Mr. Phillip Waddell, President of the West End Seniors Network welcomed the members and guests to the seniors centre. He noted that the WESN has a membership of 700 and that the west end has the largest population of seniors living alone.

Chris Morrissey thanked Mr. Waddell for his welcoming comments and took the opportunity to explain the role of the SAC and that it is mandated to advise city council. Self-introductions were made and the meeting was called to order.

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

ABSENT: Tom Bruncker (sick leave)

ALSO PRESENT: Taryn Scollard, Engineering Services

SPECIAL GUESTS: Matt Human, Sara Chung and Marilee Ashworth
from BC Transit
Residents of the West End and members of the
West End Seniors Network

1. Leave of Absence Requests

None were requested.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Carol Oreck

SECONDED by Clemencia Gomez

THAT the agenda be approved with amendments.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes or meeting notes to be approved.

4. Business arising from the previous meeting

a. Oakridge - Follow-up

Sharon Fenton reported that the Oakridge development rezoning was approved by City Council. Sharon noted that she addressed the Public Hearing and spoke to the need for an improved seniors centre with a self-contained kitchen. The previous centre was small and without specific space for the centre to offer a variety of seniors programs. At the insistence of the SAC the seniors community centre was moved to the ground floor and the support for the self-contained kitchen was made on behalf of the Oakridge Seniors Centre.

b. Casa Mia - Follow-up

The Chair explained that there is a proposal to build a seniors care facility at the site of the heritage house Casa Mia on south-west Marine Dr.. The rezoning application was removed from the rezoning agenda because some of the related agreements were not yet complete.

It was noted that the neighbours to this project were not in support of a care facility in a residential neighbourhood. SAC is looking at all types of

alternate seniors housing in addition to the institutional form used in the past. A brief description of the Green House Model was provided.

c. Pearson Dogwood

Sharon Fenton outlined the project and that Vancouver Coastal Health owned the property. She explained that Dogwood provided housing for frail seniors and patients with dementia and Pearson Hospital is a one-story building providing care and housing for persons with disabilities. The rest of the property will accommodate market and non-market rentals, market condos and community services.

Twenty percent of the rentals will be for social housing but the City Council agreed to allocate a portion of that inventory for seniors. City staff is to work with SAC to determine a suitable percentage for seniors and older adults.

2. Presentations

a. Compass Card

At this point in the meeting BC Transit took the floor to make a presentation about the new Compass Card.

A detailed presentation was made on the use of the Compass Card. Questions from the audience were taken during the presentation and opinions were shared about the difficulty seniors were having with the tap-in and tap-out feature for bus riders.

Options for fares were outlined. The details of payments were criticized by the attendees who did not find the process accessible and considerable travel was required to obtain the card and the paid fares. The attendees stated that they were not in favor of automatic debits or credit card payments over the phone or on-line.

3. Committee Liaison reports

Taryn Scollard, Engineering Staff Liaison had no report for this meeting. The opportunity was taken to enquire about a recently reported situation. A west end senior reported that the new garbage bin at her apartment was not accessible. The heavy locked lid made it impossible for older individuals, and those who did not have upper-body strength, impossible to lift the lid and deposit the garbage. If this persists people will be

inclined to leave the garbage beside the bin and available for rodents and pests.

4. Subcommittee Reports

The subcommittee reports were not presented so that the SAC members could have a discussion with the members of the general public in attendance.

a. Access Transportation

The question was asked about the ability of Access Transportation to consider the needs of the seriously disabled.

The Chair was able to respond with information about the training program and video that have been prepared to ensure that the drivers will have the proper knowledge. She also mentioned that SAC had recommended to BC Transit that they have taxis as part of their fleet.

b. 411 Seniors and financial cuts to seniors' NGOs

Those in attendance learned that thirty-six agencies have had their funding to seniors cut. Many of these agencies offer socializing services and it is well known that there is a long-term detrimental effect on the health of seniors. The agencies are reluctant to speak publically about their budget cuts because of possible negative repercussions.

The representatives from 411 Seniors expressed a willingness to work in partnership with SAC and others on matters of mutual interest.

Because these budget cuts will have a long-term impact on the services provided by the City of Vancouver, it was agreed that SAC and the City of Vancouver would try to bring together organizations for discussion and that the extent of the budget cuts could be reported without attribution to individual organizations.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Clemencia Gomez

SECONDED by Rowena Tate

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

After the meeting Spencer Chandra Herbert, MLA for the West End, was presented to speak and answer questions.

Next Regular Meeting:

DATE: May 9, 2014
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Town Hall, Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

Next working meeting of the committee

DATE: April 11, 2014
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: City Hall, meeting room to be confirmed

The Committee adjourned at 12:10pm.