

SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UNOFFICIAL NOTES (DRAFT)

October 16, 2015

A working session of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on October 16, 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
Jim McCully
Colleen McGuinness (Chair)
Chris Morrissey (Immediate Past Chair)
Scott Ricker (Vice-Chair)
Eva Wadolna
Jacqueline Weiler

ABSENT:

Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Vancouver City Council
Stephanie Kripps, Vancouver Public Library
Lisa Low
Angie Natingor (Leave of Absence)
Park Board Commissioner Erin Shum
Councillor Tim Stevenson, Vancouver City Council
Brian Tucker (Leave of Absence)
Bob Worcester

ALSO PRESENT:

Taryn Scollard, Engineering Services

GUESTS:

Sailen Black, Planning & Development Services
Wesley Chan and Caleb Yong, Jakin Engineering
(for Hon Towers Ltd.)
Anca Hurst, Rositch Hemphill Architects
Wendy LeBreton, Planning & Development Services
James O'Neill, Social Policy
David Rawsthorne, Active Transportation

1. Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Dellie Lidyard, SECONDED by Eva Wadolna

THAT leaves of absence be approved for Angie Natingor and Brian Tucker.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Gudrun Langolf, SECONDED by Scott Ricker

THAT the minutes of the September 16, 2015 regular meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Proposed Seniors' Housing at 5668 Balaclava Street and W. 41st Avenue
(Due to a conflict of interest, Colleen McGuinness recused herself as Chair. Scott Ricker assumed the role of Chair.)

Sailen Black, Development Planner for the City of Vancouver, provided an update on the proposal for a four-storey, 77-unit market condominium for seniors (for background: <http://former.vancouver.ca/devapps/5650balaclava/index.htm>). Based on previous comments from the Committee and the Urban Design Panel, the following changes have been made:

- a) Another storey will be added
- b) The amenity space for community-based seniors' services will be accessible from the same level and adjacent to the drop-off area;
- c) An outdoor space will be included off of the amenity room, to be used for various programming
- d) There will be no steps in the building; all hallways will be flat

The Committee was in favour of the revised application, but indicated the following:

- a) Community programming in the amenity room and green spaces should not be managed by organizations that do not have experience with seniors' services and that are not based in, and thus familiar with, the neighbourhood. There are many organizations in the neighbourhood that would be highly qualified to take on this role, especially the Dunbar Community Centre Association (DCCA). It was suggested that staff meet with the DCCA to discuss this possibility.
- b) Thought should be given to allowing rental units. Some older adults may be willing to pay a premium to rent in order to avoid the cost and inconvenience of selling their units in the event that they need to move into assisted living or residential care.
- c) Traffic management must be a priority, given that there are many schoolchildren in the area.
- d) There must be sufficient room for people using scooters to get through doorways in emergencies.
- e) Gaps between some of the outdoor steps can pose a tripping hazard.

(Colleen McGuinness resumed as Chair.)

4. South False Creek Seawall Upgrades

David Rawsthorne, Active Transportation, briefed the Committee about this project (<http://vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/south-false-creek-seawall.aspx>). The main goal is to create two separate pathways—one for pedestrians and one for cyclists. Members indicated the importance of having accessible bathrooms, good lighting, and visible signage along the route.

5. National Seniors' Day Event, October 1, Vancouver Public Library

Members were very pleased with the success of the all-candidates' debate on seniors' issues. However, they raised some concerns about other aspects of the event:

- a) The event was not advertised sufficiently in advance; social media advertising was minimal
- b) Due to insufficient signage and a malfunctioning public address system, visitors to the library were unaware of the events
- c) Opening remarks occurred too late; they should have been held earlier, when a large crowd of people was waiting for the main entrance to open
- d) Fewer agencies had tables this year, perhaps due to insufficient outreach and/or follow-up

Members suggested that the Committee hold its own event next year or work with local community groups to plan a series of smaller events.

5. Committee Liaison Reports

a) *Vancouver City Council*

No report.

b) *Park Board*

No report.

c) *Staff Liaison*

Taryn Scollard indicated that she would inquire about the following:

- i. Estimated date for the installation of a new crosswalk at Arbutus Avenue and West 6th Street will be installed, and whether a crosswalk will be installed at Wallace Street and Point Grey Road (leading to Brock House)
- ii. Status of signage for bus stops designated as accessible
- iii. Effectiveness of the "no u-turn" sign recently installed on Cordova Street at the exit from the underground parking lot beside the Shaw Tower (according to Scott Ricker, a more effective deterrent is required because cars are still making u-turns in the area)
- iv. Safety issues at Granville and West 70th Streets posed by motorists turning left on the lane near Safeway
- v. Safety issues at King Edward Avenue and MacDonald Street posed by motorists pulling into the new bike lane
- vi. Concerns about the intersection of Cambie Street and Marine Drive
- vii. Concerns about traffic disruptions during construction of the cycling lane on Marine Drive (e.g., danger posed by large number of vehicles using Dunbar as an alternate route)

Ms. Scollard indicated that an interim report about the City's outdoor lighting strategy has been completed and will be reviewed by managers from other divisions before being circulated to the committees and then going to Council. Eddy Elmer indicated the importance of ensuring that the Committee's feedback has been included in the report.

She also indicated that Social Policy wishes to know if the Committee has already applied to the World Health Organization for designation as an Age-Friendly Community. (The Chair suggested that the Committee write a letter to Social Policy clarifying the process and re-iterating its position that the Healthy City Strategy is insufficient for purposes of WHO Designation).

d) *Vancouver Public Library*
No report.

7. Subcommittee and Task Force Reports

a) *Housing Subcommittee*
See Appendix A.

b) *Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee*
See Appendix B.

c) *Communications*

Eddy Elmer asked members to provide brief written reports of events they attend so that he may post them on the website.

Members agreed to ask the Clerk's office to post dates for all SAC meetings, including working sessions, on the City website. They also recommended that Mr. Elmer provide all seniors' hubs with advance notice of our meetings.

Mr. Elmer discussed a research proposal brought to his attention by Dr. Atiya Mahmood, professor of environmental gerontology at Simon Fraser University. The proposal is for a community engagement project to enhance mobility and well-being in older adults. Dr. Mahmood asked Mr. Elmer if the Committee would be willing to review the proposal and provide a letter of support for funding from the Vancouver Foundation. The Committee agreed to invite Dr. Mahmood to the December meeting to discuss the project.

d) *Outreach and Engagement Task Force*

A request was received for SAC to meet with the Westside Neighbourhood Hub. After discussion it was agreed that the Hub would be informed that the SAC meetings are open to the public and they were welcome to attend to learn more about the issues that SAC addresses.

Beatrice Ho, Jackie Weiler, and Eva Beda will attend a Park Board roundtable discussion about how best to use recreation facilities, programs, and services to support the diverse and growing population of older adults. The meeting will be on October 28 at the Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Eddy Elmer, SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard
THAT this meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Regular Meeting:

DATE: Friday, November 20, 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:

Minutes of the Housing Subcommittee Meeting (October 8)

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

The Subcommittee reviewed the work of the previous term's Subcommittee. Beginning strategies were outlined and members volunteered for specific tasks.

1. Updates to the Building By-law

Ms. Morrissey will plan three meetings with Patrick Ryan, the City's new Chief Building Official; Anita Molaro, Assistant Director of Planning; and the housing representative from the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC). The purpose of the meetings will be to determine which accessibility and adaptability provisions are deemed problematic by staff and how many will remain after their review. Provisions related to hearing, vision, and mobility should be discussed.

2. "Visitability"

Ms. Lidyard will contact the Chair of PDAC to determine which of their members will be part of a joint PDAC-SAC subcommittee on visitability. She will also contact Lori Isfeld to book meeting times in the basement of City Hall.

3. Seniors' Subsidized Housing

Ms. McGuinness will draft a motion recommending how many subsidized housing units in new developments should be allocated to seniors. To begin the process, she will consult with Social Policy, the planner for the Southwest quadrant, and the Onni Group (developer of the Pearson-Dogwood lands).

4. Definition of Seniors' Housing

In consultation with experts in seniors' housing, the Subcommittee will attempt to determine a specific definition for "seniors' housing" that will include a list of both required and ideal elements. Eva Beda will ask Eddy Elmer if he can recommend any experts from the Department of Gerontology at Simon Fraser University who would be interested in working with the Subcommittee on this project.

5. Future Meetings

Future meetings will be held at 9:30am on the second Thursday of each month.

Appendix B

Minutes of the Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee Meeting (September 18, 2015)

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

1. Loading and Unloading Zones at SkyTrain Stations

A motion was submitted to the Committee asking Council to work with TransLink to designate loading and unloading zones at all SkyTrain stations.

2. Vision Zero

Gudrun Langolf provided further information about Vision Zero, an international initiative to eliminate traffic injuries and fatalities.

3. Vehicle for Hire Dialogue

Scott Ricker attended the last meeting and will provide a report.

4. Seating at Bus Stop Shelters

See Appendix B, item 6 of the [August 21 SAC minutes](#).

5. Insufficient Garbage Bins in Neighbourhoods and at Bus Shelters

The Subcommittee will gather more information about this matter (e.g., list of areas most in need of garbage bins).

6. Burrard Bridge Improvements

Members attended a meeting with Engineering Services and provided recommendations regarding accessibility. Staff will provide a timeline for the project.

7. Custom Transit Workshop

The Subcommittee received a draft report by Vince Gonsalvez of TransLink and is waiting for the final version. It is also waiting to hear whether the project will continue and, if so, who will be managing it.

8. Crosswalks

Engineering Services has indicated that a new crosswalk at Arbutus Street and West 6th Avenue is warranted. Paperwork will be completed and sent to Traffic Operations. A response is still pending regarding a request for a crosswalk at Wallace Street and Point Grey Road (leading to Brock House).

9. Signage for Bus Stops Designated as Accessible

The Subcommittee would like more information from Engineering Services about this matter.

10. Emergency Access to Lagoons

The Subcommittee is waiting to hear from staff about this matter.

11. Seaside Greenway

Dellie Lidyard reported on her walk-through inspection along both sides of Point Grey Road between MacDonald and Alma Streets. She indicated that Lynn Guilbault of Active Transportation has submitted her recommendations to the project's design lead.

12. Burrard / Cornwall Crosswalk

The Subcommittee is awaiting a report from Bruce Gilmour of Barrier-Free Canada, who conducted a site inspection with City staff.