



SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 17, 2014

A meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee was held on Friday, October 17, 2014, at 9:40 am, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Chris Morrissey, Chair
Eddy Elmer
Dellie Lidyard
Colleen McGuinness, Vice-Chair
Carol Oreck
Eva Wadolna

ABSENT: Tom Brunner (Sick Leave)
Sharon Fenton (Leave of absence)
Clemencia Gomez
Scott Graham (Leave of absence)
Alan Herbert (Sick Leave)
Rowena Tate (Leave of absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Tony Tang (Council Liaison)
Taryn Scollard, Director, Streets Division,
Engineering Services (Staff Liaison)

1. Leave of Absence Requests

Leave of absence requests were received from Sharon Fenton, Scott Graham and Rowena Tate.

MOVED BY Dellie Lidyard
SECONDED BY Carol Oreck

THAT leaves be approved for three individual
CARRIED.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Dellie Lidyard
SECONDED BY Carol Oreck

THAT the agenda be amended to include the project at 41st and Balaclava

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Eddy Elmer
SECONDED by Eva Wadolna

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting on September 17th be deferred to the next clerked meeting.

CARRIED

Colleen McGuinness agreed to circulate the amendments to be made to the September minutes.

4. Business Arising

National Seniors Day

It was reported that Vancouver Public Library was satisfied with the event, but there is room for improvement. The overlapping of events caused a reduction in the audience attendance. The concourse was a good location for the thirty-five service providers and the musician was excellent.

The storytelling portion of the program was not successful. It was difficult to locate within the library.

The VPL does want to host the event again next year but it will need better advertising to generate a bigger audience. The gifts provided, but unused, will be kept for the next years event.

5. Presentations

It was agreed that Mr. MukhtarLatif, City of Vancouver Chief Housing Officer will be invited to attend the next meeting. Taryn was asked to assist with this invitation.

6. Committee Liaison Reports

There were no reports.

7. Subcommittee Reports

(a) Communication and Outreach

No report in addition to the National Seniors Day update above.

(b) Housing

Those in attendance were informed about the Dogwood consultation. Chris attended the first session and it was composed of a SAC representative and family members of existing residents. It was not apparently useful or beneficial, and seemed to be window-dressing only. There was concern about the maintenance of the current level of services. Chris reported that there was a statement made that there would be “total care workers”. Vancouver Coastal Health circulated a document on best practices but there were no designs presented to indicate the site layout. Originally it had been suggested that outside resource people be invited to contribute to the discussion and knowledge exchange.

The background for the proposed seniors project at 41st and Balaclava was provided. This site had been the subject of SAC interest in the previous term. The project has been sold and is being resubmitted to City Hall for approval. The original project had a number of conditions attached to it and one was that SAC should be involved in the design of the development and a proposed seniors services agency. It was concluded that a letter should be sent to Brian Jackson, Director of Planning, to ask that the current proposal be submitted to SAC for comment.

(c) Transportation

See the attached motion, previously prepared but not forwarded by Councillor Tang to City Council, rather, it was forwarded to Engineering for comment.

Uber, the proposed new taxi system should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Carol reported that the taxi training manual has been published. It was suggested that the Transportation Committee liaise with COSCO regarding taxi services. The committee should coordinate with Loraine Logan and the Persons with Disability Committee. SAC volunteers to this project will be Rowena, Carol, Eva and Dellie.

(d) Pets and Apartments

No report.

8. New Business

(a) Pedestrians and cyclists

Community Policing was contacted regarding the recent pedestrian cyclist accidents, one was a pedestrian pushed off the seawall and in another a tourist recently died as a result of an accident with a cyclist. In a case at 10th and Fir, the pedestrian has initiated a suit against the cyclist. Rowena provided a copy of the motion that was prepared for submission to Council via Councillor Tang (see Appendix A)

After discussion the original motion was amended to read “That the Seniors Advisory Committee request that Staff Liaisons bring to Council and Parks Board the Committee’s concern for the safety of pedestrians, especially vulnerable seniors, at the interface between pedestrians and non-pedestrians (e.g., cyclists, skate boarders, etc.) on both sidewalks, the seawall and bike lanes, with a view to having the City take immediate action to address the issue in the short term while investigating and proposing longer-term viable solutions for implementation. SAC also requests that a formal response be made to the SAC when this matter has been referred to staff.”

Taryn agreed to get advice from Brenda Proskin about how the discussion on this topic could best be advanced. The motion will be discussed and approved at the meeting in November.

(b) Council of Councils

Committees were asked to provide key points on their work over the last three years. This material should be provided to Chris. There is a end-of-term report to be produced and, as well, an AV of key points to be presented the evening of the Council of Councils gathering at City Hall.

It was noted that some of the items to be included were: age friendly city designation; Dogwood Pearson and Oakridge.

(c) Advance Polling Stations

Discussion was centred around the information available about the location of the advance polling stations. There is an area of the city that is in the northeastern quadrant that appears to be without any easy and accessible advance polling location.

This is a particular concern to disadvantaged seniors and people who have mobility issues. After extensive discussion it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the City's Chief Election Officer expressing SAC's concern about this matter. The members in attendance agreed to a draft letter being circulated to the committee members for approval and then sent to the official as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Eva Wadolna
SECONDED by Eddy Elmer

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Regular Meeting:

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

The Committee adjourned at 11:40am.

Appendix A

SAC Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee Update October 17, 2014

Taxi Driver Training

On October 14, 2014, Rowena attended the screening of the Taxi Driver Training video on how to work with disabled and/or senior customers. An accompanying manual, "Ask, Listen, Act", was also distributed to members of the Taxi Driver Training Advisory Committee. Rowena indicated that it is an excellent video and 95% of the drivers have already been trained. There are some improvements/ updates in the works. There was a discussion about how to get this video used by all municipalities. Jane Dyson, director of Disability Alliance of BC (formerly the Coalition of People with Disabilities) whose organization is provincial, proposed making this a province-wide initiative.

Issue of Cyclist/Pedestrian Collisions

In the last 3 years, since this sub-committee has come into existence there have been 3 instances of collisions between seniors on the seawall or sidewalks and cyclists. Last year we drafted a motion which we asked Councillor Tang to present to City Council. He advised that he would meet with the Engineering staff from the Streets division to discuss the best way to proceed and ensure staff awareness. Somehow this issue slipped between the cracks, until now when the recent accident occurred, resulting in a pedestrian death. As a result and because of time constraints of the dissolution of this committee post-election, we request once again that this motion be presented. The motion passed at the SAC meeting of November 16, 2012 reads as follows:

"That the Seniors Advisory Committee request that Council Liaison bring to Council and Parks Board the Committee's concern for the safety of pedestrians, especially vulnerable seniors, at the interface between pedestrians and non-pedestrians (e.g., cyclists, skate boarders, etc.) on both sidewalks and the seawall, with a view to having the City take immediate action to address the issue in the short term while investigating and proposing longer-term viable solutions for implementation."