



SEPTEMBER 17, 2010

A meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee was held on Friday, September 17, 2010, at 9:31 am, in the City Hall Business Centre Meeting Room, Second Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Chris Morrissey, Chair
Grace Balbutin
Thomas Brunker*
Dena Dawson, Vice-Chair
Sylvia Gurstein
Virginia McDade
Colleen McGuinness
Eva Wadolna

ABSENT: Grace Balbutin (Leave of Absence)
Alice Choi
Henry Lee
Flordelis (Dellie) Lidyard

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Tim Stevenson, Vancouver City Council
Neal Carley, Assistant City Engineer - Streets

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with the following addition.

- Add item *8.c. Transportation Subcommittee.*

The Committee agreed to hear item 8c first. For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.

Attendance

A leave of absence was approved for Grace Balbutin

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on July 16, 2010, were approved.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Meeting Coordinator conducted elections for Chair and Vice Chair for the remainder of the 2010 term.

Following due process Chris Morrissey and Dena Dawson were elected Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

2. 2803 W 41st Avenue (Crofton Manor) Rezoning Application

Staff from the Rezoning Centre, a representative from Crofton Manor, and the presented the application and responded to questions.

MOVED by Dena Dawson
SECONDED by Chris Morrissey

THAT the Seniors Advisory Committee generally support the rezoning application for 2803 West 41st Avenue (Crofton Manor), as presented at the September 17, 2010, meeting, noting some objections to the change in tower height from 4 storeys to 6 storeys.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Thomas Brunker absent for the vote)

3. Rezoning and Development Permit Application - 2305-2325 West 7th Avenue, Kitsilano Neighbourhood House (DE413905)

Staff from the Planning Department and the applicant presented a rezoning and development permit application regarding 2305 West 7th Avenue (Kitsilano Neighbourhood House) and requested comments from the Committee.

MOVED by Syliva Gurstein
SECONDED by Colleen McGuinness

THAT the Seniors Advisory Committee support the rezoning and development permit application for 2305 to 2325 West 7th Avenue (Kitsilano Neighbourhood House), as presented at the September 17, 2010, meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Thomas Brunker absent for the vote)

4. Presentation: Katheryn Willet - South Granville Senior's Centre

Kathryn Willet, South Granville Senior's Centre, provided an update on outreach to isolated seniors.

5. **Presentation: Abbeyfield Housing**

No presentation.

6. **Accessible Community Gardens**

Jill Weiss, Chair - Accessible Community Gardens Subcommittee, provided an update on the Accessible Community Gardens Subcommittee.

Neal Carley, Assistant City Engineer - Streets, agreed to facilitate a meeting between the Subcommittee and relevant City staff regarding accessibility issues in community Gardens.

MOVED by Eva Wadolna

SECONDED by Colleen McGuinness

- A. THAT the revised Guidelines for Accessible Community Gardens be approved by the Seniors Advisory Committee, as presented at the September 17, 2010, meeting, with the change that appropriate seating be added.
- B. THAT the Seniors Advisory Committee recommend to Council that the City of Vancouver adopt these guidelines as the standard for accessibility for all new community gardens in Vancouver.
- C. THAT the Seniors Advisory Committee requests that the City of Vancouver provide accessible pathways and accessible water service to all new community gardens, as part of the infrastructure it provides to new community gardens.
- D. THAT the Seniors Advisory Committee accepts the September 14, 2010, report of the Joint Subcommittee on Accessible Community Gardens and includes it in its official record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Thomas Brunker absent for the vote)

MOVED by Eva Wadolna

SECONDED by Colleen McGuinness

WHEREAS:

1. Almost all community gardens in Vancouver currently exclude seniors and persons with disabilities due to previous design.
2. Community gardens are a public service that should be available to all persons residing in Vancouver.
3. The exclusion of seniors and persons with disabilities from community gardens in Vancouver contradicts Council's priority on inclusive communities.

4. The exclusion of seniors and persons with disabilities from community gardens contradicts the BC Human Rights Code.
5. Seniors with limited financial resources may be dependent on public green space.
6. The City of Vancouver has the means to ameliorate this situation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Seniors Advisory Committee recommends to Council that the City ensure that all new community gardens in Vancouver are accessible for seniors and people with disabilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Thomas Brunker absent for the vote)

MOVED by Eva Wadolna
SECONDED by Colleen McGuinness

WHEREAS:

1. Most individuals are not aware of what is technically required to make a garden accessible for seniors and persons with disabilities.
2. The failure to provide standards for accessibility will result in the continuation of gardens that are not accessible for seniors or people with disabilities.
3. The Guidelines for Accessible Community Gardens were developed by both the City of Vancouver Seniors Advisory Committee and the City of Vancouver Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee.
4. These Guidelines have been revised after consultation with seniors organizations and individuals, disability organizations and individuals, with experts, and with staff, and have been revised according to their feedback.
5. These Guidelines accommodate the needs of a wide range of seniors and persons with disabilities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Seniors Advisory Committee recommend to Council to adopt these guidelines as the standard for accessibility in new community gardens in Vancouver

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Eva Wadolna
SECONDED by Colleen McGuinness

WHEREAS:

1. Accessible pathways are an integral and crucial part of accessibility in community gardens.
2. All other aspects of accessibility are nullified if the paths are not accessible.
3. Installing accessible pathways is beyond the technical capacity of community gardeners.
4. It is efficient and effective for City staff to install pathways in all new community gardens.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Seniors Advisory Committee recommend to Council that the City of Vancouver adopt a policy of providing accessible pathways as part of the initial infrastructure it provides to new community gardens

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Thomas Brunker absent for the vote)

MOVED by Eva Wadolna
SECONDED by Colleen McGuinness

WHEREAS

1. Accessible water service is an integral and crucial part of accessibility in community gardens.
2. The City already installs water service in new community gardens on City land.
3. The work to modify an existing water system to make it accessible later on is considerable.
4. The work and cost to ensure that the water system is accessible at the outset is minimal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Seniors Advisory Committee recommend to Council that the City of Vancouver adopt a policy of ensuring that the water service they install for new community gardens is accessible

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Thomas Brunker absent for the vote)

7. HandyDART Update

Jill Weiss, Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee Liaison, provided an update on HandyDART's recent decision to discontinue sedan service for clients.

MOVED by Colleen McGuinness

SECONDED by Dena Dawson

THAT the Chair write a letter to HandyDART expressing concerns with the cancellation of sedan service for HandyDART clients.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Thomas Brunker absent for the vote)

8. Sub-committee Reports

a. *Housing Sub-Committee (20 minutes)*

No report.

b. *Ad Hoc committee on Seniors Fact Sheet*

Postponed to the next meeting.

c. *Transportation Subcommittee*

Thomas Brunker reviewed the minutes from the last Transportation Subcommittee meeting.

MOVED by Thomas Brunker

SECONDED by Virginia McDade

THAT Linda McGowan, Consumer Advocacy Advisor - MVT, be invited to the next Seniors Advisory Committee meeting to address concerns regarding the recent cancellation of sedan service for HandyDART customers.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Other Business

a. *Invitation from the Women's Advisory Committee for International Women's Day*

The Vice-Chair agreed to work with the Women's Advisory Committee on an event for International Women's Day 2011.

Next Meeting:

DATE: Friday, October 15, 2010
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: City Hall Business Centre Meeting Room
Second Floor, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 11:57 am

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