

SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WORKING SESSION NOTES (DRAFT)

August 16, 2013

A working session of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on Friday, August 16, 2013, at 9:30am, in the Business Centre, Second Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Chris Morrissey (Chair)
Eddy Elmer
Sharon Fenton
Dellie Lidyard
Colleen McGuinness, Vice-chair
Carol Oreck
Rowena Tate
Eva Wadolna

ABSENT: Clemencia Gómez (leave requested)
Scott Graham (leave requested)
Colin Lazzerini
Tasia Alexis, Persons with Disabilities Committee Liaison
Thomas Brunker (Sick Leave)
Jill Weiss, Persons with Disabilities Committee Liaison
Trustee Sophia Woo, Vancouver School Board Liaison
Councillor Tony Tang*, Vancouver City Council

ALSO PRESENT: Tony Tang, Councillor
Taryn Scollard, Staff Liaison, Engineering Services

GUESTS: Winston Chow, Data Management, Engineering
Alina Cheng, Data Management, Engineering

1. Introductions and Welcome

Members, liaisons, and guests introduced themselves.

2. Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Carol Oreck, SECONDED by Rowena Tate

THAT a leave of absence be approved for Clemencia Gómez and Scott Graham for the current meeting. CARRIED

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Dellie Lidyard, SECONDED by Rowena Tate. CARRIED

To accommodate the guests, certain items at the meeting were taken out of order.

4. Approval of previous meetings notes

MOVED by Carol Oreck, SECONDED by Sharon Fenton

THAT the notes of the July 19, 2013 meeting be approved. CARRIED

5. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

- a) Community-Based Care Motion - Sharon reported that she is doing background research to support the requested motion on community-based care.

The agenda was suspended at this point for the presentation from Constable Heather Brown. - See below.

- b) Fees for Wheelchairs - deferred
- c) Pearson Dogwood follow-up - deferred
- d) Brock House/Point Grey Road - see Committee Liaison report
- e) Pets in buildings - deferred
- f) Community planning updates - deferred to the September meeting
- g) Digital strategy update - deferred until October meeting

Taken out of order

6. Presentations

- a) Constable Heather Brown - Community Policing Centre - Scooting Seniors
Constable Brown presented information about the scooter-training program that has been developed for the increasing number of seniors who are purchasing scooters to enhance their lifestyles with increased mobility. Unfortunately, new owners need training to operate the scooters safely.

The training includes instruction on the rules of the road, noting the fact that scooters are treated in the same vein as pedestrians and belong on the sidewalk. Seniors also get an opportunity to try the scooter to see if this is a mode of transportation with which they would be comfortable.

The project is a partnership with Coast Mountain and Handydart so that seniors can experience getting on and off their vehicles. Training is done indoors in community centres. They can handle 150-175 people per event with translators and youth trainers. If needed, Coast Mountain will also provide private lessons.

The next training session is at Champlain Heights Community Centre on September 25th from 12:00 to 3:00pm.

The Transportation Subcommittee was asked to work with Const. Brown to develop a set of rules for scooter operators.

b) Pedestrian Safety

Alina Cheng, from Engineering, made a presentation on analysis of collision data obtained from ICBC. The purpose of this was to identify issues of pedestrian safety, review safety measures and focus actions.

The results show that pedestrian fatalities are declining:

- 1% of all collisions involve pedestrians - approximately 500/year
- 45% of traffic fatalities are pedestrians
- Areas of concern are people over 65 years of age and 19-29 years. There was no gender difference.
- Most collisions happen between 3:00pm and 8:00pm. There are higher numbers of collisions in the winter months, particularly during hours of darkness (i.e. after sunset).
- Higher frequency of collisions occur downtown and at major intersections.
- 33% of pedestrian collisions occurred with left turning cars and 25% with right turning cars

The outcome of this research is the following:

- A program of Education/Enforcement/Engineering
- A campaign entitled "People are Fragile" was launched in 2012 in partnership with other agencies
- Close work with Police
- Improvements to lighting at intersections with high frequency of collisions after dark
- Improvements to intersections with high turning-collisions and/or high concentrations of senior activity (where they live/go): the West End, non-market senior housing sites, assisted living facilities, residential care facilities, community centres, neighbourhood houses, facilities for seniors services, hospitals and clinics, parks, libraries, commercial and retail areas and bus stops.

The SAC members were asked to identify and report areas of concern to Engineering. Two that were mentioned were Kingsway at Knight and Thurlow at Haro.

Alina also reported that there is a national study on walking speed that shows that walking speeds are slowing. The speed has reduced from 1.2 meters/second to 0.8-1 meter/second. Engineering is now applying this new standard at traffic signals.

c) Age Friendly City - Steven Dang

Steven explained to the meeting that the motion on Age Friendly City that is proposed pertains to recognition by the Provincial Government that the City of Vancouver will

be making an effort to make the city age friendly. With the support of the Seniors Advisory Committee the staff would work towards this goal.

The discussion was centred around the differences between the Provincial designation that is a commitment to “become age friendly” and the World Health Organization (WHO) designation which is only granted once the city in question has implemented all the elements necessary for an age friendly environment.

Steven explained that the proposed motion is intended to keep seniors’ issues in the forefront and to show Community, Council and staff that there is a commitment to continue to make Vancouver age friendly. SAC members spoke about their concerns that there will be no further work to accomplish the WHO standards.

After discussion it was agreed that the motion would be amended by Tony and staff and resubmitted to SAC for consideration.

The following report from Councillor Tony Tang was taken out of order

7. Committee Liaison Reports

a) City Council liaison, Tony Tang

Tony reported that the SAFER motion was amended and approved by the Lower Mainland municipalities at their recent convention and referred to the UBCM conference for province-wide discussion and approval. A copy of the final version of the motion was to be circulated to SAC for information.

Referring to agenda item 5.d) Tony noted that Engineering staff committed to address the parking issue at Brock House with reports back to SAC and PDAC.

Councillor Tang asked that, when possible, he receive advance notice of the SAC opinion on major reports and for SAC to advise him if there are concerns.

b) Engineering Department - no report

Due to the lateness of the hour no committee reports were heard at this meeting.

8. Subcommittee Reports

a) Communications and Outreach Subcommittee

b) Housing Subcommittee

c) Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee

d)

10. New Business

Next Meeting:

DATE: Friday, September 20, 2013
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Town Hall Room, Main Floor

Vancouver City Hall

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Eva Wadolna, SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard
THAT this meeting be adjourned. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 12:00 pm