



## SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### UNOFFICIAL NOTES

July 19, 2013

A working session of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on Friday, July 19, 2013, at 9:30am, in the Business Centre, Second Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

- PRESENT:**
- Chris Morrissey (Chair)
  - Eddy Elmer
  - Sharon Fenton
  - Clemencia Gómez
  - Scott Graham
  - Dellie Lidyard
  - Colleen McGuinness, Vice-chair
  - Carol Oreck
  - Rowena Tate
  - Eva Wadolna
- ABSENT:**
- Tasia Alexis, Persons with Disabilities Committee Liaison
  - Thomas Brunker (Sick Leave)
  - Colin Lazzarini
  - Jill Weiss, Persons with Disabilities Committee Liaison
  - Trustee Sophia Woo, Vancouver School Board Liaison
  - Councillor Tony Tang\*, Vancouver City Council
- ALSO PRESENT:**
- Melissa De Genova, Commissioner, Vancouver Park Board Liaison
  - Taryn Scollard, Staff Liaison, Engineering Services
- GUESTS:**
- David Rawsthorne and David Koybe, Engineering
  - Milinda Schulz, Better at Home

#### 1. Introductions and Welcome

Members, liaisons, and guests introduced themselves.

#### 2. Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Dellie Lidyard, SECONDED by Rowena Tate  
THAT a leave of absence be approved for Carol Oreck, omitted at the last meeting, and Sharon Fenton for the current meeting. CARRIED

#### 3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Eddy Elmer, SECONDED by Eva Wadolna

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

#### **4. Approval of previous meetings notes**

MOVED by Dellie Lidyard, SECONDED by Carol Oreck

THAT the notes of the June 21, 2013 meeting be approved with an amendment to the item about the BC Service card to delete the phrase "security improved". CARRIED

#### **5. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting**

- a) Community-Based Care Motion - deferred
- b) Fees for Wheelchairs - deferred
- c) Pearson Dogwood follow-up - deferred
- d) Brock House/Point Grey Road - see Transportation and Mobility Committee report
- e) Pets in buildings - Staff will arrange a meeting with all the named parties.
- f) Community planning updates  
Chris reported that she had been in touch with Brian Jackson's office regarding a meeting with the community planners and she will follow-up on this possible presentation as soon as possible. It was agreed that all committees should be invited to the joint meeting with all the community planners.
- g) Digital strategy update - deferred until October

#### **Taken out of order**

#### **6. Presentations**

##### **a) Better at Home**

Milinda Schulz, Better at Home coordinator for the Oakridge, Kerrisdale and Marpole neighbourhoods outlined the province-wide program funded by the provincial government and administered through the United Way. Twenty million dollars were allocated for services to 68 communities in BC. The program was set up to assist independent seniors, regardless of the location of their residence. Non-medical services to be provided include: laundry, grocery shopping, errands and housekeeping.

Organizers have recognized that the seniors' needs differ according to their location. People working with seniors are being asked for information about local needs via a community survey.

The program requires a lead agency in each area. This would be an existing agency (non-profit) established and with a good business history and demonstrated good financial management. The lead agency must hire one dedicated manager and all the additional staffing is by volunteers. Depending on the community, some services might be contracted out (i.e. food preparation, housekeeping). The lead agency must produce a budget with fees for services to the seniors based on the individuals' annual income (income tax/assessment for care). Low-income individuals may get free services or be asked for a donation. The services must be affordable. The lead agency will also be responsible for training the volunteers as well as obtaining all the necessary security clearances.

The program is based on the premise that living at home is best for seniors and more economical to the health care system. The program will be available to all seniors receiving guaranteed income assistance and other government funding such as OAP and CPP.

Funding is in place for this program to continue for three years. Milinda reported that there would be a community meeting for the seniors in the Oakridge, Kerrisdale and Marpole areas in September.

A vigorous discussion took place between Milinda and the members of SAC. It was agreed that SAC should direct their ideas, opinions and concerns to the Better at Home provincial office with copies to the Provincial Government and United Way.

SAC members were asked to complete the Better at Home survey and were referred to the web site for further information. In conclusion it was agreed that this is a short-term solution to a long-term issue and requires further review by SAC.

**The following report from Commissioner De Genova was taken out of order**

#### **7. Committee Liaison Reports**

a) Parks Board, Melissa De Genova, Commissioner

Commissioner De Genova reported that the community centre one-card has been released and can now be used at most community centres. She also explained that there is a Leisure Access Card that is available for low-income individuals and agreed to provide the criteria.

Although SAC abandoned the application for funding in 2014 for seniors week, the approach to the Park's Board staff was met with a positive reaction and there is a clear interest in a joint partnership for a Seniors' Week application for next year. It was agreed to get an early start on this.

It was noted that a ramp would be installed at BarclayManor; the food concessions at the beach will now serve locally sourced foods.

Clemencia took this opportunity to request an explanation about the sharp rise in the park permit fees for not-for-profits. Melissa and Clemencia agreed to a follow-up conversation on this matter.

b) Engineering Department - Taryn Scollard

Taryn reported on issues of sidewalk safety. There has been a meeting with Vancouver Police looking at the short-, medium- and long-term solutions for the safety of pedestrians, especially as it pertains to the area near the Boathouse in the West End.

It was also noted that there may be some street relocations as part of the West End Community Plan and new paving and layout will result.

Safety guidelines are being developed for the operational design of the seawall.

A SAC member raised the issue of pedestrian safety as it pertains to the Transportation 2014 presentation. One issue is the increased use of scooters and their place on the sidewalk or roadway. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the August meeting.

#### **8. Subcommittee Reports**

a) Communications and Outreach Subcommittee

Eddy Elmer, Chair, reported briefly on the following:

Tentatively, the October meeting is scheduled for Champlain Heights.

New Horizon Grant application for 2013, deferred, joint project with Parks Board for 2014 will be pursued.

There will be a joint meeting on street lighting soon.

Engineering has kindly reproduced the SAC brochure.

July 29<sup>th</sup> is the Pride reception and proclamation at City Hall.

Clemencia also announced the launch of the West side food security-mobile food market. Each week there will be fresh fruits and vegetables offered for sale at the South Granville Seniors Centre and also in Marpole. This is a pilot project mobile farmers market. Everyone was invited to visit.

b) Housing Subcommittee

The committee members were informed that Will Johnson, Chief Building Officer, would be leaving the City employ before the amended building code is presented to Council for approval.

It was agreed that the SAC should write to the City Manager to emphasize the importance of having the amended building code approved and that the loss of Mr. Johnson should not allow this important initiative to be delayed.

Colleen McGuinness, Chair, reported on a recent letter she had received from a resident of Fairview Manor. Although the location is removed from Steeves Manor, many of the same issues have developed. New, younger tenants with issues are disrupting the balance within this building and resulting in many residents afraid to leave their suites.

Rather than deal with a specific building it was decided to spend some time at the next meeting discussing what role the City can play to ensure the quality of living for all seniors in supported accommodations and how SAC can advance this initiative.

**Due to the presence of staff from the Engineering Department this item was addressed out of order.**

c) Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee

Rowena Tate, Chair, advised that the report on recent activities would be circulated separately to allow time for discussion of the Point Grey Road - Cornwall Avenue Corridor Active Transportation Project proposal.

On Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> the joint committees, including Jill Weiss, Chair of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, and Sharon Fenton, met with Engineering staff to review the proposal.

Concerns expressed regarding the plans for improving the intersection of Burrard Bridge and Cornwall Avenue included note that the crosswalk activated button was on an area too steep for people in wheelchairs.

There were issues around Brock House. Currently there are 29 parking spaces and 5 disabled parking spaces on the site. The original plan made changes to the local parking that compromised the access to Brock House. There is a need to improve the sidewalks so seniors can get to the facility.

David Rawthorne, Engineering representative responsible for the project addressed the meeting and explained that the bike path will be re-aligned west of Brock House to preserve some of the north side parking near Brock House. Because the details have not been worked out there was no reference to this in the staff report going to Council. Negotiations are also underway with Parks Board staff to confirm specific complimentary parking in the adjacent Parks Board public parking lot for vehicles with the Brock House parking permits.

It was suggested that the Engineering Department undertake an accessibility audit of the built form to confirm the statement that the proposed changes to the roadway will be “accessible for all ages and abilities” because SAC members challenged the accuracy of that statement. Some Committee members stated a preference for the pedestrian sidewalk on the south side of the street because there are fewer driveway entrances. David reported that the north side sidewalk will be widened and rebuilt to ameliorate the 60 driveway exit cuts.

Elimination of the parking at the mini-parks was noted as a problem for seniors but Engineering maintains, that with reduced traffic and reduced number of visitors, there should be not difficulty finding adjacent parking. It was noted that the diversion of vehicular traffic to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. should add only one or two minutes to the taxi travel time to Brock House.

In conclusion, it was stated that the SAC members have information and knowledge and when reports come late to the SAC’s attention there is concern that early in-put would have been more efficient.

There were also a number of street items brought to Taryn’s attention. They included: Haro and Thurlow intersection where the pedestrian light is too short; Knight and Kingsway intersection is very difficult for pedestrians and the pedestrian light is too short; and a picture will be provided of Alberni and Jervis where there are also issues with crossing times.

## **10. New Business**

### **a) Healthy City program**

The Chair reported that there would be a joint meeting of all interested committees to hear a presentation on the Healthy City program. Material will be provided in advance for review.

Given the large number of important issues currently under consideration, the Committee agreed to hold a working session meeting on August 16, 2013.

### **Next Meeting:**

DATE: Friday, August 16, 2013  
TIME: 9:30am  
PLACE: Business Centre, Second Floor  
Vancouver City Hall

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Eva Wadolna, SECONDED by Rowena Tate  
THAT this meeting be adjourned. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 12:10 pm