

## SENIOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 15, 2013

Notes from a meeting of the Senior's Advisory Committee was held on Friday, March 15, 2013 at 9:30am in the Town Hall room at City Hall.

PRESENT:	Chris Morrissey – Chair Eddy Elmer Sharon Fenton Dellie Lidyard Carol Oreck Colleen McGuinness (Vice-Chair & Recorder) Rowena Tate Eva Wadolna Al Luongo (Staff liaison & Engineering) Tony Tang (Council liaison) Tasia Alexis (PDAC rep)
ABSENT:	Thomas Brunker Clemencia Gomez Colin Lazzerini Pauline Preston (VPL) Jill Weiss (PDAC rep) Melissa De Genova (Parks Board) Sophie Woo
Guests	Sheila Pepper

At 9:30am the meeting was called to order, guests were introduced and members introduced themselves.

- 1. Introductions and welcome**
- 2. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved with the addition New Business – Presentations

- 3. Attendance**

Leave of absence due to illness was approved for Tom Brunker.  
Leave approved for Clemencia Gomez. Moved by Dellie, seconded by Eva - carried

- 4. Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the minutes of the March meeting was deferred.

## **5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **a. Affordable Housing Task Force**

Councillor Geoff Meggs attended the meeting at the request of the committee to discuss the Mayor's Task Force on Affordable Housing results and discuss housing needs of seniors. Chris used this visit to explain that the SAC had requested a meeting with one of the Task Force's (TF) Co-Chairs because there were concerns about whether the special needs of seniors were being addressed.

Geoff explained the priorities that the TF determined as the guiding principles. It was decided that families with incomes below \$80,000 were greatly affected by the lack of affordable housing. Because shelter and supported housing can receive joint government housing it was determined that the TF should focus on how to increase the supply of housing types that are not eligible for any subsidies.

Tools to encourage rental housing included waiving parking, fees, faster processing of developments and the forgoing of CACs. Projects require a 60-year rental covenant and will be considered and approved on a project-by-project bases.

A Housing Authority will be established to work with community groups to support housing projects on City held land.

Six City-held lands are to be made available of proposals with 20% of major projects to be allocated for social housing.

Twenty sites are designated for rental projects on private land. The first, a co-housing project, has been approved.

The TF focused on affordable housing without recognizing any special demographic such as seniors or persons with disabilities.

Following an outline of the TF there was a wide-ranging discussion about accessibility, hybrid designs and neighbourhood needs that continued for 90 minutes.

### **b. Oakridge**

No report

### **c. Community based care**

No report. Sharon will follow-up with Tony Tang to see that the motion moves to Council.

d. Seniors Week

Dates this year are June 2 – 8, 2013. The Communications Committee will be reporting on how best to present the proclamation.

e. Pearson Dogwood Development

Meeting with the proponents is scheduled for next week.

f. Better at Home

Eva provided a brief summary of the program Better at Home that was established in 2010 and tested in five communities including Vancouver. The province-wide program is administered through the Community Action for Seniors Independence, a partnership between the United Way and the Ministry of Health. It is based on volunteer non-medical support from the community to provide services to people 55+ through an existing not-for-profit community organization. The services can include: laundry, cooking, yard-work, housekeeping, handyman services, transportation etc. There is a sliding scale for fees and the services offered are crafted to match the needs of the specific community.

## **6. COMMITTEE LIAISONS**

a. Tony Tang, Council liaison

Councillor Tony reported that he will assist in getting the proclamation to Council prior to Seniors' Week.

He also noted that the motion on pedestrian safety had been discussed with senior Engineering staff who will look into it.

Councillor Deal will present the SAFER motion at the next UBCM meeting.

Councillor Tang was asked to work with SAC on the preparation of the motion pertaining to Community Based Care.

b. Al Luongo, Engineering Department, liaison

Al reported that Taryn Scollard has been appointed as the new Director of Streets and will be the liaison from Engineering with Murray Wightman and Al as the alternates.

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Communications and outreach

Eddy reported on a visit to the West End policing centre and attendance at a seniors group meeting. He presented a power-point summary of the SAC and was asked to provide this to other members who might have an opportunity to use it at meetings.

The committee members also attended a seniors meeting at the Carnegie Centre and followed up with a tour of several housing sites.

Eva offered to conduct tours of several seniors housing projects and members were asked to confirm with her directly.

The June outreach meeting is a suitable opportunity for a speaker, transportation was suggested as a possible topic.

Discussion of business cards was deferred to the next meeting.

The Seniors Week proclamation is being drafted and should be read at City Council on May 28<sup>th</sup> and read again by the Deputy Mayor or a member of Council at the Roundhouse at the opening of the week of activities.

b. Housing

Chris reported on the progress of the building code by-law amendment. Messages are being sent to a variety of community groups, seniors network contacts and individuals to encourage people to respond to the on-line consultation. It was noted that there is no opportunity for non-electronic input to the consultation.

c. Transportation and mobility

See attached report.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business discussed at this meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee will be May 17th in the Town Hall room at City Hall at 9:30am.

Appendix 1 Report of the Transportation and Mobility Committee

**Report on Status of Activities as of April 17, 2013**

**1. Cambie/Broadway #9 bus stops**

Tom will follow up with a fellow COSCO member who is also on TransLink Advisory Board to see if we can take some kind of action on moving the bus stops to locations that are more accessible to seniors and people with disabilities.

**2. Thurlow/Haro intersection**

On April 9, Richard Wright, West End-Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre, advised "I have just received a call from Toby Lewis, who is with the City of Vancouver engineering department, regarding the intersection of Thurlow/Haro. He said that, in the short-term, enforcement with the VPD is the best way to deter drivers from ignoring the traffic island on Haro St. – I will be talking to the

Constable we work with regarding possible deployments. In the long-term, he stated that the City will be keeping the intersection on their radar and will potentially follow up with redesigning the traffic island and/or changing the pedestrian/traffic signals at the intersection."

Mr. Wright further reported "On 28<sup>th</sup> February, a VPD member attended the intersection and wrote four tickets and issued several warnings during the deployment. At this point, now that the City is aware of the issues at the intersection and they have been provided with hard statistics on the observed issues, it is in their hands. If anybody that lives in the area is still experiencing issues at that intersection, please do let me know and I will gladly collect more data and make that available to the City engineers."

Carol will continue to monitor further developments.

### **3. Community Police meeting**

Carol and Rowena met with Aleya Trotta, Executive Director of the West End Coal Harbour Community Police, and Jennifer Luccock, VDP Constable assigned to the Community Police, on February 26, and were given an overview of their responsibilities, including crime prevention and personal safety, with a particular emphasis on seniors and the LGBT Community, to which end they hold and attend local meetings and events.

We were invited to attend a meeting on April 18 at Gordon House, where they would be talking about what the Community Police can do for seniors. As neither Carol nor Rowena were able to attend, Eddy kindly offered to attend and provide information about SAC.

### **4. Overgrown trees obscuring street lights and stop signs**

Murray Wightman reported to the SAC at the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and reported that the current by-law on sidewalk encroachment is being amended. Trees and hedges on private property that interfere with pedestrians and vehicles can be reported to the City. The situation will be examined and a notice sent to the property owner. There is 30 days allowed to have remedial action taken. Should it be necessary, a second notice with 10 days notice to make the necessary changes is sent. If the owner fails to make the necessary steps then City staff can clear the offending foliage and charges will be made to the property owner.

Boulevard trees are the responsibility of the Parks Board. Sidewalks can be impacted by hedge and tree roots and the Engineering Department wants to hear of any sites that might create dangerous situations to pedestrians.

**5. Clearance of fallen leaves from sidewalks**

Tom will follow up on Neal's correspondence on this issue, and take appropriate action.

**6. Taxi Driver training**

At the meeting on February 27 with BC Coalition of People with Disabilities and the Taxi Drivers' Association, representing Yellow Cabs, Black Cabs, Vancouver Taxi and McClures., further revisions to the manual were discussed, as well the format of the proposed video and of the accompanying "exam" that will determine certification. Video taping is planned at G.F. Strong some time in May, with a June rollout. A working group was established to deal with deliverables. The next meeting will be early in May.

**7. Pedestrian safety on sidewalks and seawalls**

The motion below, approved by SAC at the November 16, 2012 meeting, and was advised that the motion had not been sent to Cllr. Tang for presentation to City Council. Cllr. Tang has now agreed to meet with Engineering staff from the Streets division to discuss the best way to proceed and ensure staff awareness. It was also suggested that, in this same context, the Police should be asked to enforce regulations for bicycle riders who prefer to ride on the sidewalks.

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.