



SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UNOFFICIAL NOTES (DRAFT)

October 18, 2013

A community outreach session of the Seniors' Advisory Committee was held on Friday, October 18, 2013, at 10:00am, in the second floor lounge of the Champlain Heights Community Centre in southeast Vancouver.

PRESENT: Eddy Elmer (Recorder)
Sharon Fenton
Clemencia Gómez*
Dellie Lidyard
Colleen McGuinness, Vice-chair
Eva Wadolna

ABSENT: Thomas Brunker (Sick Leave)
Scott Graham (Leave of Absence)
Colin Lazzerini
Chris Morrissey, Chair (Leave of Absence)
Rowena Tate (Leave of Absence)
Jill Weiss, Persons with Disabilities Committee Liaison
Trustee Sophia Woo, Vancouver School Board Liaison

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Melissa De Genova, Vancouver Park Board Liaison
Gillian Guilmant-Smith, Vancouver Public Library Liaison
Taryn Scollard, Staff Liaison, Engineering Services
Councillor Tony Tang*, Vancouver City Council

*Denotes an absence for a portion of the meeting

1. Introductions and Welcome

Members, liaisons, and 25 guests introduced themselves.

2. Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Dellie Lidyard, SECONDED by Carol Oreck

THAT leaves of absence be approved for Chris Morrissey, Scott Graham, and Rowena Tate for this meeting.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Dellie Lidyard, SECONDED by Sharon Fenton

THAT the agenda be approved with the following amendment:

- a. That Gillian Guilmant-Smith will be speaking today about the Vancouver Public Library's Strategic Plan for 2013-2015, not the City of Vancouver's Digital Strategy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Dellie Lidyard, SECONDED by Sharon Fenton

THAT the minutes of the September 20, 2013 meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

a) Community-Based Care Motion

Sharon Fenton provided an overview of her community-based care motion (passed by the Committee on February 22, 2013). She is currently working to have the motion passed by Council.

b) Pearson-Dogwood Redevelopment Plan

After Ms. Fenton provided an overview of this plan, audience members asked questions about the types of housing that will be included and whether there has been public consultation. Ms. Fenton indicated that she been representing the interests of older adults at the consultation meetings. She encouraged audience members to read more about the plan by visiting <http://pearsondogwood.vchnews.ca/>

c) Point Grey-Cornwall Corridor Project Update

See Appendix "A," attached.

d) Pets in Rental Buildings

Vice-chair McGuinness provided a summary of Councillor Stevenson's motion to support renters with pets (passed by Council on June 12, 2013):

<http://former.vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20130611/documents/motionb4.pdf>.

Following this, audience members were invited to provide input about the motion.

e) Neighbourhood Plans

Eva Wadolna provided a progress update on the four neighbourhood plans (West End, Downtown Eastside, Marpole, Grandview-Woodland). She invited audience members to view the plans on the City's website and provide comments.

6. Subcommittee Reports

a) Communications and Outreach Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Eddy Elmer reminded members to send him brief biographies to post on the SAC website. He also reminded everyone that the next Council of Councils meeting is November 14 and encouraged them to complete the civic committee survey by November 10.

b) Housing Subcommittee

No report. Subcommittee Chair Colleen McGuinness indicated that the Subcommittee will meet the first week of November.

c) Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee

Carol Oreck reported on the Subcommittee's activities (Appendix "A").

Following this report, Committee members and the audience discussed a variety of transportation issues.

Street Lighting

Eddy Elmer reported that despite some improvement due to greater police enforcement, cars traveling westbound on Smithe/Haro Street continue to drive through the intersection at Haro and Thurlow, even though this is prohibited. In many cases, cars speed through the intersection (which is poorly-lit), endangering pedestrians. Ms. Oreck said that she continues to work with the Vancouver Police Department to rectify this problem.

Residents near UBC contacted Taryn Scollard, our Staff liaison, to express concern about the lack of lighting along S.W. Marine Drive up until Nitobe Gardens, which might be outside the City of Vancouver jurisdiction. Mr. Elmer indicated that the Committee is working with Ms. Scollard to improve lighting throughout the City.

Vice-chair McGuinness asked audience members if they were aware of any other areas that require better lighting. Rosemont Drive was cited as one area, especially since the road curves and pedestrians dart between cars parked on both sides of the road.

Committee members reminded the audience to call 311 if they spot other areas of concern, although Mr. Elmer indicated that there are some problems with the 311 service and that the City should not rely exclusively on citizens to report problems. Indeed, audience members reminded the Committee that older adults are unlikely to report lighting problems to 311 because they do not go out at night.

Commissioner De Genova indicated that she will speak to the General Manager of the Park Board about trees and shrubbery encroaching on street lights.

Wet Leaves

Eddy Elmer relayed concerns from older adults in his neighbourhood that there are large piles of wet leaves on the sidewalks around Nelson Park, among others. Commissioner De Genova said that she will look into this.

Ms. Scollard indicated that there have been some media advisories reminding residents that it is their responsibility to remove leaves from the sidewalk in front of their homes and businesses.

Pedestrian Crossings

Mr. Elmer relayed resident concerns that newly-installed curb-cuts (e.g., Thurlow and Robson; Thurlow and Comox) are dangerous for older adults with poor depth perception because they cannot discern grade changes. Ms. Scollard requested photographs of the intersections in question, which Mr. Elmer agreed to send. Eva Wadolna and an audience member suggested that painted lines and tactile paving (e.g., truncated domes) be used to identify grade changes.

Ms. McGuinness encouraged everyone to report problematic lights to the Committee or to the 311 service.

Pedestrians vs. Scooters

Some audience members indicated the importance of ensuring that pedestrians and older adults riding scooters are able to share the sidewalk safely. One audience member commented that sidewalks are becoming increasingly crowded with scooters because many older adults purchase large scooters that they cannot take on busses.

Ms. McGuinness suggested that the Committee reach out to retailers and healthcare providers and ask them to ensure that older adults are not purchasing inappropriate scooters.

Pedestrians vs. Cyclists

Audience members indicated that the City appears to be catering to the needs of bicyclists at the expense of pedestrians. They reminded the Committee that if Vancouver wants to become an “age-friendly” City (as per the Age-Friendly Action Plan it recently passed), it must become more pedestrian-friendly.

Compass Cards

An audience member indicated that because SkyTrain validating machines will not accept bus transfers once the new Compass Card system is implemented, infrequent transit users will be forced to buy Compass cards. Those with memory problems may forget to carry their cards with them or ensure that they are loaded with sufficient funds. The Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee will start examining this issue in more detail.

7. Presentation by Barbara Kirby from the BC Association of Community Response Networks

Ms. Kirby gave a PowerPoint presentation about her organization, information about which can be found at <http://www.bccrns.ca>.

Community response networks (CRNs) are groups of concerned community members who co-ordinate networks of government and community agencies, as well as local businesses, to help ensure that adults experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, abuse, neglect, and self-neglect do not “fall between the cracks.” The CRNs help ensure that city- and province-wide agencies are aware of, and work together with, community-specific agencies to provide services that are responsive to the unique cultural and individual needs of different communities.

After her presentation, Ms. Kirby provided everyone with a list of community resources for older adults, which Eddy Elmerwill add to our website.

8. Presentation by Gillian Guilmant-Smith on the Vancouver Public Library’s Strategic Plan

Ms. Guilmant-Smith gave a video presentation about the library’s Strategic Plan for 2013-2015 (<https://www.vpl.ca/about/cat/C790>). Among the highlights of the plan are:

- i. longer branch hours
- ii. improved branch appeal
- iii. expansion of the Library’s presence in non-traditional spaces so that all residents have access to the Library’s resources and services (e.g., “pop-up libraries” in different communities)
- iv. support and development of residents’ technology, information, and digital literacy skills

At the end of her presentation, Ms. Guilmant-Smith distributed a brochure advertising the Library’s outreach services (e.g., home delivery). An audience member commented that many older adults are isolated and suggested that the Library’s outreach workers link those older adults with services, resources and social/recreational opportunities.

Ms. Guilmant-Smith said she would look into this.

Eva Wadolna asked if there are any plans to create more spaces that older adults can use for meetings. Ms. Guilmant-Smith indicated that this falls under the goal of improving branch appeal.

Committee Liaison Reports

a) Commissioner Melissa DeGenova, Vancouver Park Board Liaison Brockton Pavilion Society Lease

Commissioner De Genova indicated that the Park Board voted unanimously on October 7 to renew the lease for Brockton Pavilion Society, which provides older adults with meals and opportunities for socializing.

Seaside Greenway Project

Commissioner De Genova reported that Park Board voted in favour of starting construction on the Seaside Greenway Project, which involves running a separated, 12-foot-wide asphalt bike path through Hadden and Kitsilano Beach Parks.

She indicated that people have approached her to express concern about the ways in which the new path may hinder access to the park by older adults and persons with disabilities.

She also indicated that Park Board Vice-chair Sarah Blyth and Commissioner Aaron Jasper publicly stated that the Seniors' Advisory Committee and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee were consulted about, and endorsed, this project.

It transpired that staff did, in fact, discuss the Seaside Project with several members of the Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee and well as the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, but only *informally*, and as part of a broader discussion about the Point Grey- Cornwall Transportation Corridor. Neither committee was provided with a *formal* presentation about this project and, as such, *did not have an opportunity to vote in favour or against the project*.

Vice-chair McGuinness expressed concern that the views of the Seniors' Advisory Committee were misrepresented and asked Commissioner De Genova to relay this concern to the Park Board commissioners and the Park Board General Manager, Malcolm Bromley. She also suggested that we ask Park Board staff to make a formal presentation about this project so that we can provide an informed opinion about it.

MOVED by Rowena Tate, SECONDED by Dellie Lidyard

THAT the Seniors' Advisory Committee, via our Park Board liaison, Commissioner Melissa De Genova, ask Park Board staff to provide a formal presentation about the project to the Committee so that we can provide an informed opinion about it.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Seniors' Centre for Southeast Vancouver

Commissioner De Genova reminded the Committee that the Killarney Community Centre Society has for many years been trying to build a recreational centre for 17,000 seniors who live in Southeast Vancouver. Although there are various seniors' services in Southeast Vancouver, there is no dedicated space in which older adults can recreate.

Given rising construction costs, \$10 million will be required to build the centre. As the Province of British Columbia has pledged \$1.2 million, and the City of Vancouver has pledged \$2.5 million, there is a funding shortfall.

She has proposed a motion that the Park Board ask the City of Vancouver to use Community Amenity Contributions (CACs) from current and/or future developments in the Killarney neighbourhood towards the construction of the centre. Her motion also

asks Park Board to consider other possible funding solutions (see <http://former.vancouver.ca/parks/board/2013/131021/index.htm>). Commissioner De Genova will report back to the Committee on the outcome of her proposed motion.

The president of the Southeast Vancouver Seniors Arts and Cultural Centre, Lorna Gibbs, has advocated for the construction of this centre since the mid-1990s. She spoke to the Committee about the benefits such a centre would provide, especially a food program like the one at Kerrisdale Community Centre, and various opportunities for social interaction.

Increasing Accessibility at Park Board Meetings

Commissioner De Genova also informed the Committee about a motion she is proposing that Park Board staff investigate ways to make Board meetings more accessible to the public. In particular, she is asking staff to examine (1) how the Board can make it easier for people to sign up to speak at meetings; (2) how the Board can better communicate in advance of meetings which issues it will be discussing; and (3) whether meetings can be streamed to the Internet. See the motion at <http://former.vancouver.ca/parks/board/2013/131021/index.htm>

b) Councillor Tony Tang, Vancouver City Council Liaison

Councillor Tang reiterated the need for a dedicated seniors' centre in Southeast Vancouver and hopes that it can be built in the near future.

Clemencia Gómez echoed Councillor Tang's sentiments, and also suggested that the centre is desperately needed because it would be beneficial to low-income older adults and would promote greater social engagement by ethnic minority older adults, many of whom feel disconnected from their communities (see Vancouver Foundation's 2012 *Connections and Engagement Report*, <http://vancouverfoundation.ca/initiatives/connections-and-engagement>).

Councillor Tang thanked the Committee for joining him at the National Seniors' Day flag-raising ceremony at City Hall and indicated that Staff and Council, in co-operation with the Committee, will work hard towards becoming an official "Age-Friendly City" as designated by the World Health Organization. He also expressed his delight that Council approved changes to the City of Vancouver building bylaw which require all newly-built homes to be both adaptable and accessible, thus allowing older adults to stay in their own homes for as long as possible.

9. New Business

a) BC Seniors' Week, 2014

Vice-chair McGuinness asked if any members would be interested in working with the Park Board on a grant application to secure funds for a series of community dialogues during BC Seniors' Week in 2014. Eddy Elmer indicated that members of the Communications and Outreach Subcommittee will work on this. Commissioner De Genova said that she will provide whatever assistance she can to the Subcommittee.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Eddy Elmer, SECONDED by Eva Wadolna
THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Friday, November 15, 2013
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 1:00 pm

Appendix "A"

Report of the Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee

a) *Cambie/Broadway #9 Bus Stops*

The #9 bus stops on Broadway are almost a block away from Cambie Street, having been pre-empted by the #99 UBC express bus stop. This creates problems of accessibility for seniors and person with disabilities, especially when transferring to or from the Cambie SkyTrain station. Carol Oreck is following up with Coast Mountain Bus Company who are responsible for location of bus stops.

b) *Taxi Drivers Training Manual*

Rowena Tate and Jill Weiss attended the July 25 meeting of the group that is developing taxi driver training and helped revise the training manual. The draft manual was then reviewed by several taxi drivers and revised one more time by a smaller task force. The manual will be finalized soon. The training video will be filmed by October 5. The taxi driver training will consist of hands-on training, a manual, and a video. All taxi drivers in Vancouver will be required to take and pass the training which should start sometime in October. The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee passed a motion recommending that the City adopt this training program as the required taxi driver training on a two year trial basis and this recommendation was given to city staff. Rowena Tate suggests that the subcommittee propose that SAC pass a similar motion.

c) *Pedestrian Safety*

Alina Cheng, from Engineering, made a presentation to SAC on August 16 on an analysis of collision data involving pedestrians which showed that, while fatalities overall are declining, 45% involve seniors over 65 and those of 19-29 years. Most collisions happen in the afternoon/early evening, and as a result of cars turning left (33%) and right (25%). A partnership between various interested parties (?) has been formed, "People are Fragile", to work with police to improve lighting, dangerous intersections particularly those with a high number of resident seniors: West End, assisted living and care facilities, community centres, seniors' centres, libraries, etc., hospitals, clinics. Alina also reported that a national study on walking speed demonstrated that walking speeds are slowing, from 1.2 meters/second to 0.8-1 meter/second. Engineering Services is now applying this new standard to crossing lights, etc.

Constable Heather Brown of the Collingwood Community Police, gave a presentation to SAC on August 16 on "Scooting Seniors", a program to train seniors how to ride scooters safely. Rowena Tate suggested that the Subcommittee work with the Community Police to develop some guidelines for mobility scooter users. Constable Brown invited interested SAC members to attend the next training session at Collingwood Community Centre on September 25th. Update: This has now been cancelled.

Carol Oreck will follow up with West End Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre on the issue of enforcing the City bylaw regarding compulsory use of bike bells. The Subcommittee will also need to follow up on the issue of enforcement of the bylaw prohibiting cycling on sidewalks.

d) Custom Transit

Jill Weiss, Dellie Lidyard, and Rowena Tate attended one of three TransLink Custom Transit Review Workshops on May 25 that also included seniors and people with disabilities and their caregivers, as well as TransLink representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how TransLink can improve the transportation options and offer a more efficient service. The Custom Transit Service Review Stakeholder Consultation Report released in early September provides a detailed summary of the information gathered through the group discussions and the comment sheets from the 3 workshops. Since the workshops, TransLink has been completing further technical work and preparing for the next round of stakeholder consultation.

There have been several rallies about HandyDART in Vancouver and the North Shore recently. Jill Weiss is concerned that much of the information isn't correct, and has sent correct information to several groups. Most of the inaccuracy is that the taxi project reduces HandyDART service, when, in fact, taxi use almost doubles the number of rides because taxi rides cost much less - half the cost of a van ride.

e) Point Grey-Cornwall Corridor Project Update

Carol Oreck, Dellie Lidyard, and Jill Weis (representing the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee), Rob Sleath (Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Access for Sight Impaired Consumers), and Sophie Djordjevic (Brock House) met with City staff (Jerry Dobrovolny, Director of Transportation; Taryn Scollard, Director of Streets; Dale Bracewell, Manager of Active Transportation; David Rawsthorne, Project Manager, Pt Grey/York Active Transportation Corridor; Kathryn Kolbuch, Acting Manager, Streets Division; Dhaneva Panday, Planning Assistant, Active Transportation; Alan Duncan, Environmental Planner, Park Board) on October 2 to ensure that the needs of seniors and persons with disabilities are met. A detailed report (attached) on the outcome of the meeting has been sent to the City for their input.

f) #5 Bus Re-Routing

Since bus and trolley routes are a TransLink, not a City, decision, SAC can only ask that the issue be raised with TransLink as a contribution to the TransLink/City undertaking of a general evaluation of the Downtown bus routes. When it is completed it will likely be presented at Transportation 2040, as part of the implementation of the Plan.

g) Proposed Future Topics

- i. Compass Card. The effects of the introduction of this card on seniors.

- ii. "Pedestrians First". Eva has noted that the City is making cyclists a priority in the City, but there are far more pedestrians than cyclists, particularly among the senior population, so a case needs to be made for making them the priority. This also relates to item 3.

The next Subcommittee meeting will be on October 22, 2013.