

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 8, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone	- Chair
Wayne Benitez	- Community Member
Lois Brassart	- Community Member
Chinu Das	- Community Member
Calvin Donnelly	- Sapperton Old Age Pensioners' Association Representative
Rosemary Dunne	- Community Member
Leanne Frechette	- Fraser Health Representative
Betty McIntosh	- Senior Services Society Representative
Carole Wylie	- Century House Association Representative (exited at 2.30 p.m.)

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Helen Bodner	- Community Member
Elizabeth Philip	- Community Member
Sylvester Helmink	- Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Oana Capota	- Museum Curator
Dave Creighton	- Manager, Recreation Facilities
Robyn McGuinness	- Manager of Seniors and Youth Services
Dustin Ray-Wilks	- Manager, Aquatics
John Stark	- Acting Manager of Planning
Debbie Johnstone	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

1.0 HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 2018 Committee Orientation and Oath of Office

Debbie Johnstone, Committee Clerk, provided the Committee with a brief Committee Orientation. The following items were addressed:

- Role of Advisory Committee and Terms of Reference;
- Orientation Package Overview;

- Committee Attendance & Quorum;
- Meeting Conduct: Rules of Order, Motions, Discussion, Voting; and,
- City Policies & Freedom of Information.

Ms. Johnstone, Committee Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to the Committee members.

Procedural Note: This item was addressed following item 3.1

1.2 Appointment of Alternate Chair

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Wayne Benitez be selected as the Alternate Chair for the 2018 Seniors Advisory Committee Term.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

2.1 Adoption of March 8, 2018 Agenda

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda of the March 8, 2017 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of November 9, 2017 Minutes

Betty McIntosh, Senior Services Society Representative, reported that following the November 9th Seniors Advisory Committee meeting, Ms. Bloch had contacted her to clarify that she had spoken in error at the meeting. It was explained that the first bullet on page three was incorrect, and that there are temporary housing units in New Westminster.

Councillor Patrick Johnstone, Chair and Council Representative, suggested that the minutes be adopted as presented; however, a note be added as a footer to clarify this information.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the November 9, 2017 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Transportation Exhibit at the New Westminster Museum

Oana Capota, Museum Curator, summarized the report dated March 8, 2018 regarding the *People Gotta Move* transportation exhibition. Ms. Capota reported that the exhibit would run from July to November, 2018. The Vancouver Lego Club would be working with the Museum to build models of key transportation components throughout the City.

With regard to potential themes and ideas for the exhibit, the Committee provided the following suggestions:

- The old interurban system could be included;
- Trains are a large aspect of the history of New Westminster;
- The Fraser River has been a major avenue for transportation and shipping in the past, present and future;
- Short sea shipping can make a difference with respect to transportation issues and concerns;
- It was noted that the Fraser River used to freeze over, and that cattle could cross the river as a way of transportation;
- The Paddlewheeler;
- The interaction between moving goods and moving people;
- Before Royal Columbian Hospital had a heliport, helicopters would land in Sapperton Park, and police would be required to escort patients to the hospital from the park;
- Ideas surrounding the circle of life for transportation was suggested, such as the K2K ferry in the past, and the Q2Q ferry in the future;
- Consultation with elementary and high school students was suggested; and,
- An art contest for schools illustrating the future vision of transportation in New Westminster could be considered.

4.2 Canada Games Pool and Centennial Community Centre replacement project-

Dustin Ray-Wilks, Manager, Aquatics, and Dave Creighton, Manager, Recreation Facilities, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Canada Games Pool and Centennial Community Centre replacement project.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Ray-Wilks provided the following information:

- The overall goal for the facility would be to not only accommodate what is currently being offered, but to have room for growth in the future;
- A moveable floor would be implemented to accommodate additional activities, such as aqua fit, in the 50 meter tank;

- Moveable bulk heads would also work to offer flexibility for programs and courses;
- Swim competitions could utilize both the 50 meter tank (for races) and the leisure pool (for warm up and cool down);
- The lane width in the 50 meter tank would be widened from 2 meters (what is currently at the Canada Games Pool) to 2.5 meters;
- The leisure pool would be kept at a warmer temperature than the 50 meter pool;
- Balancing the temperature of the pool to accommodate both competitive swimmers and people using the larger pool for leisure can be difficult; however, implementing a more flexible leisure space could address this issue;
- The facility would have private, universal washrooms;
- The price for the project is comparable to other facilities in the lower mainland;
- A transportation study for the area would be taking place;
- Conversations with a variety of employees at the pool (lifeguards, cashiers etc.) would take place to ensure that the design elements from the architect align with the needs of the facility; and,
- Public engagement for the project would include Committee feedback, Open Houses, and pop up engagements throughout the City.

With regards to the overall plans for the facility, Mr. Ray-Wilks requested feedback on the following questions:

To what extent does the proposed solution accurately reflect the aquatic needs and priorities of New West?

- Issues with circulation for the elderly and colder water temperatures in the 50 meter tank were expressed, especially in relation to programs working on flexibility;
- Implementing a ramp with handrails into the 50 meter pool was recommended rather than using lifts;
- While leisure therapy can be provided for people with dementia or developmental disabilities, it was noted that the pool area can be overstimulating. It was suggested that scheduled times or an area of the pool that could be separated if required could be considered to accommodate this;
- Having the option to separate a portion of the pool could also work to accommodate groups requiring privacy;
- Separating senior and youth activities and therapy off from competitive swimming could be considered;
- A lazy river that is the same depth from start to finish, with a simple design and colour included for individuals with visual difficulties was suggested; and,

- Ensuring that consultation for the design of the pool be inclusive to all community members, and not just current user groups was recommended. Seniors, different ethnicities and families should all have their input reflected in this design.

To what extent does the proposed solution accurately reflect the fitness needs and priorities of New Westminster?

- Consideration of outdoor courts for tennis or basketball was suggested;
- Parking areas could be designed to as flexible space to accommodate a variety of activities, such as a celebration space, if required;
- Animating the space outside of the facility was encouraged; and,
- It was noted that private fitness centres throughout the community serve specialized areas; therefore, the design for the fitness centre does not need to accommodate every activity.

To what extent does the proposed solution accurately reflect the community centre and social needs and priorities of New Westminster?

- Animating the open space with opportunities such as public pop up activities was encouraged; and,
- Using the term ‘welcome centre’ has a specific meaning for newcomers, immigrants and refugees. Different terminology for this was suggested.

From your perspective, is anything missing or could be improved about the proposed solution?

- A therapy aspect of the pool needs to be included in the design;
- Encouraging partnerships between the community centre, the pool and health offices and clinics was suggested; and,
- Adding some sort of a physiotherapy aspect into the facility could be considered.

Mr. Ray-Wilks provided the Committee with the draft Social Sustainability Objectives for the project, and requested feedback from the Committee. The Committee noted that the term ‘Safe Shelter’ could be misleading, and that instead ‘Safe Harbour’ be used in its place.

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, suggested that if pamphlets on the pool replacement project would not be distributed in other languages, signage be provided (in a variety of different languages) expressing that the information was important, and asking community members to find someone to translate it for them.

Councillor Patrick Johnstone, Chair and Council reported the following additional information:

- A Task Force had been established to tour aquatic facilities throughout the Lower Mainland;
- Discussions with different municipalities regarding successes and challenges took place to provide the City with a better understanding on this process;
- Adequate parking for the facility would be crucial, as this is the only facility in the area;
- Structured parking would increase project costs, and is currently not in the plans for the facility; and,
- A parking study has indicated that at least 450 surface parking spaces would be required.

4.3 Great Streets for Seniors

This item was tabled.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 2018 Seniors Festival Sub-Committee

Robyn McGuinness, Manager, Seniors and Youth Services, reported that the Seniors Festival would be taking place in October, 2018. The festival is supported by Council, and features entertainment, non-profit groups, speakers and local businesses. Ms. McGuinness noted that volunteers would be required to form a sub-committee for the event, and encouraged Committee members to contact her if interested.

5.2 60th Anniversary of Century House

Robyn McGuinness, Manager, Seniors and Youth Services, reported that Century House would be celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year. Events for the celebration would include a Variety Show, a re-creation of the original opening of Century House, and an anniversary barbeque, which would be held on July 23rd from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

6.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Age Friendly Community Strategy Designation and Recognition

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, reported that the City is still awaiting its Age Friendly Community designation, but that this should be provided prior to the next Committee meeting. A financial award for this designation would be put towards a legacy item for the Seniors Festival.

6.2 Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan Update

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, reported that Claudia Freire, Social Planner, would be working to create a Departmental Working Group with respect to the Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan. A further update on this matter would be provided at the next Committee meeting.

6.3 Housing Update with a Focus on Seniors

John Stark Acting Manager of Planning, reported the following:

- The City has commenced work on an Inclusionary Housing Policy and Rental Replacement Policy ;
- Through the Inclusionary Housing Policy, the City would be looking at new developments without targeted rental units, and would be working to create a balanced percentage to be used to create policy framework for the City for the future;
- With respect to affordable housing, the City would be looking at the Housing Income Limits (HILS) rate, with a non-profit housing provider operating affordable housing units;
- The Rental Replacement Policy aims to retain market rental units; however, challenges with aging infrastructure has been expressed, as the majority of the market rental housing stock was built in the 1960s and 1970s;
- Through the Official Community Plan (OCP), the City is looking into offering incentives to capture non-market housing;
- A Land Economist has been hired to better understand the relationship between these two policies, and how they interact with the Adaptable Housing Policy, the Family Friendly Policy and the current housing market;
- Renovictions continue to be an issue, particularly with seniors and newcomers, as rents in older buildings can often be two to three hundred dollars below market value;
- The City is working to advocate for the community with respect to renovictions, and is working to provide information to targeted buildings with respect to tenant rights; and,
- In an effort to enhance outreach and support to the community, the City is requesting funding through senior levels of government, or other external funding resources for a part time Housing and Social Services Coordinator. The position would be assisting other non-profit organizations, and would work to provide better customer service for those reaching out to the City for assistance.

The Committee agreed that the impact of renovictions on the community and particularly on seniors can be devastating.

Mr. Stark noted that if building owners go through the proper steps, the City is unable to prevent renovictions from occurring; however, tickets and stop work orders can be issued if the process is not done correctly.

7.0 REPORTS

Betty McIntosh, Senior Services Society Representative, reported that the Coldest Night of the Year was held on February 24, 2018. The event is hosted by the Seniors Services Society, with donations working towards homeless and at-risk seniors.

Calvin Donnelly, Sapperton Old Age Pensioners' Association Representative, reported that the Sapperton Old Age Pensioners' Association Board had recently undergone changes, as the former president had recently passed away.

Mr. Donnelly noted that the Sapperton Old Age Pensioners' Association, Century House and the Seniors Services Society had provided a free program for over twenty seniors once a week at Sapperton Hall. The program received strong attendance throughout its duration; however, funding for this opportunity through a United Way grant would be coming to an end shortly.

Robyn McGuinness, Manager of Seniors and Youth Services, reported that the Sapperton Old Age Pensioners' Association had provided the space for the program (Sapperton Hall), Seniors Services Society had provided free transportation, and Century House had provided the fitness instructor. Ms. McGuinness noted that Century House would be working with the Sapperton Old Age Pensioners' Association to see how this program could continue, and to further research funding opportunities.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Seniors Advisory Committee support the partnership between Sapperton Old Age Pensioners' Association, Century House and Senior Services Society regarding the free weekly exercise program at Sapperton hall.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

Ms. McGuinness offered to provide an update with regard to this matter at the next Committee meeting.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

May 10, 2018 in Committee Room #2 at City Hall

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
PATRICK JOHNSTONE
CHAIR

ORIGINAL SIGNED
DEBBIE JOHNSTONE
COMMITTEE CLERK