

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 11, 2013; 2:00 p.m.
Committee Room No. 2
City Hall

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Bill Harper	- Chair
Jacqueline Buchanan	- Community Member
Linda Cooper	- Community Member
Calvin Donnelly	- Sapperton Old Age Pensioners Representative
Sylvester Helmink	- Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative
Annette Oakes	- Century House Association Representative
Brian Pybus	- Community Member
Patricia Smith	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Helen Bodner	- BC Seniors Services Society Representative
Guiliana Graves	- Community Member
Alana McIntyre	- Community Member

STAFF:

Ruby Campbell	- Parks, Culture and Recreation
Lesley Cole	- Manager, Seniors & Youth Services
John Stark	- Senior Social Planner (arrived at 2:15pm)
Jennifer Janzen	- Committee Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mary Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of March 21, 2013

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting held on March 21, 2013 be received and adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Jane's Walk – Mary Wilson

Mary Wilson, a member of the City's ACTBiPed Committee and a pedestrian in the community, presented information regarding Jane's Walk. Jane's Walk is a pedestrian focused event started seven or eight years ago and has now spread across North America and around the world. Jane's Walks were started in honour of Jane Jacobs, a pedestrian advocate, who believed that if cities recognized pedestrians as a higher priority than cars, this would lead to healthy, vibrant cities.

Jane's Walks are organized by volunteers and can be in any location, any duration or any time during the weekend. Some of the walks in New Westminster have a specific theme to them. Ms. Wilson encourages all residents of New Westminster to consider participation in the walks. Check www.janeswalk.net for scheduled events.

Procedural Note: John Stark joined the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

3.2 Hoarding and its Impacts on City Staff – John Stark

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, gave a presentation on hoarding and its impact on City staff. Mr. Stark advised that hoarding is more prevalent in older adults, especially males over fifty, and people who live alone. Hoarding may result in health, fire and safety concerns for the residents, those in close proximity and first responders. Often hoarders have sustained a loss in their life that may contribute to the hoarding. It is estimated that 5% of the population are considered hoarders.

The City is increasingly more involved in situations with hoarders including enforcement of bylaws and fire safety regulations. However, there is still a need for a more collaborative approach to this problem, including participation at the provincial level to include mental health professionals. A summary was given of the City of Vancouver's Hoarding Action Response Team services.

Discussion ensued as to what action could be taken to prevent hoarding before it begins and to follow-up with mental health professionals to ensure progress is being made. It was noted that perhaps a contributing factor is that it has increasingly become difficult for individuals to remove items from their homes, as there is the potential for experiencing feelings of shame and/or embarrassment when doing so.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Seniors Advisory Committee recommend City Council request staff investigate the idea of a 'Spring Clean-Up' program to assist with household clean-up.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Fraser Health's Reduced Weekly Seniors Pass Option – John Stark

John Stark announced that Fraser Health has agreed to a reduced weekly seniors' compassionate pass (\$35 per week) for parking at the hospital. However, Fraser Health is not investing in the promotion of the program. Any promotion will need to be done by the City.

Seniors may purchase passes at the meter or from the booth attendant. Mr. Stark will inquire as to whether the pass is available in disabled parking areas.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed by the committee.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Seniors Planning and Action Network (SPAN) Update – Lesley Cole

Lesley Cole reported on the following from the April 3, 2013 SPAN Committee meeting:

- Sanjay Gulati, Senior Services Society, presented an overview of the Better at Home Program;
- SPAN sent a letter to the Premier voicing disappointment in not making the Office of the Seniors' Advocate an independent office;
- United Way has reduced SPAN funding from \$25,000 to \$20,000 which will mean the number of governance meetings will be reduced and some changes to refreshments;
- The Directory of Services has been published in the News Leader however; many of New Westminster services were omitted.
- The SPAN/VOBS (Burnaby planning table) will continue to work on specific projects as they arise and funding is available;
- In My Backyard (IMBY) Fair will be held Saturday, October 5, 2013 as part of the National Seniors' Day celebration at Century House;
- Agency Network Event 2013 is tentatively planned for Tuesday, October 29, 2013;
- Next SPAN meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in the Birch/Cedar Room at Century House.

6.2 Seniors Festival Update – Annette Oakes

Annette Oakes updated the Committee on the April 2, 2013 meeting of the Seniors Festival Subcommittee noting the venue for the Seniors Festival will be Century House;

- Subcommittee took a tour of Century House and the Youth Centre;
- Reviewed action items;
- Held a brainstorming session;
- IMBY Fair will be held in the Douglas Fir Room with workshops in surrounding rooms;
- Entertainment will be in the main area;
- Budget will be determined and then a resolution will be forwarded to Council.

6.3 Master Transportation Advisory Committee (MTAP) Update – Linda Cooper

Linda Cooper summarized what has occurred at the two workshops she has attended:

- MTAP looking forward to 2030;
- Looking at changes to six major streets;
- Conscious of integration of seniors needs in plans;
- Sustainable transportation workshop to include discussion of issues relating to the skytrain/buses and walking;
- Discussion of McInnis Overpass with respect to demarcation of steps.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by the Committee.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2013 in Committee Room 2 however; Councillor Harper requested an alternative date be arranged due to scheduling conflict.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 3:16pm.

COUNCILLOR BILL HARPER
CHAIR

JENNIFER JANZEN
RECORDING SECRETARY