

**SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**April 14, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.**  
**Committee Room 2**  
**City Hall**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Mary Trentadue	- Chair
Norah Andrew	- Community Member
Helen Bodner	- Community Member
Lois Brassart	- Community Member
Sylvester Helmink	- Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative
Julia Schoennagel	- Community Member
Angela Sealy	- Community Member

**MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Betty McIntosh	- Senior Services Society Representative
Elizabeth Philip	- Century House Association
Gary Steeves	- Community Member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Robyn McGuinness	- Manager of Seniors and Youth Services
John Stark	- Senior Social Planner
Tristan Johnson	- Planning Analyst
Philip Lo	- Council and Committee Clerk

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

**1.0 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**2.1 Adoption of the February 11, 2016 Minutes**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the February 11, 2016 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting minutes be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

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

### **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

### **4.0 NEW BUSINESS**

#### **4.1 Public Engagement Focus Group**

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided an introduction of the Mayor's Public Engagement Task Force, noting that the Task Force has engaged the Simon Fraser University Centre for Dialogue to assist in establishing a framework for better information dissemination and engagement with the public.

Sebastian Mertz, from the SFU Centre for Dialogue, provided a presentation regarding the work of the New Westminster's Public Engagement Task Force, noting that various Council advisory committees and focus groups could participate in exercises to provide feedback on the principles of public engagement.

Mr. Mertz presented seven draft principles of engagement, and proceeded with a series of exercises with committee members to highlight examples of these principles:

- Physical accessibility at civic facilities and events;
- Availability of informed and well-prepared staff to actively engage the public and be able to respond to queries at civic events;
- Holding events at locations where people regularly congregate;
- Difficulties expressed by seniors in accessing and completing surveys at Century House, especially those who require one-on-one assistance to complete surveys;
- The need for a safe, respectful, welcoming and open forum where people can discuss any number of issues with rules of engagement; and
- City Hall as an example of a location which provides respectful service.

With regards to steps that the City could take to improve the engagement process, the Committee noted the following comments:

- Identifying community mentors and hosts who could work with new immigrants;
- Forwarding event invitations to each household in addition to or in lieu of ads in newspapers;
- Replacing the word "stakeholder" with "community" and "neighbourhood" in City communications may provide a better understanding of the targeted audience;

- Staff could have a better understanding of their audience, and ensure that they are completely prepared to present information and to respond to questions.
- The public should be aware as to whether they are providing input for a final decision, or simply being informed of a final decision;
- Follow-up reports could be made available to provide the public with event summaries and results.

A Public Engagement Public Workshop has been scheduled for Saturday May 7, 2016, at Century House, with two sessions beginning at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

## **5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Seniors Festival Sub-Committee**

Committee members reported that the Seniors Festival Sub-Committee has not met, and that there have not been any decisions made regarding the venue for the festival.

Robyn McGuinness, Manager of Seniors and Youth Services, advised that she will be the staff liaison for the Seniors Festival for 2016.

### **5.2 55+ Games Update**

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided the following update regarding the 55+ Games:

- The timeline to prepare and submit a bid for the Games is six months, with a three-year lead time until the event;
- The potential replacement timeline of the Canada Games Pool could present a challenge and should be factored into the decision;
- The City may have to partner with another municipality for a bid;
- The Games recognize seniors' abilities, with many sponsors willing to come forward;
- Staff could invite a past Games organizer to speak to the logistics or hosting the event, and provide a cost-benefit analysis;
- Staff could consult with the City of Langley and North Vancouver, two previous hosts for the Games, and review a study by Kwantlen Polytechnic University on potential economic impacts of the Games.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted the City of Richmond may be interested in partnering with New Westminister.

Tristan Johnson, Planning Analyst, noted that existing Olympics infrastructure in Richmond could reduce the cost of hosting the event.

### **5.3 Canada Games Pool Update**

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, noted that a previous study conducted by Cannon Design regarding the future of the facility engaged only active user groups, and that a new consultant is being retained via a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, with the intention of consulting with many different users groups with regards to the design of a new pool.

Discussion ensued, with the Committee noting that facility users from Surrey and Coquitlam could also participate in the consultation, and that members of the Committee could ensure that the community is aware and engaged in the consultation process.

### **5.4 Renovictions Research Update**

Tristan Johnson, Planning Analyst, summarized the discussion points document regarding renovictions.

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, advised that staff are able to work internally and with external groups to follow-up on tenant reports of suspected instances of renovictions.

Mr. Stark suggested that information sessions with the Tenants Rights Action Coalition (TRAC) on various topics related to residential tenancy, such as rent and living conditions, could be held at Century House.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Stark provided the following information:

- The City is committed to the retention of rental units through its Secured Market Rental Housing Policy;
- Rental building demolitions may only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that rehabilitation and renovation work could not be affordably performed, and if additional density is not requested through demolition;
- The City's Building Department records do not necessarily include information regarding tenant evictions as a result of work requiring permits;
- A two-page pamphlet could be created in different languages to highlight tenancy information and resources;
- An inclusive community with cohesive knowledge of tenant rights could increase chances of overturning renovictions;

- The Seniors Festival could be a good venue for providing this information; and,
- Information could be provided to Residents' Associations, the Community and Social Issues Committee and the Multiculturalism Committee.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted the following comments:

- Statistics regarding renovictions may not be clear as to whether the term “case” refers to individual families, or one incident involving many families;
- Educating owners and renters on their rights is critical, and websites may not be sufficient to provide information; and,
- In addition to Century House, information sessions for all renters in the city could also be held at the Library, with Immigrant Services Society of BC and MOSAIC providing language assistance.

## **6.0 REPORTS**

### **6.1 Public Engagement Focus Group Description**

This item was discussed as part of Item 4.1.

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the report be received for information.*

**CARRIED.**

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

### **6.2 Renovictions Research**

This item was discussed as part of Item 5.4.

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the report be received for information.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

Robyn McGuinness, Manager of Seniors and Youth Services, advised that June 15, 2016 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, and invited members of the Committee to participate in the panel discussion on the topic on June 16, 2016 at Century House.

**8.0 NEXT MEETING**

**June 9, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Committee Room 2**

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Certified correct,

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**MARY TRENTADUE  
CHAIR**

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**PHILIP LO  
COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE  
CLERK**