



SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

**September 20, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.
Committee Room 2, City Hall**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone	- Chair
Wayne Benitez	- Community Member
Chinu Das	- Community Member
Rosemary Dunne	- Community Member
Leanne Frechette	- Fraser Health Representative
Sylvester Helmink	- Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative
Donna MacLean	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Calvin Donnelly	- Sapperton Old Age Pensioners' Association Representative
Betty McIntosh	- Senior Services Society Representative
Elizabeth Philip	- Community Member
Carole Wylie	- Century House Association Representative

GUESTS:

Dr. Delphine Labbé	- University of British Columbia dEMAND Mobility Project
Dr. Atiya Mahmood	- Simon Fraser University dEMAND Mobility Project

STAFF PRESENT:

Robyn McGuinness	- Manager, Seniors and Youth Services
John Stark	- Social Planner
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda for the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting scheduled September 20, 2018 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of May 10, 2018 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the May 10, 2018 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 dEMAND Mobility Project – Dr. Delphine Labbé and Dr. Atiya Mahmood

Councillor Johnstone introduced Drs. Labbé and Mahmood who commenced with their presentation by sharing that they are on the Vancouver dEMAND team, which is part of an initiative that spans across Canada with the goal being to provide inclusion for those that use mobility devices. They provided the following information to the Committee and then played a short video for members:

- Research questions included:
 - Where do people go and what do they do?
 - What are the personal and neighbourhood environmental facilitators and barriers for mobility and social participation and their influence?
 - What do assistive technology (AT) users think about their mobility and participation, and how would they like to see it improved?
- The study included interviews and a survey, GPS & Trip Tracker, Stakeholder's Walkability/Wheelability Audits in Neighbourhoods (SWAN), Photovoice, and Measure of Environmental Accessibility (MEA);
- 64 participants from the Greater Vancouver area, nine of which were from New Westminster, were included in the study;
- The study found that older people and women are less confident dealing with their physical environment; and,
- With respect to their social environment, older people were found to be more confident, although scooter users and those with symptoms of depression were less confident.

In response to questions from the Committee, Drs. Labbé and Mahmood provided the following comments:

- As it is important for people to be able to get around in their neighbourhood, it is very imperative for us to look at both the built and social aspects of the area;
- New Westminster participants felt good, safe, and socially accepted;
- A participant in the video felt that the great things being done in the city needed to be highlighted in the video along with things that need to be fixed;

- Based on the information received, a video game was developed to provide accessibility awareness to those who do not address these challenges on a daily basis. The game provides players with a real idea of what it is like to get around in various types of accessibility devices;
- Accessibility is different to everyone; something that may be accessible for one person, may not be for another; and,
- Those with visual impairments may receive training from a mobility specialist while those in scooters, wheelchairs, etc. do not need training other than how to manage the environment – i.e. gravel, going around a crack, etc. However, currently, scooter users do not have to receive any training, they buy it and they can just drive it.

Discussion ensued, with the Committee noting the following:

- The City has one of the highest numbers of accessible bus stops in the Lower Mainland which includes a concrete pad, room for a wheelchair, and space for the bus to lean down and facilitate the wheelchair getting on the bus;
- Almost 100 percent of sidewalks in the City have curb cuts at intersections and, currently, old curb cuts are being upgraded;
- With respect to accessible parking, there are standards that have to be adhered to; however, some stratas may still have old accessible parking spots. The standards for accessible parking spots are changing all the time and are considered in all new developments with new builds being required to have a certain number of visitor and accessible parking spots;
- At least 40 percent of suites in all new single-storey, multi-family developments must be adaptable;
- A member shared that recently, when she injured her hip, she discovered how difficult it was to get around including boarding a bus and, in the end, an additional 30 minutes was added to her journey;
- Information sharing is essential so people can plan their trips ahead of time;
- Even small, inexpensive things can make a big difference;
- In the future, it may be a good idea if scooter drivers required insurance; and,
- The video should be shared with the New Westminster Design Panel as a reminder that the City needs to think beyond aesthetics.

Members received Satisfaction and Impact questionnaires to complete which asked various questions relating to the appropriateness and usefulness of the video and were encouraged to contact either Dr. Labbé or Dr. Mahmood if they had further questions and/or comments about the Project.

Procedural note: Drs. Labbé and Mahmood left at 3:00 p.m.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Committee Meeting Start Time – Committee

Members advised that they were happy with the current start time of the meeting.

4.2 Rental Replacement and Inclusionary Housing Policy –John Stark

John Stark, Social Planner, provided a brief outline of the above-noted report that went to Council on August 27, 2018, and which outlines support of the development of a City of New Westminster Rental Replacement Policy and Inclusionary Housing Policy. Mr. Stark noted that the proposed Rental Replacement Policy would seek to obtain replacement of some or all new units as rental and/or affordable rental when an existing purpose-built rental building redevelops. The proposed Inclusionary Housing Policy would seek to leverage the market development process to gain voluntary inclusion of some affordable and/or rental or special needs housing with a certain percentage being below market units. Staff will meet with the Urban Development Institute and CAPREIT, a land development and management company, as well as consulting with the Community and Social Issues Committee and the Seniors Advisory Committee, since both of these groups are significantly impacted by renovations/demovictions. The next steps and timeline are as follows:

- January 14, 2019 – Regular Report to Council – draft policies for consideration and request for approval to initiate consultation;
- February/March 2019 – Public and Stakeholder consultation; and,
- April/May 2019 – Regular Report to Council – Rental Replacement and Inclusionary Housing policies presented to Council for endorsement.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Stark provided the following comments:

- If a property owner builds within their existing zoning entitlements, then these two policies would not apply; and,
- With respect to the Sapperton Pensioners Hall and the possibility of it incorporating a non-market housing component, the City is in the process of developing a Memo of Understanding with BC Housing and identifying potential sites for possible inclusion. Mr. Stark will follow up on possibly adding the Sapperton Pensioners Hall to the list of potential sites.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Seniors Festival – Robyn McGuinness

Ms. McGuinness made the following announcements:

- Isobel Mackenzie, seniors advocate, will be visiting the Seniors Gay Straight Alliance on November 14th at 1:00 p.m. to speak about advocacy and information for those working in care facilities to support the LGBTQ community who reside in those facilities. As there is limited seating for the event, those interested in attending were asked to leave their name at the Century House office; and,
- Seniors Festival will be held at Century House on Saturday, October 13th from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a great lineup including speakers, George Garrett and Janice Bannister, and entertainment provided by Lesismore and Gary Kehoe. Councillor Johnstone was invited to introduce the Master of Ceremony, Chief Constable Jones, at the event, which he accepted. Members received event posters.

5.2 BC Age-Friendly Community Recognition – John Stark

Mr. Stark reminded members of the City's Dementia Friendly Community Action Plan as well as the Age-Friendly Community Strategy, sharing that the Age-Friendly Community Strategy was developed with the School of Community and Regional Planning at the University of British Columbia and involved three young graduate students working with seniors to develop the Strategy. Mr. Stark advised that he and Claudia Freire, Housing/Social Planner, have created work plans for the implementation of both initiatives. Based on the work plans, staff applied for BC Age-Friendly Community recognition for which the City is now awaiting for an announcement to be made.

5.3 Strata Property Act UBCM Resolution – John Stark

Mr. Stark stated that on July 28, 2016, changes were made to the Strata Property Act by the Provincial Government, changing the voting guidelines for liquidation of a strata corporation from 100 percent owner agreement to 80 percent of owners having to be in agreement. Mr. Stark provided the additional following information:

- Stratas located near SkyTrain stations, etc., receive pressure from developers and/or real estate agents to redevelop their sites, informing owners that it may be very lucrative for them to liquidate their strata corporation;
- Some owners look at the option of redevelopment as a profitable benefit while others see it as selling their home;
- This issue was discussed at the May 10, 2018 meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee with members expressing concern about the lack of research that went into the changes, the increasing number of purchasers viewing their strata property as an investment, block voting by someone who owns a number of units, the changes not necessarily supporting the idea of aging in place, renters losing their homes, etc.; and,
- Members suggested that a 90 percent ownership agreement vote was more reasonable and a motion was crafted, outlining the Committee's concerns. The motion went to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) in September 2018

and was unanimously approved so it is now going forward to the Provincial Government for consideration.

At this point in the meeting, Leanne Frechette announced that the Fraser Northwest Division of Family Practice, in partnership with the Fraser Health Authority, would be holding two events to inform people about what to expect when planning a move into a residential care facility. The first event will be held on Monday, October 15th at the Dogwood Pavilion in Coquitlam and the second will be held on Saturday, October 27th at Century House in New Westminster. Both events will run from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

There were no items.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. – Committee Room 2, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Certified correct,

Original Signed _____
Patrick Johnstone
Chair

Original Signed _____
Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk