



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER
SPECIAL SERVICES & ACCESS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 11, 2013 3:03 pm
Council Chamber, City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Betty McIntosh	Chair
Cori Lynn Germiquet	New Westminster Chamber of Commerce
Glen Henderson	New Westminster School Board
Ron Jones	Community
Christine Nieder	Community (arrived at 3:10 pm)
Bruce Warren	Community (arrived at 3:05 pm)
Michael Wilson	Community
Ken Wilkinson	Community
Fred Wright	Community

GUESTS:

Don McCuiston

VOTING MEMBER ABSENCE:

Mary Varga Community

STAFF:

Eugene Wat	Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Engineering Services
Terry Atherton	Manager, Civic Buildings and Properties
Fan Jin	Transportation Technologist, Engineering Services
Wayne Werbovetski	Building Management Coordinator
Terry Dunlop	Recording Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of Minutes of February 19, 2013

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Special Services and Access Committee meeting held February 19, 2013 be received and adopted.

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Bruce Warren arrived at 3:05 pm

3.1 Medical Exemptions

Mr. Don McCuiston, a Sapperton resident, reviewed issues arising from the City's implementation of smaller waste bins and reduced collection of refuse in response to regional waste reduction goals adopted by New Westminster. Although the waste reduction initiative was laudable, Mr. McCuiston contended that the smaller waste bins severely impact a certain percentage of residents with medical challenges who must dispose of a considerable amount of medical and personal waste that typically cannot be accommodated by the smaller standard waste bins now in use. The committee was asked to consider the suggestion of a special exemption to permit the use of larger waste bins, similar to policies adopted in Cranbrook, B.C. and Ontario municipalities that provide flexibility for use of such bins on a case-by-case basis.

Christine Nieder arrived at 3:10 pm

Mr. McCuiston described examples of ostomy toilets currently in use in Japan and he cited an example that can be found in Tokyo's Narita Airport. Vancouver's Airport (YVR) appeared to be supportive and sympathetic to possible installation of ostomy toilets at YVR. The speaker acknowledged the difficulties of importing and maintaining such units in Canada but suggested that with help from the country's only known ostomy clinic, located in New Westminster, it might be possible to source and/or manufacture the items locally. Mr. McCuiston then advised of his interactions with City departments regarding this issue and also discussed difficulties faced by some medically challenged citizens when attempting to use City recreational facilities (e.g., runners are allowed re-entry to facilities but staff has refused similar privileges for the medically challenged). Further concerns related to application of perceived inconsistent policies within departments, the availability of information for the public and issues of effective internal communication. Following general discussion of the issues and concerns raised, the committee adopted the following series of recommendations:

MOVED and SECONDED this Committee recommends

THAT Staff be requested to research the Cranbrook, B.C. and other jurisdictions' municipal policies relative to medical exemptions for provision of larger solid waste disposal containers where there is an established need.

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion

MOVED and SECONDED this Committee recommends
THAT staff investigate possible installation of ostomy toilets at the Canada Games and Queensborough recreational facilities and consider the opportunity to install such toilets as other city facilities are renovated.

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion

MOVED and SECONDED this Committee recommends
THAT staff be requested to report back to the committee on an effective communication strategy and to present policies for medically challenged citizens and;
to identify links relative to accessibility issues on both City and Parks, Recreation & Culture websites.

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 SSAC YouTube Video Update

Bruce Warren advised there was little further to report at this time but the project was proceeding positively.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Edged Painting to be Included on Steps for all Public Buildings (Referred from Open Delegation of February 25th Council)

Wayne Werbovetski, Building Management Coordinator acknowledged the request to Council that city-owned facilities have painted edges applied on steps and changes in elevation, to assist the partially-sighted. Although the Building Code requires these safety measures for new construction, they cannot be applied retroactively. However, Mr. Werbovetski suggested that if the city initiated such improvements to its facilities, private property owners might be encouraged to do likewise. There are many relatively inexpensive measures that can be applied to help not only the visually impaired but also for normal sighted persons.

Arising from discussion of the need to ensure that city-owned properties are made safe by applying edge painting and other security enhancements to improve accessibility for partially-sighted persons, the committee approved the following recommendation:

MOVED and SECONDED this Committee recommends
THAT the Special Services & Access Committee request that Council approve investigation of retro-fitting older city-owned buildings to provide for application of non-slip coloured contrast paint and tactile strips on

handrails and stairs to address accessibility needs of partially-sighted persons.

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion

Terry Atherton and Wayne Werbovetski departed at 4:08 pm

5.2 Student Representative from NWSS on SSAC

There was general discussion of the desirability of adding a student or youth to the committee, who would address the needs and concerns of youth with disabilities. Adding an additional member would involve amending the committee's terms of reference to accommodate full voting privileges. Discussions were held with New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) administration staff, however, it was noted that a cost factor would be involved. Transportation fees and services of a Special Education Assistant might possibly result in approximately \$50 per meeting attended and the School District was unable to fund this amount. In further discussion, committee members were unanimous in their support of adding a student representative and there was suggestion that funding sources be explored.

MOVED and SECONDED this Committee recommends

THAT the committee amend its Terms of Reference to allow the addition of a student or if not available, a representative to address the perspective of a youth with disabilities, as a member of the Special Services & Access Committee and investigate available funding, if necessary, for participation of such representative.

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion

MOVED and SECONDED this Committee recommends

THAT staff advertise for the position of a Special Services & Access Committee representative to address the perspective of a youth with disabilities and to explore funding opportunities if necessary.

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Information Updates

- Chair McIntosh advised she had attended the ground-breaking for the new Ecole Qayqayt Elementary School at the former St. Mary's Hospital site. A design/build contractor is now on the site, which has many challenges in terms of grade and access. The School District website now has a 3-D video presentation of the new school and in

discussion, members requested they be provided with link information. Furthermore, it was suggested that there be a video presentation at the next meeting. Issues identified in discussion included: welcoming for newly arrived immigrants, universal access for persons with disabilities, signage, cycle and pedestrian pathways, security and fire department requirements.

- The Chair reported on details of the Queen's Park Master Plan process, noting the public consultation process and workshops that will lead to a report to Council in the next month. Once approved by Council, the project will be placed in the next 5-year Capital Budget.
- The first of four electronic billboards have now been installed. The billboards will generate some \$2 million of revenue annually for the City.
- The new Civic Centre (Anvil Centre) is proceeding well and should be opened on schedule in 2014. Committee members discussed concerns relative to pedestrian/traffic conflicts, especially in the 8th Street and Carnarvon areas, adjacent the site. In ensuing discussion, it was agreed to invite a traffic officer from the NRPD to attend a future meeting to explore safety and enforcement issues and possible solutions to reduce traffic/pedestrian conflicts.
- Hyack Week will take place May mid-month and will include a delegation from the Sister City of Moroguchi, Japan. Numerous events have been planned to showcase the city to the delegation that will comprise both elected and citizen representatives.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the following correspondence circulated to members be received:

- 7.1 SPARC InFocus Awareness Forum; Thursday, February 21st
- 7.2 February Access Transit Newsletter
- 7.3 Memo re Westminster Pier Park Access - Fourth Street Connection Options
- 7.4 Provincial Government - What's Taxable on April 1, 2013?
- 7.5 Press Release for April 13 Spring Cleaning Event at River Market
- 7.6 The Spring 2013 Edition of Transition
- 7.7 March Access Transit Newsletter

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favour of the motion

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 13, 2013 @ 3 pm
Council Chamber, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was concluded at 5:00 pm

**COUNCILLOR BETTY MCINTOSH
CHAIR**

**TERRY DUNLOP
RECORDING CLERK**

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