



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

Thursday, June 13, 2013 3:03 pm
Council Chamber, City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Betty McIntosh	Chair
Cori Lynn Germiquet	New Westminster Chamber of Commerce
Ron Jones	Community
Christine Nieder	Community
Mary Varga	Community
Bruce Warren	Community
Michael Wilson	Community
Ken Wilkinson	Community

VOTING MEMBER ABSENT:

Glen Henderson	New Westminster School Board
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VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Fred Wright	Community
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STAFF:

Julia Dykstra	Planning Assistant, Development Services
Fan Jin	Transportation Technologist, Engineering Services
Kathy Prothero	Recording Clerk, Engineering Services
Eugene Wat	Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Engineering Services

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of Minutes of April 11, 2013

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Special Services and Access Committee meeting held April 11, 2013 be received and adopted.

CARRIED

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Criteria for Judging/Royal City Builders Awards – Ms. Julia Dykstra

Ms. Dykstra handed out samples of the Universal Access format to be used this year for the judging. Feedback received in 2012 was that those nominees were not clear as to what they were being judged on.

Mr Jin joined the meeting at 3:05 pm

Scoring for the awards:

- Following the visit judges will get back on the bus and complete the score card (format attached). For example stairs defined with striped paint and wayfinding signage in proper size.
- Members suggested scoring be increased from 1-5 rather than 1-3.
- Any other ideas should be forwarded to Kathy Prothero who will forward them on to Ms. Dykstra.

Ms. Dykstra left the meeting at 3:13

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Traffic/Pedestrian Safety Issues – 8thStreet & Carnarvon - Councillor McIntosh

Councillor McIntosh spoke to members about this intersection. We had hoped that a member of the NWPD Traffic Division could attend the meeting but they were unavailable. The Chair has requested a NWPD member attend the next meeting of September 12.

Mr. Wilkinson informed members that at the end of April in the vicinity of McInnes and Carnarvon there were reserve officers handing out information pamphlets to pedestrians.

4.2 Ecole Qayqayt Elementary School (visual “fly-through”) – Mr. Glen Henderson

Mr. Henderson was unable to attend the meeting so as a result, Councillor McIntosh outlined the visual “fly-through” for members.

Concern was expressed about the safety of children crossing Royal Avenue. One member asked about the access road between Royal and the new school and Mr. Jin advised that this property was sold to the School District and will be integrated into the site.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Volunteers for Judging Royal City Builders Awards – Councillor McIntosh

Councillor McIntosh asked for volunteers for the judging of the Royal City Builders Award nominees in August. Although absent from this meeting, Mr. Fred Wright had already expressed an interest in participating.

Following a general discussion the following members volunteered for the Judging Sub-committee:

Christine Nieder
Mary Varga
Ken Wilkinson
Michael Wilson
Fred Wright

We are tentatively looking at August 22 and volunteers will be notified by Ms. Julia Dykstra who is coordinating the effort.

5.2 Arena Accessibility – Mr. Jason Haight

Mr. Haight spoke to members about accessibility at the Arena. A number of years ago feedback was provided on various City facilities by this Committee via a walkthrough. Improvements have been made over the years in conjunction with the capital plan and Parks, Culture & Recreation asked whether members would be interested in participating in a similar effort this year.

The following members volunteered:

Ron Jones
Mary Varga
Bruce Warren
Ken Wilkinson
Michael Wilson

Ms. Nieder will attend depending on her schedule.

Mr. Ron Booth, Manager, Arenas & Queen's Park will coordinate a site visit which will probably occur within the next two to four weeks

5.3 Possible Addition to Accessible Building Code – Mr. Mike Wilson

Mr. Wilson was not on the Committee when the Adaptable Housing Initiative was conducted and he had a number of comments:

- Grab rails – He has found grab railings for more bath tubs are on the left side than the right as most openings are on the right which

would not allow any grab rails. This appears to be the universal design of a tub but the members feel that if this configuration were reversed, it would make more sense.

- Grab rails beside the toilets in both individual units and common areas also lack consistency.
- Elevators in buildings where there are two buttons in the middle; if one of the buttons is up against the wall on left it is more difficult.

In recent years, there seems to be a reversal of escalators and stairways at Skytrain (TransLink) facilities. Individuals are used to going up on the right and down on left, but this is not consistent and very confusing as it changes from station to station.

Improved signage at Plaza 88 would be helpful as members have expressed concern regarding the accessibility of the escalator. Councillor McIntosh advised that it is possible that they have adapted an old station to a new project and configuration.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Information Updates

Chair McIntosh provided an information update to members:

- All motions put before Council by SSAC were approved. We will wait until September to advertise for the student and the Terms of Reference will be amended by Legislative Services.
- Safe Harbour: Respect to All Program – Forwarded by Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee. The three key principles of the program are: Equitable Treatment for All, An Immediate Safe Place, and Prepared Employees Worksites.
- The 2009 Accessibility Policy was re-circulated to Facilities Management. This Policy and the Safe Harbour Respect To All Program should work hand in hand.
 - One member commented that there is a welcoming committee for the integration of newcomers regarding public spaces and a general awareness as to what newcomers needs are. Has the City/Committee engaged in such a program on accessibility? *Councillor McIntosh advised that during the orientation staff would be advised of accessibility options.*
 - Ms. Nieder advised that she is part of a National Education Association for disabled students and has lots of material if anyone is interested.
- FCM Annual Conference May 31 – June 3
 - Tour of Port Metro Vancouver Waterfront Facilities
 - Water Tour of Rediscover Cement Focus
- 2012 City in the Spotlight – Interesting reading

- A Call to Nurse - RCH Nurses Alumni 1901-78. Book being sold at the gift shop at RCH.
- Pattullo Bridge Update –
 - 6 information sessions listed in the newspaper (plus 6 small group sessions);
 - 25 crossing alternatives in the Discussion Guide with various laning; and
 - Hoping to narrow down to 2 or 3 more realistic options and will be available this Fall with greater detail of analysis.
- TransLink offices are relocating to New West in June 2013.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE (Circulated to members)

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the following correspondence circulated to members be received:

- 7.1 Access Awareness Day; June 1, 2013
- 7.2 April 2013 Access Transit Newsletter
- 7.3 BCCPD Community Access Transit Newsletter
- 7.4 May 2013 Access Transit Stakeholder Newsletter
- 7.5 Accessibility Policy; Approved February 2, 2009
- 7.6 Pattullo Bridge Review Consultation Information

CARRIED

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

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, September 12, 2013 @ 3 pm
Council Chamber, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was concluded at 4:30 pm.

COUNCILLOR BETTY MCINTOSH
CHAIR

KATHY PROTHERO
RECORDING CLERK