



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

Thursday, September 12, 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
Mary Varga	Community
Bruce Warren	Community
Ken Wilkinson	Community
Fred Wright	Community

**VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:**

Christine Nieder	Community
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**ABSENT:**

Glen Henderson	New Westminster School Board
Michael Wilson	Community

**STAFF:**

Fan Jin	Transportation Technologist, Engineering Services
Jason Haight	Manager, Business Operations, Parks Culture & Recreation
Kathy Prothero	Recording Clerk, Engineering Services
Eugene Wat	Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Engineering Services

**GUESTS:**

Don McCuiston	Resident
Sergeant Terry Dhut	New Westminster Police Department

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm

**1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

- 5.2 Parking at City Hall on Thursdays – Mr. Ron Jones
- 6.2 Mr. Don McCuiston – Update

**2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**2.1 Adoption of Minutes of June 13, 2013**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the Special Services and Access Committee meeting held June 13, 2013 be received and adopted.*

**CARRIED**

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

Mr. Haight arrived at 3:07 pm

### **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

### **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **4.1 Traffic/Pedestrian Safety Issues – 8th Street & Carnarvon - Councillor McIntosh**

Councillor McIntosh advised that pedestrians are creating a dangerous environment by walking out and across Carnarvon in many directions. Seniors and pedestrians are concerned as there is very little attention paid by drivers approaching stop signs/lights. Officer Dhut advised that traffic has increased since the tolling of the Port Mann Bridge. NWPD is concerned about safety, increased noise, and vehicles not obeying stop signs, etc. ICBC puts on an annual campaign with the NWPD regarding awareness of pedestrian traffic, school zones, etc. Statistics from ICBC include the following intersections as high collision areas:

- Eighth Avenue and McBride Boulevard;
- Braid & Brunette Streets; and
- Tenth Avenue and Canada Way.

NWPD are making themselves visible in these areas and this tends to slow traffic. There are currently three constables working for Sergeant Dhut and their mandate is road safety, collision and harm reduction. There are also 12 reservists who work assisting officers and issue warnings.

Mr. Wat arrived at 3:15 pm

Members asked if improvements could be made to make certain streets more pedestrian friendly and suggested making Carnarvon one-way from Eighth to Tenth Avenue. (Members commented that some West End streets in Vancouver are blocked off so that access is prohibited.)

The stop signs at Carnarvon Street and McInnes Overpass have improved the situation. Another thought is a fence which will stop pedestrians from jaywalking across Carnarvon Street.

Sergeant Terry Dhut left the meeting at 3:25.

**4.2 Elevator Design - Consistency/Location of Panel (Button) Placement – Mr. Mike Wilson**

Councillor McIntosh spoke to this issue in Mr. Wilson's absence. The elevator by the Landmark Theatre was one of the locations mentioned as the location of the wall makes it difficult to maneuver close to the buttons. Just placing the buttons a few feet away from the elevator wall would make access easier.

**4.3 Taxi Access / Former McNeely Street Bus Loop – Mr. Ken Wilkinson**

Mr. Wilkinson expressed concern over the lack of convenient accessible taxi pick-up/drop-off at the New West Skytrain Station (due to the loss of Blackie Street).

Staff advised they have requested that TransLink allow accessible taxis to use the HandiDart loading bay within the bus loop. Currently HandiDart can use the area to drop off/pick up but not taxis. One member suggested that if taxis are identified as handling disabled passengers they would be allowed access. The current signage states "bus only", which is what a HandiDart is classified as. Perhaps just changing the loading zone to reflect a Taxi Stand within the Carnarvon Street loading area would work. Mr. Wat advised that the on-street loading zones were requested by the residents of the three towers and they need the loading space between the bus stops and is one of the issues we have come up against. Staff noted that there is a premium loading zone in front of the Spaghetti Factory that can be used by anyone.

Staff received a response last year from TransLink that they were not supportive of permitting accessible taxis to use the Handicap bay within the McNeely Loop. It appears that TransLink needs a greater understanding of the issue. Perhaps approaching the businesses renting in the Capital First Complex (such as Safeway) would be a good approach to address the issue and find a solution, possibly within the internal commercial parking area of the development.

**Moved and Seconded, this Committee recommends:**

**THAT** the Special Services & Access Committee request Council to initiate a dialogue with the businesses in the Capital First Complex (Shops at New West previously Plaza 88) as well as the consumers, TransLink, Strata residents and other Stakeholders to improve accessibility for able and disabled taxi pickup within the Centre.

**CARRIED**

**All members voted in favour of this motion**

#### **4.4 YouTube Videos – Mr. Bruce Warren**

Mr. Warren updated members on the status of the video. Unfortunately filming was cancelled and the project postponed due to lack of volunteers (only two volunteers came forward with one later cancelling). The video has now been put off until Spring 2014

Bruce will write an update to be forwarded to members and in the Spring a city-wide invitation (including staff) will be sent out.

### **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 Financial Assistance Policy & Procedures – Mr. Jason Haight**

Mr. Haight updated members on the status of the new policy written by Parks, Culture & Recreation. On August 26, 2013 Council adopted the Policy to outline financial assistance rationale and options to reduce financial barriers and promote individual access to Parks, Culture & Recreation services (see attached).

It was requested that the policy be added to the Active Living Guide but it was agreed that it was too large and detailed for this marketing medium. Alternatively, Mr. Haight stated that he would add/highlight Accessibility and Financial Assistance topics in the ALG and direct customers to our website for complete information. In addition, key words were added to the ALG and PCR website to support online searches.

#### **5.2 Parking at City Hall – Mr. Ron Jones**

Mr. Jones expressed concern over the lack of parking at City Hall as he frequently is unable to find a parking space. A discussion ensued as members have seen cars parking at the rear of City Hall in order to shop at the Farmers Market. As this is the last market date that will impact our meeting this year, we will address this next year.

Another concern expressed by members is the short-cutting through the rear parking lot of City Hall to travel between Sixth Street and Fourth Street to avoid the traffic backup at the light at Royal Avenue and Sixth Street.

#### **Moved and Seconded, this Committee recommends:**

**THAT** Council direct staff to look at the dangerous situation of short cutting through the City Hall parking lot, and to investigate available methods of traffic calming to improve safety.

**CARRIED**

All members voted in favour of the motion

## **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

### **6.1 Information Updates – Councillor McIntosh**

- Mr. Fred Wright has resigned from the Committee as he will be returning to the UK to live;
- The Royal City Record stated City Council put brakes on the Pedestrian Overpass to Westminster Pier Park but escalating costs were the issue. The project continues with many options being reviewed;
- UBCM takes place in Downtown Vancouver September 16-20;
- Many staff changes in Legislative Services so a number of new faces around City Hall; and
- Waiting for the advertisement to go in the paper to recruit the NWSS student representative for the Committee.

### **6.2 Information Updates – Mr. Don McCuiston**

- Appreciates the positive direction regarding the Active Living Guide:
  - Would like to see how accessible City facilities are; and
  - QCC main floor disabled washroom allows viewing into the women's vanity area so he visits a different washroom.
- Wants ostomy toilet at Anvil Centre (send request to Mr. Atherton)
- Would like to see a Medical Waste Waiver Policy publicized. Staff confirmed that a policy is currently being written.

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE (Circulated to members)**

### **MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the following correspondence circulated to members be received:*

- 7.1 June 2013 Access Transit External Stakeholder Newsletter
- 7.2 Announcement re the Call for Nominations – Builders' Awards
- 7.3 July 2013 Access Transit Stakeholder Newsletter
- 7.4 Bruce Warren e-mail re Try My Wheels Video Series/Call for Volunteers
- 7.5 Province Article "Accessible Parks"
- 7.6 E-Mail re Directional Movement of Escalator by the 'Shops at New West'
- 7.7 Abilities Summer 2013 Article "Meet the Ramp Man"
- 7.8 Access Transit External Stakeholder Newsletter-August 2013
- 7.9 Article on Scooter Licensing Proposal
- 7.10 Custom Transit Service Review Consultation Report-Round 1
- 7.11 Handicap Door Access – E-mail from Councillor McIntosh for information

**CARRIED**

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

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, November 28, 2013 @ 3 pm  
Council Chamber, City Hall

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was concluded at 4:35 pm.

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**COUNCILLOR BETTY MCINTOSH  
CHAIR**

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**KATHY PROTHERO  
RECORDING CLERK**

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