



2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 7, 2024

A meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 5:30 pm, in the Business Centre, 2nd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

PRESENT:

Eddy Elmer, Co-Chair
Tara Fraser, Co-Chair
Saif Al Shamaa
Mathew Fleury
Hana Chisako Acorn
Rick Hurlbut
Tristan Lai
Ilaine Marjoribanks
Chris Morrissey
Bradley Sarandi

ABSENT:

Viplav Subramanian, Vice-Chair (Leave of Absence)
Michael Yus

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Peter Meiszner, Council Liaison
Sonmin Bong, Equity Consultant, Staff Liaison
Samantha Mills, Vancouver Public Library Liaison
Eric Berthelet, External Subcommittee Member

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

WELCOME

The Co-Chair acknowledged that we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

Modified Procedures

MOVED by Chris Morrissey

SECONDED by Ilaine Marjoribanks

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee suspend the rule of section 15.13 of the *Procedure By-law* in order to allow for modified decision-making methods during the meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
AND BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

Leave of Absence Requests

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Viplav Subramanian for this meeting.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Approval of Minutes

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, January 18, 2024, as circulated.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

1. Election of Co-Chair

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee appoint Tara Fraser as Co-Chair from March 7, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

2. Meet Strategic Lead for Seniors and Representatives from the Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee

The Committee heard from Anthony Kupferschmidt, Strategic Lead, Older Persons; Marc White, Chair, Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee; and Susan Scott Gabe, Vice-Chair, Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee. They provided an overview of the work and initiatives relevant to the Committee and responded to questions.

Eric Berthelet discussed [Living with Pride Foundation's](#) housing initiative.

3. Staff Presentation - Seniors' Housing Strategy

Staff from Planning, Urban Design, and Sustainability presented on the [City's Seniors' Housing Strategy](#) and responded to questions.

4. Approve Motion Regarding 2SLGBTQ+ Inclusion in Designated Civic Events

Following discussion, the resolution below was put on the floor:

WHEREAS Vancouver is home to the largest Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse, and queer (2SLGBTQ+) community in Western Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee affirm that it is vital that public events, especially those designated, endorsed, or funded by the City, welcome participation from equity-denied groups, including 2SLGBTQ+ communities.
- B. THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee recommend that Council implement all reasonable measures, including updates to the City's Special Events – Council Support Policy ([COUN-007](#)) and/or Special Event Policy ([ADMIN-031](#)), to ensure that event-specific terms and conditions for Designated Civic Events or Parades are inclusive and supportive of equity-denied community groups and individuals with intersecting identities.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

5. Advisory Committee Chairs' Meeting

The Co-Chair summarized key points from the Advisory Committee Chairs' Meeting hosted by the City Clerk's Office.

6. Liaison Updates

The Staff Liaison provided an update on the City's [Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit \(TGD2S\) Inclusion and Safety Action Plan](#).

7. Working Session and Subcommittee Updates

Following a brief discussion, the resolution below was put on the floor:

THAT the Committee submit additional notes for this item to administrative staff, to be appended to the minutes as Appendix A.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Note: See pages 5 to 8 of the minutes for Appendix A.

8. New Business

Rick Hurlbut provided an update on Gay Games 2030 and noted that Vancouver is bidding to be the official host city.

ADJOURNMENT

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, May 16, 2024
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room, 2nd Floor,
City Hall / Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:32 pm.

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Appendix A

DRAFT NOTES FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2024 WORKING SESSION

Federation of Canadian Municipalities Webinar: “Strengthening Municipalities' Alliance with the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community”

- Tara Fraser provided a summary of the webinar, after which the Committee discussed the following topics.

Needs of 2SLBGTQ+ People in Shelters and Community Centres

- The City has control over three community centres serving vulnerable people: Carnegie, Evelyne Saller, and the Gathering Place. It is unclear what influence the City has over the management of shelters, which are mostly funded by the Province and run by non-profit organizations. To provide greater clarity, the Committee would like staff to explain the City’s role in building and managing shelters.
- Some members feel there should be specific shelters for 2SLBGTQ+ individuals. Others feel that concentrating them in a specific space/area may increase risks to their safety. These members feel it is more beneficial if all shelters are inclusive for 2SLBGTQ+ individuals.
- Bathrooms should be gender-neutral, clean, and functional at all times.
- The conspicuous display of religious symbols on walls should be avoided.
- Indoor signage should be in a range of languages.
- There should be adequate indoor and outdoor security.
- Sidewalks and outdoor lighting around the premises should be adequate and well-maintained at all times.
- Comprehensive and standardized 2SLBGTQ+ competency training should be provided in all shelters and community centres.
- Social activities catering to 2SLBGTQ+ people should be offered.

Transit Safety

- Members would like to invite TransLink to a future meeting to discuss how to improve safety for 2SLBGTQ+ individuals (e.g., allowing bus drivers to drop off passengers outside of designated stops).

Improvements to Davie Village

- Members discussed the recent [staff report](#) on improvements to Davie Village and made the following observations and suggestions.

Lighting

- The inclusion of dual-purpose light poles, which provide better lighting for both sidewalks and streets, is welcome. The Committee would like to know how many there will be.
- Warm yellow light is preferred over harsh white light, as it is more inviting and has less impact on sleep.
- Adequate lighting at bus shelters is vital. The Committee would like to speak with TransLink and City staff about this item.

Transportation

- The lack of on-street parking will upset businesses, shoppers, and tourists. Unless other parking is available nearby, or public transit improves markedly, this is an issue for those visiting Davie Street who do not live in the West End. It is important to remember that Davie Village is a destination entertainment district for 2SLGBTQ+ people across Vancouver and the larger metropolitan area.
- Reducing roadways to one lane in each direction will create issues with those turning on and off Davie Street. Even now, traffic gets backed up southbound on Thurlow, as motorists wishing to turn left or right onto Davie are delayed by pedestrians. Crossing signals could be modified to keep pedestrians back long enough to allow better opportunities for turning. Note that Thurlow is a major one-way, southbound artery.
- Buses hold back motorists while passengers load and unload. Providing transit pull-outs would alleviate this problem, although this would ~~also~~ limit how much sidewalks can be widened.
- Transit is affected during street closures for community events. Ideally, buses could be diverted onto Burnaby and Pendrell Streets. However, Pendrell currently does not go through from Thurlow to Burrard Streets. Long-term planning for the former St. Paul's Hospital site could include extending Pendrell Street. This would also mean opening Pendrell at Bute Street. Alternately, buses could be diverted another block north to Comox Street.
- It would be ideal to extend Jim Deva Plaza north across Davie Street. The closure of this half-block of Bute Street to traffic would eliminate access to Pendrell Street, allowing a reconfiguration similar to the area around Burnaby and Bute Streets.
- One member questioned the plans for a mid-block pedestrian crossing on Davie Street to facilitate access to the Shoppers Drug Mart and CarePoint Medical Clinic. Highlighting the potential impact on traffic patterns, the member considered this proposal short-sighted for a 30-year plan, pointing out that it assumes the store and clinic will always be there.
- Where possible, bus shelters should be enclosed.

Other Design Elements

- The inclusion of additional seating is welcome. Ideally, benches should be made of wood or a composite material rather than metal, which can become hot in the summer and uncomfortable for seniors.
- Some members feel that the overall colour palette is not particularly distinctive for Davie Village.
- The introduction of outdoor seating raises concerns about smoking. Despite rules prohibiting smoking within six feet of entrances, these rules are routinely disregarded.
- Although not a design issue, some members expressed concern about conflicts between pedestrians and motorized scooters on sidewalks.
- Nighttime noise continues to be an issue at Jim Deva Plaza. As brought to the Committee's attention in the past, some long-time residents have had to move out of the neighbourhood due to noise.

Next Steps

- The Committee will contact City staff to ask for further details about the points above.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Aging and Housing Subcommittee

- Dr. Eric Berthelet, External Member, provided an update about the upcoming [Living with Pride](#) (LWP) benefit on March 1. Several speakers will discuss the importance of housing, services, and social events for queer seniors. Eddy Elmer will present on the impact of social isolation and loneliness. There will also be a World Café at the end, where participants will share ideas on how to create a purpose-built housing facility for queer seniors in Vancouver.
- The LWP benefit will likely be followed by a series of focus groups with community members to better understand their unique needs and preferences for housing and services. This will build on LWP's initial survey results. The Committee could lend its expertise in hosting these focus groups.
- Chris Morrissey suggested that LWP consider relevant recommendations from the [Green House Project](#) model.

2SLGBTQ+ Spaces, Place-Making and Events Subcommittee

- Westbank has selected the final design for the art installation at 5055 Joyce Street development (see attached). Following the Committee's suggestions, the installation will be a programmable lighting display to visually celebrate the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Mixed used tower at 1157 Burrard at Davie: the Subcommittee will ask the City to prioritize the office floors for 2SLGBTQ+ organizations. Ideally, the building exterior should also include visual elements to mark the site as an entrance to Davie Village.

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