



CITY OF VANCOUVER

OTHER REPORT

Report Date: September 30, 2005
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CC File No.: 3057-1
Meeting Date: October 20, 2005

TO: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
FROM: Advisory Committee on Seniors Issues
SUBJECT: Advisory Committee on Senior's Issues - 2005 Annual Report

INFORMATION

THAT this report be received for information.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager submits the following report for INFORMATION.

PURPOSE

The Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues submits its 2005 annual report to City Council.

BACKGROUND

The Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues was established on December 11, 2003. The Committee is a continuation of the Special Advisory Committee on Seniors which was previously established by City Council on July 26, 1983. This former Committee continued in operation until the new Committee was appointed.

On March 26, 2004, City Council appointed 16 members to the Committee. All appointments were effective April 1, 2004. These appointees included five individuals with previous experience on the Committee and 11 new members. During 2005, two members passed away.

The mandate of the Committee is to work to enhance access to City services for seniors, and to identify and suggest solutions to gaps and barriers that impede their full participation in all aspects of City life.

The terms of reference for the Committee are:

- advises on matters which affect seniors, including but not limited to:
 - providing input on City policies and reports that affect seniors, e.g. Congregate Housing Guidelines, Accessible and Adaptable Design;
 - monitoring and contributing to City programs to ensure that the needs of seniors are considered, e.g. sidewalk safety, crosswalks, pedestrian lights;
 - acting as a resource and providing information to staff doing work which involves seniors e.g. public involvement processes, CityPlan Visioning;
 - providing input on the design of seniors housing applications received by the City;
- contributes to City programs and policies to ensure that the needs of seniors are considered;
- views City programs and policies through a variety of lenses, including gender, racial origins, income levels, sexual orientation, age and levels of ability;
- works co-operatively with other civic agencies whose activities affect seniors;
- engages in outreach to the seniors' community to disseminate information and encourage participation;
- acts as a conduit for feedback from seniors on civic matters affecting them;
- acts as a resource for staff doing public involvement processes involving seniors;
- supports groups endeavouring to initiate and develop projects to assist seniors;
- attends City-sponsored public forums to provide information on City programs and receive public input on seniors' issues;
- produces an annual work plan with specific objectives by no later than March of each year, in consultation with its Council and staff liaisons, for distribution to Council and civic departments for information;
- submits an annual report to Council describing its accomplishments for the year, including reference to each objective set out in the work plan and any arising issues to which the Committee has responded.

DISCUSSION

In 2004, a two-year work plan was developed by its members for the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues. Following is a summary of the work undertaken in 2005.

Guest Presenters

<i>Names of Presenters</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Joanne Baxter, Director of Planning Liaison, Current Planning	House/Duplex Wheelchair Ramps
David Rawsthorne, Engineering Services	Burrard Bridge Improvements for Pedestrians and Cyclists
Mary Prodanovic, Manager, Organizational Projects and Planning, United Way of the Lower Mainland	BC 211 Initiative Presentation
Alice West, Chair, Women Elders in Action Committee	Pensions in Canada: Policy Reform Because Women Matter
Joanne Taylor, Executive Director, Representation Agreement Resource Centre	Described the joint project with 411 Seniors Centre and the Representation Agreement Resource Centre regarding the Seniors' Gateway website. Representation Agreement Update
Mary Martin Sharma, Program/Volunteer Coordinator, Coalition to Eliminate Abuse of Seniors	ABCs of Fraud
Sepia Sharma, Community Developer, Westside Community Health Area	Pacific Spirit Community Health Centre
Judy Hanazawa and Lillian Nakashima, Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens Association, Human Rights Committee	Age Discrimination
Brian Mills, Manager, Transit Planning, TransLink	Accessible Transit Strategic Plan
Todd Wilson, Engineering Services	Pedestrian Safety
Susan O'Donnell, Executive Director, BC Human Rights Coalition	Age Discrimination
Nancy Largent, Public Involvement Coordinator	Rack Cards, Tri-partite Committee, Meeting Promotion, Generic Business Cards
Desiree Baron, Outreach Services, Vancouver Public Library	Monthly report of events, updates and seniors' services at the Vancouver Public Library

Significant Activities

- Held three outreach meetings at community centres in Vancouver to inform seniors about important local initiatives and obtain their ideas and opinions.
- Recommended to Council that it request the Federal Government ensure pension equality for all Canadian senior citizens, regardless of their country of origin *and whether or not that country has a social services contract with Canada (amendment)*, the motion to be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The Committee's recommendation was approved by City Council.

- Supported the text amendment be referred to Public Hearing which would enable the Director of Planning to grant relaxation to accommodate ramps, lifts or other like means to be located in front or rear yards for people with mobility problems.
- Endorsed the BC 211 Initiative to provide direct telephone access to health and human service information and referral.
- Recommended to Council that it endorse the Pensions in Canada: Policy Reform Because Women Matter position paper along with its 23 recommendations to improve the economic situation for senior women, many of whom live alone in poverty, and forward it to the Federal Government, the GVRD, UBCM, LMMA and the FCM for support.
- Responded to a request from the Advisory Committee on Diversity Issues regarding the Seniors' Committee make-up and diversity among its members.
- Endorsed two members of the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues who applied for membership on the Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues.

Significant Topics Considered

Housing

- Looked at various ways to encourage developers and the City's Planning staff to work towards providing a continuum of care in seniors' housing developments.
- Toured selected Vancouver seniors' Housing Facilities in February 2005.
- Reviewed and commented on development proposals for seniors' housing facilities at:
 - 749 West 33rd Avenue (St. Vincent's)
 - 550 Taylor Street
 - 2020 Harrison

Health

- Presentation by Sharon Koehn on *Barriers to Access to Care for Ethnic Minority Seniors*.
- Health and Housing Subcommittees completed the Workshop on Seniors Housing and Support Services in the Community survey.
- Health Subcommittee studied the research paper, *Continuing Care RENEWAL OR RETREAT?* by Marcy Cohen and discussed possible subcommittee actions.
- Public Outreach Meeting regarding the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority held in South Vancouver.

Transportation

- Public Outreach Meeting on RAV in January 2005 at Kerrisdale Community Centre.
- SN Transport Ltd. proposal to buy and operate a fleet of wheelchair accessible vans and provide service primarily to hospitals and groups at full cost.
- Supported Burrard Bridge improvements for pedestrians and cyclists as follows: under-slung cyclists' path; fully widened sidewalks with pinch points at the bridge towers; installation of pedestrian benches.
- Monitored the HandyDART situation. The Chair attended a HandyDART workshop on September 28 at the TransLink office and spoke on behalf of seniors' transit needs.

Joint Disability/Seniors' Committees Transportation Subcommittee

- Reviewed and supported the City's Bikeway proposal in the West End (located in a mini-park located at Chilco and Comox Streets)

Crime and Safety

- Held a Public Outreach Meeting on April 29, 2005 at the West End Community Centre with a presentation from the West End Emergency Response Team.

Community Liaison

- Supported Subcommittees with the organization of the three Public Outreach Meetings held in 2005.
- Developed promotional outreach material.
- Developed a seniors' data base.

CONCLUSION

The Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues submits its 2005 Annual Report for INFORMATION.

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APPENDIX A

2005 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SENIORS' ISSUES MEMBERS

Thomas Brunker
Bruce Chown, Chair
Dena Dawson, Vice Chair and Co-chair, Crime & Safety Subcommittee
Gillian Fullerton, Chair, Housing Subcommittee
Sylvia Gurstein
Anne Judge, Co-chair Crime & Safety Subcommittee
Beatrice Leinbach
Virginia McDade
Jenn McGinn
Margaret McPhee
Maureen Maclachlan
Arun Mehta, Chair, Transportation Subcommittee (January to March 2005)
Chair, Health Subcommittee (April 2005)
Chris Morrissey
Allan O'Meara
Simon Oosterhuis, Chair, Health Subcommittee (Deceased January 2005)
James Chi Ming Pau
Lee Purkin-Simpson
Lilian To (Deceased July 2005)
Anna Welbourn
Katherine Willett, Chair, Community Liaison Subcommittee

Council Liaison

Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

Park Board Liaison

Commissioner Loretta Woodcock